

My Candidacy for Student Member on the Board of Education

“Change is the heartbeat of growth,” a quote by Scottie Somers. Every SMOB wants to create change through its position, as change brings in new ideas and challenges the status quo. Through this past school year as HCRASC President, working with the HCRASC executive board, I have learned to embrace changes, and when embracing change, we embrace the opportunity to learn and grow, which is principal to create a dynamic and vibrant student body. With being the voice of the student body, the representative of all students in Harford County on the Board of Education, it is imperative to ensure that all students are truly represented, all the way from North Harford to Joppatowne, and that they are empowered to thrive in their school environment. I wish to become this representative and take on the position of Student Member of the Board of Education.

My main goal as SMOB for the students of Harford County consists of this. Firstly, increasing student wellness in our school communities. I have taken account not only from my own school at Harford Tech, but from other schools in the county where students have addressed their concerns about inconsistent repairs of facilities, such as bathrooms, and having little to no access to safe and clean drinking water during the school day due to the inaccessibility of school water fountains. This should not be a daily struggle for students where they cannot get proper drinking water for after-school sports or must wait in line during passing periods because only one stall works for weeks at a time. If we want students to enjoy school and not feel second-class it should start with the basics, which are too often overlooked. I have learned that many members of the Board

of Education are not aware of these issues and through the position of SMOB, I would want to focus on working with them to start solving these problems and help them get in touch with students more directly than just through me so they can develop a better understanding of the problems that come from students. Because of the concern for student wellness, I reached out to the Director of Health and Wellness to start up a Student Wellness Advisory Group, which should be active by next school year where we can have student advocates from each middle and high school address wellness concerns and expedite solutions for them. And not only that, but through the group we want to get more students directly involved with advocacy of various health topics, such as drug usage in schools and school fighting.

I hope through my tenure as SMOB and working through a major concern in almost every single school nationwide such as student wellness, that this can become a legacy that can continue for years to come where we can see insightful change within the student body where struggles and concerns are dealt with at the root.