

Association of Student Councils Conference at Virginia Beach, Virginia. I met leaders from all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Australia, and Hawaii. I got to see that people who influence and lead others come in all different ethnicities, colors, sizes, and backgrounds. At a candle-lighting ceremony I saw all 2,000 delegates unite as one, and it was apparent that every one of those delegates mattered in the unity of a nation. The opportunity to attend the National Conference not only gave me various T-shirts from different states and countries, memorabilia, and miscellaneous gifts, but also unforgettable memories. That five-day conference was definitely a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I made sure to keep in contact with people I met from Hawaii, Louisiana, Iowa, and Washington, just to name a few.

I believe this position is the single most prestigious achievement ever in my life. I set out a goal to be elected into this position and I was successful, and in a tremendous way. As student member-elect I got a taste of what it is like to be a member of such an esteemed and successful Board, and I intend to take advantage of this opportunity. For my family and I, tonight will be a milestone in our lives. I personally would like to thank them for their ongoing support and guidance throughout my life and in all of my endeavors. Thank you for all the good times (even the fights with my sister – you always looked out for what’s best for me – and to the little one, thanks for all the laughs). To my loving mother, words can’t describe your everlasting love and support. Sorry for all the wrong I did, but I promise you I’ll make it up to you. To my other mentor, my dad, he couldn’t be here tonight but he has kept in contact and he know how much I appreciate his presence and motivating “quick talks.” To all my schoolmates and good friends, thanks for your presence. It shows a lot that you have made it here tonight to share this honor with my family and me.”

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. JETER

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

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. JETER

“Time flies when you are having fun. It seems like only yesterday that I was in the place where Mihyar now sits, and I was anxious to begin my term. I have had the chance to look back on this past year and see the successes that the school system has created. I am glad to have been a part of this Board of Education. Many people have asked, ‘Dustin, how could you participate in all these activities, and how could you do this and serve on the Board of Education?’ I can honestly say that the only way that I was able to make it through this year was not only with the support of my family and friends, but through the support of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. I want to thank all of my family and friends who were able to make it here, and those who were unable to be here. Thanks for all the support you have given me over this year.

I would also like to take the opportunity to say thank you to everyone from MLW, MASC, MCR, and MCJC. I have had the opportunity to work with you over this year, and I am glad I had that chance. I would also like to thank some other special people who have given me a chance this year to work with them – Ms. Crawford and Ms. Harman – as well as everyone else in Room 211. We had a lot of fun all year as well as getting a lot of work done. I really enjoyed working with all of you, and I will miss you after this summer.

I would also like to thank Chris Lloyd, 23rd student Board member. I was lucky to follow the only junior member of the Board because he was able to give me great insight on different things throughout the year, and I wish you best of luck next year in school. Just like every other 'thank you' speech, there are a lot of names I will be leaving out, and I hope that you will all forgive me if I do leave your name out. But I can return to the Board table for public comments, and if you were left out, see me after the meeting.

I would like to take a moment to thank my colleagues on the Board from this past year. While I will no longer be participating as a member of this Board, I am proud to say I was a part of the history we made. We made leaps and bounds in education this year. Each of you is very special and brings a number of wonderful qualities to the table, and I would like to thank you for that.

Mr. Lange, I would like to thank you for your thoughtfulness and dedication to the students of this county. It was a pleasure to sit next to you and work with you. It was a great moment during my student Board member career to be able to stand up on the stage with you at the Mark Twain School graduation in order to see my cousin graduate. Thank you very much for that opportunity.

Mr. Abrams, I really enjoyed working with you as well this year. I realize that many times we hold the same opinion on the issues, and I want to let you know why they listen to me and not to you. I think you are very key to this Board. You have many great opinions and issues that I agree with, and I think that many times you are misunderstood by the public. You have done a great job this year, and I look forward to seeing you as a judge in the future.

Mrs. King, you are a great advocate on this Board, not only for your community but also for the students of the county. I would like to thank you for your dedication to the student member position. We will miss you on the Board in the future. You will be doing great things in Annapolis very soon.

Mrs. O'Neill, you are also an outstanding advocate for students in the county. I have seen that through your role as the mother of a student. Many times when there was a situation that I wanted to elaborate on or speak about, I was able to turn to you because you knew the experiences that students go through, being the mother of a student that is currently in the system. I think that your understanding as a Board member has given you a great opportunity

to speak out for students, and you are doing a great job. We will see you back on the Board for another four years.

Mr. Felton, you have done a great job as the president, and you are a hard-working person. You are very truthful when you speak to us, and that is a great thing because we can always understand the truth when you speak. You have done an excellent job as a president, and I am glad to have served with you.

Dr. Weast, you have been here for about four years, and things are still changing. You have done a great job, and I will always be a supporter of yours. Others would say differently, but we can see the changes that are happening in the county and understand what you brought here is special and it is working.

Mr. Burnett, when I first came on the Board and asked about members, I was told that you were very compassionate and honest about what you do on the Board. I think that is very true. I have seen that throughout the year, and I thank you for that compassion you have for the students. I am glad to have been able to serve with you.

Ms. Cox, I would like to thank you. We have a similar sense of humor, and it has helped me get through some of the long meetings as well as the short meetings. You have done a great job this year on the Board, and I think you should be commended for your understanding of the issues and how they relate to students. I would like to thank you for supporting the students and for the support you will continue to give to students.

Also, I would like to thank some supporting people you do not see often, but they help us as a Board. Thanks to George Margolies, staff director, who has done a great job. Any question that I had, he was able to answer on the spot. If I needed a pen, he had one. He was there for everything I needed, and I thank him for that. I would like to thank Roz, Gail, and Glenda for all of their help to me. If there was anything I needed to bring to or take from the office, they were always ready to help. Gail was always there to remind me to bring back my folders. Thank you to all those in the office for helping me.

I can assure you that you have not seen the last of me. I will be just around the corner at William McDaniel College. I am going to brush up on political science as well as secondary education. Then, I will be back. Do not forget me.

I am confident that Mihyar will do a great job. He will take over where I left off, and I am always available to help.”

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m. A reception followed in the auditorium.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr