

write. I prepared for about another 40 minutes, because once again I couldn't get past, 'Member's of the Board, Dr. Vance,' etc., resulting in my throwing the colored pen across the room. That was when the tears started. I wasn't crying because I had writer's block, but because that stupid pen cost me five dollars, and I can't live without my colored pens, or so I thought. So finally, it hit me. I have a boatload of people to thank, maybe that's where I'll begin.

First off I have to start by thanking my wonderful family. My parents have been extremely supportive in not only my running for this position, but for as long as I can remember. And until I am a parent one day, I will never understand how you guys managed to get me from the sofa to my bed and change my pajamas without ever waking me up. I thank you for that, but for the love, respect and care that you have given me. All three help me in the most important ways. My grandma and Grandpa, (Yaya and Yayin) who supported me from across the Atlantic, and continue to do so, I have to thank them for their never ending faith that I can do anything I set my mind to even when I'm not so sure I can. My Uncle David and Aunt Lucy for also supporting me in all my activities. My godfather, Joseph, even through hard times you were there for me, and made sure to let me know you were always on my side. Mrs. Krauss, whom I had for both 3rd and 4th grade, I have to thank for always having the faith that I would be somebody. Who knew that the little comments about socializing too much in class would end up in my favor. You always said that I would be successful, and for some reason that has stuck in my mind, perhaps because you were the first to tell me so. Ms. Serino, for helping me out so much with running. You're not only a great teacher, but an excellent example for today's youth, and I am proud to say I will now hold a position you once held. To Ms. Lockard whom I did not have the privilege of having as a teacher, but I did have the chance to work with. Even when I lost in the S.G.A. elections you told me that I had an incredible personality. That I should stay that way, and use it to my advantage. Well, I've followed your advice and stayed the same, and look where it got me. I may have lost that election, but I won the most important of all. Ms. Campbell -- Having you as a teacher has been wonderful. I don't know how well I did on the AP test yet, but I'm sure I'll be fine. Grammar was never exactly my strong suit, but I'll never forget about the comma splice. Not to mention that I've never been so happy to get a score of "5" on anything. Mr. Tobin, who never ceased to remind me that I was indeed the new SMOB, and I needed to slow down and shut-up every once in a while. I will certainly miss you, but will not hesitate to pop in every day and chat your ear off. To Mr. Frace and Mr. Horos, whom I only had for one semester, one in high school and one in middle, I learned a lot from both of you even in the short while I had you both as teachers, whether it be law related, or history related. Mr. Wildberger, whom I also had for social studies, I will always remember the campaigning that you did for me along with the other White Oak teachers and students, it is a crowd I wish I could thank face to face. Mr. Feffer, whom I had the pleasure of meeting when I decided to run, I have to thank you for simply being there, and always ready to answer my questions about conventions, etc.... Mr. Bain, although I only met you in the latter part of the year, I am happy to say I enjoyed meeting

you, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to make myself known to my peers. Oh, and I'm sure I'll find rhythm somewhere deep down in my Latin roots one day.

The first two people I had the opportunity of meeting when starting at the Board were Roz Phillips and George Margolies. I have to thank them both for making my exciting, yet often times overwhelming transition much easier. No matter how stupid a question may seem to me, I am never afraid to ask either of them. I also have to thank Fran Brenneman for letting me know what it's okay to do and not to do, and that I can always come to her when I need something. I'll have to repay you by letting the students of Mo. Co. know what an Ombudsman does. Now I have to thank some of my friends before they dose off. Tabatha, Monica and Ingrid. You are my best friends, and that is the only way to sum it up. Through the hardships and the happiness you all have always been there, and I thank you for that from the bottom of my heart. All my buddies that came out to support me on my campaign, Jennifer, Janvi Brad, and C-Note, I thank you guys for the endless support, and driving all over the county with me. I've also gotta thank the girls out there who voted for me because I had a cute guy with me when I went to their school, and he knows who he is. Rafael, thanks for taking me from one school to another, I can't thank you enough. One of my favorite pairs of sisters, Kim and Chrissy, thanks for letting me know everyday that just because I'm on the Board, I'm still a dork. It's good to know that there are still people who can keep me grounded. I couldn't imagine a better bunch to support me, and those friends whom I haven't mentioned, no, I haven't forgotten you, you will always be thanked, and the depths of all your kindness' will never leave my heart. And last but certainly not least, I must thank all of the Board members for welcoming me to my new position. When I first started, I did not know what to expect. Will they be nice? Will they really care about what I have to say? And I am pleased to say that they are indeed a great group of people that encourage me to share my thoughts. If I'm going to thank the Board, I must thank my predecessor. Geonard, thank you for allowing me to play the role of little sister, and ask a million questions, however stupid they may have seemed.

Okay, the thank you's are done with. Now, as I sat at my computer for another two days, I attempted to come up with a great closing paragraph. You know, like in an essay. Well, let me tell you, if there's one thing I've learned from just the past two months, it's that life isn't an essay, and it can't be structured. I've learned a number of things about life since I began this endeavor. The lesson that had the most impact that really hit me hard was that while planning is good, I'm falling into the adult world now. And I can't count on my color coded calendar and nifty pens to solve all my problems. I always thought that I was an open minded person, and I guess I am, for my age, and lack of experience in the world. I've always thought that I saw things the way they were. Because I have so far always been a child, I saw things as black and white without even realizing that I did, and trying to fix them with my magic pens. I've come to realize now, that I will change, and most likely have changed. But I am happy to say that my eyes have opened up, and I can see that I will be forced to grow up fast, and see things that others my age won't, and I'm not sorry about it, not one bit.

I found a quote the other day, in a little book, about this big. The quote read, "Life begets life. Energy creates energy. It is by spending oneself that one becomes rich." It caught my attention, I couldn't figure out why. And then, while sitting in front of the computer racking my brain to write a great speech, it hit me. The quote caught my attention, because it captured the essence of what I wanted to say in my speech, that I couldn't quite put into words myself. And that simple little quote, in that tiny little book, made me realize, that if it is by spending oneself that one becomes rich, then I am indeed going to come out of this experience not only the happiest, but the richest woman alive. And I don't mean rich the way it may seem. I mean rich up here, and in here. Thank you."

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. BUTLER

On behalf of the members of the Board, Mr. Felton presented Mr. Butler with memorabilia of his stay on the Board of Education.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. BUTLER

"Brevity is a beautiful thing. It is something that people do not really seem to appreciate these days. We had a lengthy state of the union address. We had a lengthy O. J. Simpson trial. And yes, there had been on occasion lengthy Board meetings. So, when something is short and sweet, we should all be happy with that outcome. But, not all the time. For the sake of happiness, I will briefly make my parting speech.

To begin, I would like to thank God for all of his blessings this past year. I would like to thank Mr. Roland Ikheloa for all his advice and technical support throughout the year. I would like to thank Ms. Jennifer Remp for all her help and support. And, to Mrs. Roz Philips for all the million faxes, tons of advice, and numerous days of waking me up to remind me to get to my meeting across town. To Mr. George Margolies for his free consultations on issues that I would never understand otherwise, for lots of advice, and for always having a pen for me to write with. To all the other Board staff, I give you much thanks, respect, and love.

Now, for my partners in crimes – the Board members. It has been a wild ride that we have all been on this year. But, it is a ride I would gladly run up to and ride again. I feel this way because of the quality of Board members that I worked with.

Mr. Steve Abrams: In the short time that I have known you, you have proven to be a powerful part of this collaboration. Your political wit and knowledge of law always prove to be valuable, as did your humor occasionally. It has been great working with you.

Mrs. Pat O'Neill: I have not known you very long either. But, your leadership skills and consistent support of the students in Montgomery County are greatly respected. I have enjoyed working with you as well.

Mrs. Bea Gordon: I am scared of you. You know your stuff and definitely know how to defend your ground. I have had the great fortune of having you stand behind me on many issues, and I have learned a lot from the result of that. It has been a real pleasure working with you.

