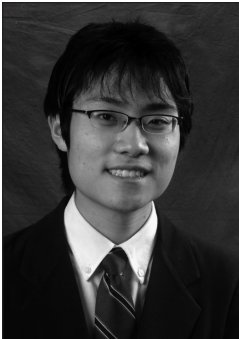


Election of the 32nd Student Member of the Board of Education

MCR Special Elections Committee 2009 Voters Guide



Election Day
April 29, 2009



Tim Hwang

Thomas S. Wootton High School
Grade 11
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It has only been 38 years since the United States gave the right to vote to our generation. Yet only in the past year have we been able to fully harness its ability and unleash the true potential of a generation. This position is a testament to our commitment to education, and after 38 years, the time has come to craft a new school system. It

is my core belief that every problem in our school system can be solved through unity and transparent communication among the Board, Administrators, Parents, Teachers, and students.

As we have seen in the recent election, young people are no longer apathetic when it comes to policies that affect them. That is why I am here today, as a voice for the students of Montgomery County. This election is not just about education, it is about our generation's ability to heal the broken politics in this county, to improve the standards of education, and to come together for one purpose—making sure every student in this county receives a world class education. We have one of the biggest opportunities as a student body to truly change the world we live in, and this is our opportunity to truly make a difference in our education. Together we can do anything and I hope I can represent you as your next SMOB.

Education:

Watkins Mill ES/Travilah ES, Robert Frost MS,
Thomas S. Wootton High School

Leadership and Experience:

- Operation Fly, Inc.—**Founder and CEO/President (Vice-Chairman)**—Tim Hwang founded an international non-profit organization to fight inner-city poverty and homelessness. He currently leads the entire organization, its budget as well as all of its employees and programs, and the Board of Directors around the world.
- Obama for America—**HS Montgomery County Coordinator/Field Director and Campaign Intern**
- Montgomery County Region (MCR)—SGA (HS County SGA)—**Vice President (11), Chief of Staff (10), Evaluator/Executive Board (9)**
- Thomas S. Wootton Class of 2010 Planning (School SGA)—**Class President**
- Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) (State SGA) **Montgomery County Delegate/Executive Board, Educational Liaison to MD State Board of Education, State Conference Trainer**
- Democratic Party
Montgomery County: President of Events and Activities
Maryland Teen Democrats: School Coordinator
YDA: Deputy Mid-Atlantic Director/National Committee
YDA: Development and Evaluation Committee
Campaign Intern—Congressman Chris Van Hollen (MD-8)
Campaign Team—Congresswoman Edwards (MD-4), Congressman Kratovil (MD-1)
- **Maryland State Director**
Youthocracy, LLC (Political Consulting Firm)
- **Councilmember**
Maryland Youth Advisory Council
- **Board of Directors, Wootton School Coordinator**
MCSG-PAC
- **Youth Advisory Council—DoSomething.Org**

- **Maryland Youth Advisory Council**—United States Public Service Academy
- **MCPS Curriculum Advisory Assembly Student Representative**
- **Montgomery County Taskforce on Race and Social Issues Student/Wootton Representative**

Organized for:

Purple Line Campaign, Yes Montgomery Can Campaign, No School on Inauguration, No School on Lunar New Year, No Finals after AP Exams

I Support:

Less Testing/More Teaching, student evaluation of teachers, Class Size Reduction, Financial Accountability and Responsibility, increasing SMOB voting rights, reforming the GT Policy, retaining and rewarding world class teachers, finding innovative solutions to close the achievement gap, putting driver's Ed back in schools, reforming the grading system for consistency, a student's right to choose and drop classes, Student's choice for open lunch, the right for middle school students to have the same cell phone rights as high school students

I am AGAINST:

LC Policy, HSA as a graduation requirement, high parking permit rates, random drug testing, inconsistent disciplinary rules, the use of hall sweeps for punishment, limiting SMOB Voting Rights, a School Uniform Policy, School Fees, The Release of Contact Information to Military Recruiters, Internet censorship at schools, Punishing students with suspension/expulsion only because of attendance

Please visit: www.timhwang2009.com for an in-depth platform and practical solutions for all these positions.

During the current budget crisis, for what initiative or program would you advocate to keep fully funded? If you had to, what initiative would you consider cutting?

I would fully fund outreach programs, after school programs, an environmentally friendly school system to save money in the long run, and teacher development programs. We need to work together to reduce the number of students in our classes, help at-risk students including ESOL/Special Education, and pilot innovative and efficient programs to reform our middle schools, increase early childhood education, and close the achievement gap without compromising the rigor of our curriculum. We need to work together to cut the bureaucracy in our schools, cut down on energy costs, and reign in unnecessary spending at the school level. This budget crisis is an opportunity for our school system to reform any and all inefficient programs and operations.

The SMOB, in addition to expressing the student voice, also represents the concerns and views of parents, staff, and other community members. How would you serve as an effective liaison for all of these groups to an adult Board of Education?

For the past few years I have collaborated with international, national, state, and local government officials to bring about innovative changes. I will ensure that every constituency is represented on committees/taskforces and will work to improve communication between everyone by changing the way people interact with the Board. Our county has been plagued with bitter battles between constituencies, and the SMOB must not only work to mediate between students and adults but work to heal the broken politics of this county.

The candidates' profiles have been prepared by the candidates and do not necessarily represent the views of the Special Elections Committee (SEC). The Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MCR), or Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The SEC cannot assure the accuracy of the statements contained in this document. Published by the SEC of MCR in cooperation with MCPS.