

APPROVED
21-2000

Rockville, Maryland
July 6, 2000

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Thursday, July 6, 2000, at 8:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Stephen Abrams
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Mr. Christopher Lloyd, Student Board Member-Elect
 Mrs. Nancy J. King
 Ms. Laura Sampedro, Student Board Member
 Ms. Mona M. Signer
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Mrs. Beatrice B. Gordon

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. O'Neill.

Re: **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mrs. O'Neill noted the presence of former Board members in the audience: Mr. Blair Ewing, Mr. David Naimon, Mr. Charles McCullough, Ms. Allison Serino, Mr. Geonard Butler, and Ms. Debbie Wheat.

Re: **SWEARING IN**

Ms. Molly Ruhl, clerk of the court, administered the oath of office to Mr. Lloyd.

Re: **STATEMENT BY MR. LLOYD**

Good evening members of the Board, family, friends, and other distinguished guests. I'd like to start off by saying thank you to everyone for all of the incredible help and support all of you have given me over the months of campaigning and throughout the entire election. Just running for this position has been an incredible experience for me, and I am looking forward to the unbelievable opportunity that I have before me. I can only hope that I carry out my responsibilities with the excellence that my predecessors have had.

I would like to start off by thanking God and my family for the support they have given me throughout this process. Without having a strong base behind me, I do not believe winning would have been possible. I believe I have certainly come a long way since I began running in the beginning of the year. I think it was back in February when I was sitting at

the informational meeting about running at the Student Affairs office. As I looked at all of my opponents I thought, "There is no way I'm going to get this." And then after Laura described what the position entailed I thought, "Man, if I get this, there goes all my free time."

However, despite my initial apprehensions I pulled myself together and had a very successful campaign with the help of many people. I was very fortunate to have had such an exceptional campaign team, and I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who was a part of it. First, I would like to thank my energetic, creative, and intelligent former campaign manager Jennifer Yuen. When Kennedy's SGA President David Grossman said she was the perfect person to manage my campaign, I was pleasantly surprised with all of the fantastic ideas and insight she brought to the table. Whether it was holding up a "Vote for Chris" sign at a Magruder lacrosse game, campaigning to MCPS students on her spring break trip in Paris, or calling every SGA president in the county lobbying for support, she always knew how to get me and the campaign pumped up and what to say when it seemed like all hope was lost.

Next, I'd like to thank my remarkable former campaign advisor Charis Goff. Even though she was sort of drafted into the position after nominating me, she was a great source of strength throughout the entire process of running. Whether it was keeping my ego in check, telling me I was "dressed like Mr. Rogers," accompanying me to be interviewed by the press, or giving me advice on speaking to various groups, she was an incredible help.

I'd also like to thank Mr. Griffith and the entire Kennedy SGA, specifically David, our president. Everyone gave me a lot of direction in my campaign and was in my corner. Thank you to Allison, Patty, and others who forcefully became my campaigners/cheerleaders at MCR meetings. Also, thank you to Latoya and Bao. You both never had an official title, but you were my stand-in, self-appointed campaign managers at times, and Bao was, of course, my taxi before I got my license. Thank you Latoya for giving me the confidence to do well on "Meet the Candidates" and calming me down after everything that happened that day, including being late.

Next I'd like to thank Dr. Dobbins and the Kennedy administration along with Mr. Bowman and all of the LTI staff and students; without their combined support, none of this would have been possible.

And, finally, thank you to Ms. Crawford. It was always a pleasure seeing your smiling face at a meeting. You also were a pleasure to work with throughout the campaign.

Another major factor in my victory besides my family and those who worked on the campaign were my friends who did not have a major role in campaigning but did do a great deal in supporting me. First, thank you to Melissa for making all those posters and letting

me use your house. Also, thank you to Shira, John, Desia, April, Chris, and Gabe for being challengers and watchers on Election Day and standing behind me throughout this process. Thank you to Jessica for encouraging me to run and yelling out "Look everyone, it's the new Student Member of the Board Chris Lloyd!" wherever we went. Thank you Sonya for campaigning for me and being in my corner. Next, thank you to Joel. Your inspirational message changed from "You're not going to win" to "you only won because of me." Nevertheless, you gave me great advice and encouragement throughout. And, finally, thank you to Shevaun, Josh, Matt, Nikki, Danny, Tamera, Dee, Lauren, and all my friends that I did not mention.

Without the support of all my friends I don't think I could have done this. Whether it was being challenger and watcher, campaigning, putting up with my fifteen minutes of fame for the last couple of months in school, or telling me "just because you're SMOB doesn't make you special," all of you have contributed an incredible amount to my success.

And, finally, thank you to Laura for buying me the pizza, telling me everything I needed to know to be a success, and upholding the tradition of excellence of the student board member. I can only hope that I will be as an incredible success as you were and that you will come back from NYU and visit.

Okay, now all of the thank yous are out of the way.

Even though I know the real learning experience lies in the year ahead of me, one thing I felt I had to include in this speech are the five things I have learned from the experience of running for SMOB.

Number one: No matter how slowly or clearly I speak, the press will always misquote me. Despite what certain publications may say, I was never openly critical of any student board member, everyone doesn't hate LTI at Kennedy, and I didn't want to quit my job at the library.

Number two: It doesn't matter how much I prepare, or what angle I am at; somehow any picture of me in a newspaper will make me look ugly. The funniest part of this campaign was explaining to people I met in person for the first time, "Yeah, my head really doesn't look like that."

Three: I should think long and hard about every action I do or thing I say because friends do not hesitate to say "You're SMOB; you can't do that." Whether it was missing a day during Spirit Week, or not giving a big enough tip, there is always someone who says, "Come on, you're SMOB."

Four: One only gets out of something what one puts in. I hold that true for this campaign.