Ms. Mona Signer: You are no doubt the femme fatale of the bunch. Not only were you always heard on issues, speaking eloquently and precisely on issues, but you were always seen on issues stylishly supporting the finest St. John's and Farragamo. So, I enjoyed working with you this year. Some time this summer, we must go shopping.

Mrs. Nancy King: There is so much I could say about this year, but I would ruin the whole theme and effect of my speech if I am not brief. Remember all of the middle school lunch meetings, all the MCR meetings, and all the advice and help quickly made you my Board mother for the year. I must say thank you for being like a mother to me during the infamous trip to San Francisco. After a glorious day in the city and on the water, I came down with strep throat. You and Mr. Burnett took great care of me – like a family – even had people asking, 'Are you his parents?' Thank you so much, and I will truly miss you.

Mr. Kermit Burnett: The short time I have know you, you have really proved to be a cool guy. You looked out for me, and your help was always appreciated. Good luck to you in the future, and thank you for everything that you have done.

Mr. Reggie Felton: My main man. You have helped me in every way this year. Looked out for me and just been an all around good friend. Your down to earth advice and knowledge was always appreciated and respected. You even made Board meetings a little more brief. I would like to thank you for all that you have done.

I would also like to thank Ana Sol Gutierrez, Dr. Alan Cheung, Mr. Blair Ewing, and Mrs. Katheryn Gemberling for all their help and support early on. I must extend special thanks and respect to Dr. Paul Vance. Dr. Vance, your legacy in this county will live on forever. I truly admire and respect all that you do. Your advice, your intellect, and even your humor were always pleasure to receive. It truly has been an honor to work with you. I wish much luck in all that you do.

Others affiliated in the school system in any way, and anyone who I might have forgotten – thank you for making this experience so wonderful.

I must now thank all those behind the scenes of my Board experience. First, I would like to thank all the teachers and staff at Springbrook High School for making my Board experience run smoothly and working with me constantly to help me stay on my toes. I would also like to extend special thanks to Mr. Michael Durso for all of his help and advice this year. He was so great this year. He not only made this Board experience dream come true, but he helped make the graduation a dream come true as well.

I would also thank the students of Montgomery County for all of their support and confidence in me this year. I could not have done it without you and I hope that I have made you proud.

To Mr. and Mrs. Hudson and family – thank you for being a second family to me. Anytime I needed some place to go and down to earth real advice, you were there. Much love and thanks for all that you do and for all the support throughout the years.

Also, I would like to thank all of my family and friends, specifically my mother and father. Last year, I thanked my parents for the car, but I have come to realize that you have provided more than that – gas money, maintenance, and insurance payments. Seriously, you have been more help than I could have ever wanted. Your love and support were constantly there when I needed it, and I appreciate all that you put up with and did for me this past year. I love you all very much.

Now that I have briefly thanked everyone. I must briefly conclude my brief speech. I have come to realize that, yes brevity is great, but not all the time. There is one thing that I regret being so brief – it was my time on the Board. It was a journey that seemed to start yesterday. Today, I have reached the end of my path. On this journey I have learned to participate in so many things. I have traveled to schools all over the county, and spoke to students about issues at their schools. I have traveled to many different conventions and learned about school systems as a whole. I have voted on controversial issues and received much press exposure. I even met Bill Clinton three times, and had him tell me I should run for office. So many experiences, so little time. My term as a Board member was truly brief. Although it was short, it was definitely sweet.

Before I go, I must say to the new student Board member - Laura Sampedro – congratulations and best wishes for this upcoming year. There could not be a finer student leading our county into the new millennium. You are a true leader, and I am confident that you will excel in all that you do. Enjoy the journey while it lasts. If you ever need anybody to explain all of the overwhelming amount of things you come across this year, Mr. Margolies is there for you. But, seriously, so am I.

Now that I have reached the end of the road, I thank all who have made this journey so memorable. Until we meet again, God bless and good night.”

**Re: COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND THE
SUPERINTENDENT**

Board members welcomed Ms. Sampedro and thanked Mr. Butler for his work on the Board of Education and wished him well in all his future endeavors.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45. A reception followed in the auditorium.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

PLV:gr