

APPROVED
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Rockville, Maryland
July 1, 2003

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, July 1, 2003, at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL Present: Mrs. Patricia B. O'Neill, President
 in the Chair
 Mr. Kermit V. Burnett
 Mr. Reginald M. Felton
 Dr. Charles Haughey
 Mr. Walter Lange
 Mr. Gabe Romero
 Mr. Mihyar Alnifaidy, Student Board Member
 Mr. Sagar Sanghvi, Student Board Member-Elect
 Dr. Jerry Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Sharon Cox

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. O'Neill at 7:30 p.m.

Re: **SWEARING IN**

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

Re: **STATEMENT BY MR. SANGHVI**

"To begin, I'd like to clear up something that Mrs. Crawford and myself have been asked for awhile. There are about three ways to pronounce my name which I find acceptable. You can call me Say-gar, SA-ger, or Sa-gAr. Cigar, however, usually doesn't work. If you thought Mihyar was hard, I'm just as bad! Anyway, I'd like to thank all of you for taking the time to come out to the swearing in ceremony. I just got in from Buffalo today, so excuse my voice (I'm just a bit tired!). Mrs. Crawford drove me home early so that I can make it back in time, and I think she deserves a round of applause. I'd first like to thank my parents for all their help and support in Student Government and in life. They have instilled the values and principles that I need to be a great leader and person throughout my life. Thanks Mom and Dad. I'd also like to thank my brother, who is currently in Ann Arbor working. His guidance in school and through the school life has been so important in helping me to succeed. Of course if he were here, I probably wouldn't thank him! I'd also like to thank my grandmother, who is here all the way from India to support my achievements. She flew out about a month ago and I am extremely enthusiastic that she is here; especially because she's the only grandparent I have left. Also, my aunt and uncle from Germantown along with my cousins, all who have cheered me on and encouraged my involvement in the county and have supported my aspirations. More thank you's go to my teachers and administration at Magruder High School. They have been flexible when I miss class, they have applauded when I achieve something, and they have been there

when I need a hand. Special thanks to Dr. Steinberg who has hosted MCR meetings, encouraged leadership, and built a very positive atmosphere over at Magruder. Finally, I'd like to thank my friends for their constant involvement in my campaigning, speeches, worrying, and of course celebrating. Without all these people, I sure wouldn't have reached this great position of student member of the board.

Well, here we are, at the swearing in ceremony and I sure am ready to take office. The election process sure was long and difficult, but I made it. I remember beginning Student Government over at Redland with the unbelievable encouragement and involvement of Mrs. Goncher. Without her, I wouldn't even know half the duties our SMOB has and half the things this county does. Along with her, the support of my middle school principal, Mr. Contesti, who allowed me to present ideas and really represent students. Moving into high school, the work of Mr. Bachtell and Mrs. Crawford really allowed me to work at the county and state level and to be here today. Without all of them, this would not be possible. I really am looking forward to this year. In talking with former Student Members and sitting in on Board meetings, I have learned some of the things that go on during the school year and I sure am excited. Whether it was our first junior SMOB, Chris Lloyd, telling me to call him my "inspiration and motivation" here today or Dustin Jeter telling me to ask the Board office for an unlimited credit card or whether it was Mihyar taking me out to lunch and giving me his parking spot 3 months early, I know there are only good times to come. These three SMOB's, along with the many before them, have paved the way for students in this county and have done a magnificent job. I know the Board Members, along with myself, are excited for the issues and ideas of this coming year. I know I will share the student voice at ALL times, and I know I will do what I promised during my campaigning time. All in all, there are three things I have learned in the past few months that will help me to understand next year. First, each Board member has a very unique personality that is NEVER seen at open session. Second, no matter where I go, there are going to be people coming up to me and asking, "are you that guy?". And third, no matter where or when, the pictures and video that are taken of me will always turn out lousy. In conclusion, I'd like to say good luck to Mihyar with his future endeavors, I'd like to thank all my friends and family for coming out here today, and I look forward to a memorable year ahead of us."

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. ALNIFAIDY

On behalf of the members of the Board, Mrs. O'Neill presented Mr. Alnifaidy with memorabilia of his stay on the Board of Education.

Re: STATEMENT BY MR. ALNIFAIDY

"In the name of Allah, Most merciful, most gracious, good evening to my family, friends, fellow, which are now former board members and colleagues. I would like to thank all of you for your attendance here tonight to share this honor with myself and my successor, 'Board Member Sagar Sanghvi.' Speaking of, congratulations to you Sagar upon your

election and I have no doubt that you will meet and exceed my accomplishments towards the empowerment of students. Many of you may not know it but Sagar is only the second junior to serve on this Board of Education, Christopher Lloyd being the first and that in itself shows the amazing will and courage of student leaders.