I believe others and I put in a great deal of work and got a great result.

And finally five: No matter how big of a win I may have had, it still won't get me a girlfriend.

I will close with the most important thing I've learned so far. It does not matter what the odds are against you. No matter what barriers are in your way, never let those obstacles stand in the way of achieving your dreams. Because now I know with a little ambition and a lot of hard work, anything can be accomplished. I'll end with a quote by Mark Twain that got me through some of the most trying times in my campaign. He says, "Keep away from people who try to belittle your ambitions. Small people always try to do that, but the really great make you feel that you, too, can become great." Thanks again to everyone.

Re: PRESENTATION TO MS. SAMPEDRO

On behalf of the members of the Board, Mrs. O'Neill presented Ms. Sampedro with memorabilia of her stay on the Board of Education.

Re: STATEMENT BY MS. SAMPEDRO

Well, it was definitely much easier to write what I had to say last year. I pretty much thanked anyone who I'd ever met at any point in my life who had anything to do with my election, and some not even that much. But here I am, 15 months later, having met more people during my term than I ever have in my life, and I have not a clue what to say to half of them, except that I finally remembered their names! Last year I planned out a theme for my speech a month in advance. This time I just started sleeping in a month in advance.

I guess the point of all this should be about all of the wonderful experiences I've had while being on the Board, but I'd need another year to explain them all. I've had parents, friends, teachers and colleagues that have been very supportive of late night meetings, numerous school absences, and we won't even go into tardies.

This year has been a whirlwind of excitement that I couldn't even have begun to expect at the time of election. One minute I'm in closed session, and three days later I'm on a plane to Boston headed for Harvard. It's incredibly enlightening to see the faces of world-renowned educators, writers and researchers as they see for the first time a high school student who can maintain a civilized conversation about some of society's most controversial issues. And it's funny when they marvel at me doing so, when I know that I'm not even the peak of what this county, much less this country, even has to offer.

But the wealth of knowledge that I've accumulated during this term is what I am thankful for the most. It's wonderful to bring the view of a student into the mainframe of public

schools, but it's insurmountable to see how things function in actuality. The issues that I have dealt with have often times not been the easiest, especially when you're at odds with your constituency, and believe me, that's happened more than once.

In layman's terms, as I most often need to hear things, I've grown as a person tremendously, and firmly believe that this year has shaped the person I want to be in a way that I am infinitely thankful for. But it's not something that I have done on my own, not even close. I have to thank just a few of the many people who made this job much easier, and much more enjoyable. First off, Roz Phillips for reminding me of everything that I managed to have scheduled for me that I later forgot about, including one or two business meetings. George, for always knowing that answer to all my questions, or at least finding the answer for me before the end of the day. Dr. Seleznow, former deputy superintendent, thank you for making the budget so much easier than it seems, and always listening to my concerns. Roland, thank you for helping a technologically impaired student board member with the computer, and always making me laugh. And last but certainly not least, my fellow board members.

Mr. Abrams: You've been a wonderful seat-mate, and definitely offer a bit of flair into any conversation. And you never know, maybe there is a bit of U Penn in my future.

Mrs. King: I think for a week I became an honorary King daughter. We had a lot of fun together in Orlando. We did Disney together. I think there was an MCJC meeting in there, too. Anyway, it's been wonderful serving with you, too.

Mrs. Gordon: Man, I wish I could speak like you sometimes. No matter what you say, you're confident in your words. No matter what you say, even if it might be wrong, I don't think the guy who's right would ever know it. I've learned a lot from you as a Board member, and the community will miss your presence on the Board.

Mr. Burnett: My seat-mate in Closed Session. I guess I took over the newcomer title from you when I came on the Board, but hopefully it faded fast. You've always had a wonderful focus for children, and how things will impact them specifically, and that's a wonderful thing to bring to the Board table, and I'm happy to have worked with you. I'm also sorry for always taking the last bag of peanut M&Ms.

Mrs. O'Neill: You've been a wonderful president and always acknowledged when I've had a comment to make at the table (I know from fellow SMOBs that it's often times easy to skip us). Your experience in the county as a mother and PTA member is a great asset, and your input has always helped me understand things from a different point of view.

Dr. Weast: It was a bit strange at first because I came in when the whole superintendent search was happening and well, I was a bit confused and overwhelmed by it all. But, I

think it turned out beautifully, and I'm honored to be the first student member you've worked with. I greatly admire your leadership, and your insight as to what the county needs, and believe that the county will benefit from it for years to come.

Mr. Felton: My Springbrook buddy. I remember on my first day, you were the first person I met as I was walking in. I recognized you from a picture in the newspaper, and I remembered reading you were president then, and I was so scared I almost ran away. I was like, "Oh, great, first person I meet, and it's the Board president. I'm such a loser." But as luck would have it, you're a nice guy, so I was fine. And you always have great questions at the Board table, so I've learned a thing or two also.

Ms. Signer: I've had lots of fun with you on the Board as well. You were the first person I called when I got into my first-choice college. It's wonderful to see you at the Board table and in closed session. I could read a document over and over again and never see some of the problems, or bring up the issues you do, and I value that so much, and I hope that one day I do that as well. Thanks for always supporting me, and talking to me about whatever was on my mind.

In a somewhat long summary, I have to say that this is a wonderful Board, and I'm sincerely going to miss my own presence on it. And if I can point out for one minute, I do think that Board members are often times not given enough credit for what they do for children. There are four very intelligent women on this Board who are not afraid to speak their minds and stand up for what they believe in. And three men who are not afraid to stand up to the three strong women. So to my successor, Chris, you don't need any luck from me, you'll do a wonderful job, just listen to what they tell you sometimes, and for the other times, just trust yourself. Thank you.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. A reception followed in the auditorium.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr