

Election of the 37th Student Member of the Board of Education



Election Day
April 30, 2014

MCR Special Elections Committee 2014 Voters Guide

In addition to voting for the candidate of your choice, students will be asked their opinions on these two questions:

How many hours of homework on average do you receive on any given day?
Less than one hour, 1-2 hours, 2-3 hours, 4+ hours

I have an electronic device (e.g. tablet, laptop, smartphone) that I could bring to class for educational purposes, if it were allowed. Yes No

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.



Dahlia Huh

Candidate Profile

Grade 11 Clarksburg HS

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www.DahliaForSMOB.com

"It's about time we become the best county in the nation." It would be an honor to serve the great students of Montgomery County as your next Student Member on the Board of Education.

This coming year is bringing a wave of changes; from delaying school start times to replacing Edline and eliminating the MSAs. Not only should

we be prepared, but we should also ride this wave of change to get to where we want to go. The SMOB has only 365 fleeting days to create meaningful improvements for MCPS; it is imperative that we're represented by a SMOB with real experience, passion, and a vision.

My leadership experiences have taken me to local, county, state, and national levels of education policy and advocacy. Through organizations like the Montgomery County Regional SGA, the SMOB Advisory Council, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership, and the American Youth Summit, I have actively represented MCPS students' ideas and concerns to Superintendent Joshua Starr, County Councilors, state legislators, U.S. Congressmen, and Obama administration officials. We need a leader with a clear vision for our future—a plan for action with practical, lasting solutions.

As your SMOB, it's important for me to get to know you. I've been dedicated to reaching out and working with the individual needs of communities. From working on service projects to supporting our schools in bad need of construction and repair—your priorities are my priorities. We would work hand-in-hand to stand for the issues that are important to you. Only then can MCPS truly become the best.

Moving forward won't be easy, but we are students of MCPS. We are resilient, dedicated leaders in today's changing world of education. I'm Dahlia Huh and it's an honor to have served you this far. I am asking for your support so together we can truly be a leading force in America.

Leadership & Experience

- *Good50.com LLC—CEO and Co-Founder*, a socially-minded search engine; has hosted over 1.3 million searches; featured in the *Washington Post*
- *Good50.org Non-Profit—Co-Founder and Co-President*, a common sense, grassroots movement to honor our Earth through creating a clean and healthy living environment
- *Montgomery County Regional SGA (MCR)—Officer, Secretary; Executive Board member*
- *Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)—Workshop Trainer* for Fall Leadership Conference and Legislative Session
- *Montgomery County Student Advisory Council (SAC)—Dep. Director of Outreach* for SMOB Justin Kim; Dep. Director of Public Relations for SMOB John Mannes
- *National Youth Association (NYA)—Delegate* to the American Youth Summit
- *Clarksburg High School—Elected and reelected SGA Vice President*
- *National Charity Day—NGO* to promote charitable giving through education
- **Published Author** of a 350 page Children's novel
- *Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership Seminar—Delegate*

Education:

Cedar Grove ES, Roberto Clemente MS (*Humanities & Communication Magnet Program*), Clarksburg HS (*APPS Program*)

I Support:

- Full funding of the FY 2014–2015 Budget
- Hiring more teachers to reduce class sizes
- Full SMOB Voting Rights
- Student access to Wi-Fi in schools
- Redefining the purpose of homework
- Cell Phone Rights for Middle Schools
- Open lunch
- Larger variety of electives
- Funding for the Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS) Program
- Funding for Magnet, IB, ROTC & Edison programs and busing
- Narrowing the Achievement Gap
- Reinstating Driver's Ed as an elective
- Improving school lunch quality
- Science Tech Engineering and Math (STEM) Education & Robotics teams
- Energy efficiency and green initiatives
- Outdoor Education
- Reform to the Capital Improvement and school modernization process
- Anti-bullying campaigns
- Student input in teacher evaluations
- Bring Your Own Device Policy
- A student's right to select and drop classes
- 504 program for Special Needs students
- Varsity & JV sports count as a P.E. credit

I Oppose:

- Increasing class sizes
- Cuts in Arts (music, drama, etc.) classes
- Cuts in after-school programs/activity buses
- Cuts in Athletics
- Replacing on-level classes with only Honors and AP classes
- Using test scores to fully gauge teacher performance
- Attendance Intervention and the tie between absences and loss of credit
- Inconsistent grading policies
- "Teaching to the test"
- Requiring HSAs for graduation and any additional graduation requirements
- Maintenance of Effort penalty
- Random hall sweeps

If elected, what are your top three non-budgetary priorities you wish to see completed during your term? What actions/steps would be needed to obtain them?

1. The SMOB can be an incredibly powerful force on the Board. Having access to many resources, including an Advisory Council, I'll lobby intensely to gain **full SMOB voting rights** from the state legislature. If we want to be a trendsetter in education, the SMOB needs to have a vote on the budget, not just a voice. To carry out this momentous task, student organizations across MCPS must join forces, because our greatest asset is our numbers.
2. I will create a **scholarship/opportunities/resources database** to allow MCPS students to reach that next level of education or explore their individual interests of becoming small business owners, pilots, EMTs, authors, or any other path they choose.
3. Finally, I will **increase communication between the SMOB and students** by hosting more Town Halls and working effectively with the countywide student newspaper, the *MoCo Student*.

Even though the Student Member of the Board currently does not have a vote on the MCPS budget, they do have an active role in expressing the student's voice in it. If you could allocate an additional five million dollars anywhere in the budget, where would it be and why?

The \$5 million dollars would be used to create a scholarship fund for students on the basis of their community service and community involvement. If scholarships were \$5,000 each, we would directly impact the lives of a thousand students. I believe in tangible results—change we can see with our own two eyes.