It may seem to myself and my family that it was only yesterday that I sat in his seat, eager to be sworn in, but although it has passed by very quickly, I have tons and tons of memories that tell me that it was really 12 months ago that I was sworn in. Amongst other memories that stand out, I distinctly remember my first meeting with Dustin last year, Roland Ikheola, the Board Ombudsman had the creativity to make business size cards with my name phonetically spelled on them. He then gave each Board Member one including myself, I guess so I can know what yielded the pronunciations that were attempted. I know he probably kept one for himself too. Thank you Roland for that, I wasn't bothered by the idea of pronunciation cards but I was just excited to see my name printed and passed out. There are many more examples of caring and support from all of the Board Staff but "do to time constraints" I won't get into them. (There aren't really time constraints but since there have been so many constricting factors this year, I wanted to declare one of my own).

Never did I think I would experience so much in one year, from traveling to San Francisco for the NSBA Conference to winning 2nd place in the Kensington Race. I have been to Ocean City a number of times, I have collected over 100 name tags from events I attended, I have accumulated a lot of exposure from television, when people just happened to be flipping through the MCPS channels and saw a re-run of Education Matters or a Board Meeting, I have been re-named S.M.O.B. by my school friends, I have graduated 900 seniors this year, not to mention my diet this past year, as you can see from the spread in the cafeteria, that is literally a taste of what I've experienced, and the list goes on and on.

I consider myself to be a very intuitive and easily motivated person, so you know in the past month I have been day dreaming very often, even at the evening board meetings. Just to let you in my head a little, I was of course thinking of my experiences and things I've learned throughout the year. As I was discussing with some of the Board Staff today, I realized that at one time I wore three hats within this system. I was of course a student which makes me a stakeholder, but then again I was also a Board Member, which also makes me part of an elected decision-making body, the last hat is the kicker, I am now also an employee which makes me have an inside scoop on negotiations of my contract!

I have literally been a part of all levels of this system, which is what makes this position so exciting and different. I have done what others can't do in one year. That is why all of this is a privilege to me and I have been truly honored from my campaign days to this day.

Before I force myself to wrap-up, I would like to thank a couple or many people who have inspired, motivated, loved, cared, and supported me. Most importantly my family, my father Osman who flew 2,000 miles from work to be here and to also watch over me. Thank you

and I love you dad. To my older sister, you've always said what you felt I appreciate you for that. Good luck next year Dr. Hazar Alnifaity. To the younger sister, thank you for allowing me to bore you with my "smobness" as my friends called it. You may not know it but you're already in training to be the 31st Student Member of this Board. You already have the name for it. And finally to my mom, who promised not to cry, mother you have been there for me more than ever this past year. I love you so much for your wisdom, guidance, and support. I promise to make you happy, and have no worries.

Mr. Felton thank you for all you've done, we both know what those things were so there is no need to list them. You have been an ongoing inspiration to me and a tremendous help, I promise to keep you updated as I continue to reach for success.

Mr. Lange, you possess a wealth of knowledge and excitement for education that can't be measured. I appreciate your help with all of my irrelevant questions and thoughts.

Mr. Burnett, you have also offered me a lot during my tenure on this Board. I thank you for supporting me and always looking out for me.

Mr. Romero, you are such a wonderful personality and an educator. Your sense of humor helped to make board meetings even more exciting. But you also know when to be serious and I really envy that in you. Hopefully I will be able to have your firm build one of my office buildings someday. You never know.

Dr. Haughey, where do I begin to express to you my respect and awe-inspiring feeling towards you. You have a wealth of wisdom and you have always articulated yourself in an amazing fashion.

Finally my officers, Vice President Cox spoke to me and let me know she wouldn't be able to attend tonight, but for the record I would like to thank her for her support and caring assistance to me during my term she has always been an inspiration to be firm and aggressive with my thoughts.

To President Pat O'Neill, you have been a leader amongst leaders. Thank you for your guidance, uniqueness, and leadership. Your previous experience with the Board has definitely made you an effective leader.

To our Superintendent, Dr. Weast, I am simply amazed at your techniques and methods to fulfill the objectives of your position. It is a very hard job to accomplish when you have upwards of 160,000 individuals to direct within this system, from students to employees. I have great respect for you because of that.

Last but not least, Thank you to the best Staff director Mr. George Margolies, he is the man behind the show. Thanks for inspiring me and your ongoing guidance. Thank you Roland, Thank you Becky, Gail, Roz my walking date book, and thank you Glenda. To Lori you

have been an amazing personality and I thank you for all your help. To the best Student Service Coordinator in at least Maryland, Mrs. Karen Crawford, she does it all without complaining, thank you for your help and patience from MCR, to elections. Thank you everyone for an extremely fun year!"

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. A reception followed in the auditorium.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JDW:gr