

Jack Corea

Student Member of the Board of Education Essay

In the complex field of education, students' opinions and feedback play a crucial role in determining the effectiveness of educational policies and practices in a school system. The 38,000 students of HCPS need a safe and nurturing environment that allows for academic and personal success, regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, or disabilities. The Student Member of the Board of Education (SMOB) is a voice that, if held by the right person, can advocate for students in all realms of the quality of an educational environment. I am suitable for this position as a passionate advocate for student empowerment and access to quality education.

Throughout my educational journey, I have witnessed teachers' profound impact on young minds. However, today's students are different from even ten years ago. They face increasing challenges in staying engaged in their learning, and extended lessons that don't pertain to real-life conceptual thinking don't work as well as they used to. You cannot force student attentiveness; you can encourage it. The curriculum reform applied to the HCPS middle schools, which consists of more cross-curricular concepts and project-based learning, should be used in our high schools. Many students in our high schools need to know the value of in-person education following the COVID-19 pandemic. If we take inspiration from the middle school's success in reform, students may feel more inclined to try to better themselves. We need to find different approaches to curriculum concepts that help long-term retention, skill development, and satisfaction of students and teachers. Students can connect theories and concepts with practical

applications and real-world problems when working on projects. We need students to see how their learning can be applied meaningfully, not just lecturing them without reason.

The policies enacted by the Board directly impact all students in Harford County. Therefore, students must be well-informed about these policies, especially those that may affect their rights. Students advocate for their rights if understand the implications of these policies. As part of my dedication to transparency and student empowerment, I propose the creation of informative videos as the Student Member of the Board to explain these policies. Every month during the school year, I will produce a video to be distributed to schools. The video will discuss policies proposed by the Board in a neutral tone to inform students how this will affect them. Students only give feedback if they know what is happening, and most students don't know what the SMOB is and what the job pertains to. By increasing student awareness, we can ensure better representation in board policies.

As an aquatic lead at British Swim School Northern Baltimore, I supervise the operation of over five hundred swim lessons for children and adults each week. I am a great communicator and an accomplished leader. As a student member of the Board, I will strengthen communication between students and the Board and allow for the mass voice representation of students on board policies and the prosperity of all students in Harford County.