

Election of the 26th
Student Member of the Board of Education
MCR Special Election Committee 2003 Voters Guide

Election Day
April 10, 2003

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Background

I am running for Student Member on the Board (SMOB) because I believe that I can be an informed voice for the student's and I believe in the need for change in our county, and the need for a strong student representative. I have been in the Montgomery County Public School System my entire educational career and understand how the school system works. I believe I can bring new ideas to the table and can persuade the Board of Education to make decisions in favor of the students. I know this school system is made for the students, and our voice deserves to be heard.

Education

2001-present Colonel Zadok Magruder High School (Grades 9-10)
Grade Point Average: 4.0
Cumulative Grade Point Average: 4.714
1999-2001 Redland Middle School (Grades 7-8)
1998-1999 Rosa Parks Middle School(Grade 6)
1992-1998 Cashell Elementary School (Grades K-5)

Leadership and Accomplishments

- 1998-1999 *Rosa Parks Student of the Year Award
 - * Class of 2005 Vice President
- 1999-2001 * Redland Middle School Student of the Year Award
- 1999-2000 *Member- Council On Instruction
 - * Class of 2005 Vice President
 - * Secretary- Montgomery County Jr. Councils (MCJC)
- 2000-2001 *Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) Middle School Leadership in Experience Attendee
 - * President- MCJC
 - * President- Redland Middle School SGA
- 2001-2002*Montgomery County Region(MCR) Deputy Special Elections Committee Administrator
 - *Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) State Legislative Affairs Coordinator
- 2002-2003 *President- MCR
 - *Member- Shared Accountability Workgroup
 - *Member- Spanish Honor's Society
 - * Attendee- MLW Advance Leadership Workshops
- 2001-2003 *Member- High School Task Force
 - * President- Class of 2005
 - * Member- Ahimsa Youth Organization
 - * Trainer- MASC Legislative Session
- 2000-2003 * Executive Member- MASC
 - * Trainer- MASC Middle School Conference
- Community Service: Over 110 Hours Completed, 150 additional hours (SGA)

Platform

I Support:

- *Full Voting Rights- Student Member
- *Cell Phone Policy for Middle School Students (similar to HS policy)
- School Beginning- After Labor Day
- Technology Use in Schools
- Funding for Schools in Needed Situations
- Alternate Schedules/Later Start Times, resulting in smaller class sizes
- Family Life and Human Development- Condom Demonstration and Alternate Lifestyles in Curriculum
- New and Up to Date Curriculum which encompasses Technology
- Weight of Exams: 25%
- Pilot Program for Double A Exam Exemption
- Vocational Learning Programs

I Oppose:

- Loss of Credit(LC) Policy- Attendance is necessary for students to learn effectively, but the LC Policy is not effective and is not good for students
- Weight of Exams: 30%
- High School Assessments and other standardized tests- students should not have to take a test to define their academic careers

My platform is based on research and information that I have seen over the past few years. I believe these positions reflect student views, and I know they will help to cause change in the school system.

Response #1 Question:

I believe my biggest strength is experience, as I have been thoroughly involved with the Board of Education as well as Student Government. I have been involved in my school student government since Elementary School and have held an office since the fifth grade. My previous three years have included positions as countywide middle and high school president, and experience at the state level. I have worked closely with the previous three Student Members, the state Executive Board, and have led the MCR and MCJC.

Response #2 Question:

I do not believe that MCPS is adequately addressing the path for students not going to college. I believe that schools like Thomas Edison and programs like the magnet do help students who wish to work, but they are not enough. We need to open more schools directed towards vocational learning. MCPS needs more schools that will prepare students who want to be electricians, carpenters, or go into any line of work after high school. Increasing the number of these schools will benefit the most important factor: students.

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