

Election of the 36th Student Member of the Board of Education

MCR Special Elections Committee 2013 Voters Guide



Election Day
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Justin Kim

Candidate Profile
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It is a great honor for me to be a candidate for Student Member of the Board of Education. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to present my vision for MCPS to you, the students. It is my goal that after reading this, you will have a better idea of my proposals to build an improved and lasting school system for all Montgomery County students and for future generations.

The road ahead of us is very unclear. Many challenges lie before of us. Yet we must be active participants in the policy-making process to ensure that MCPS maintains its commitment to academic and operational excellence. Although we will have to make tough economic and educational decisions to promote a better future for MCPS, it is our responsibility to protect our vital programs and ensure that every student is receiving a quality, 21st century education. However, real change cannot happen without the student voice. Students must be active in determining the future of MCPS. We need a leader who can powerfully convey the beliefs of the student body, but also one who will work with you to produce real and effective change. The position of SMOB is unique in that it requires an effective leader and policymaker, but also someone who has the real experience in the issues that affect students every day.

My experiences have uniquely prepared me to answer the call to action. This will not be my first time serving you. As an active advocate in organizations such as the Montgomery County Regional SGA, the Maryland Youth Advisory Council, the SMOB Advisory Council, the Maryland Association of Student Councils, the Students League for Fiscal Responsibility, and the Montgomery County Students' Coalition, I have been engaged in representing the student voice across our great state and county. From testifying to the Maryland House Ways and Means Committee on the importance of SMOB Voting Rights, to testifying to our Board of Education on finding real solutions for the achievement gap, my voice has been your voice.

Throughout my academic career, I have had a passion for service. I've been dedicated to providing resources to student leaders so that they can create effective change in their communities. I've had the pleasure of getting to know and work with many students on a variety of projects, but I want to be able to work with more students and ensure that I can hear your ideas and share your opinions with the Board. Your voice is what counts in this election. I want a Board of Education where the focus is on the students. I want to work with you to cut the bureaucracy, refocus our priorities, and ensure that MCPS is about the students. I hope you'll join me in standing for a brighter future for MCPS. Thank you.

I Support:

- Fully funding the FY 2013–2014 Budget
- Hiring more teachers to reduce class sizes
- Increasing student involvement in policy decisions
- Closing the Achievement Gap with real and lasting solutions
- Prioritizing Capital Improvements and School Modernization
- Wider variety of classes and electives
- Improving school lunch quality
- Open Lunch
- Financially-wise Green Initiatives
- Expanding SMOB Voting Rights
- Simplifying the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
- Magnet, IB, and Edison Program Funding
- Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) Education
- Magnet Busing
- Creating a system to expedite the creation of Varsity-level sports
- Curriculum 2.0
- Newer buses to reduce overcrowding
- Efficient bus route coordination
- Removing lead pipes and asbestos in schools
- Individualized Education Program (IEP) and 504 program for Special Needs students

- Funding for the Free and Reduced-Price Meals (FARMS) Program
- Cell Phone Rights for Middle Schools
- Outdoor Education Funding

I Oppose

- Increasing class sizes
- Interlacing test scores with teacher performance
- Additional graduation requirements
- Wasteful spending and bureaucracy at the administrative level
- Cuts in Art/Drama/Music and Technology classes
- Random hall sweeps
- Fully replacing regular classes with only AP and Honors classes
- Maintenance of Effort penalty
- Requiring HSAs for graduation

Leadership & Experience

Montgomery Youth Advisory Council (MYAC)— **Executive Board Member**, planned a state-wide forum for Governor Martin O'Malley to push for greater technology use in the state of Maryland

Montgomery County Regional SGA (MCR)—**Deputy Chief of Staff**

Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)—**Montgomery County Delegate** to Legislative Session
Workshop Trainer for Fall Leadership Conference

Montgomery County Student Advisory Council (SAC)—**Events Director** for SMOB Alan Xie, lobbied Maryland State Senators and Delegates to push for expanded SMOB Voting Rights

Correspondent for SMOB John Mannes, wrote for the first countywide student advocacy newspaper, the *MoCo Student*

National Youth Association (NYA)—**Delegate** to the American Youth Summit, will be working with top youth leaders, Obama administration officials, and congressional leaders

Students' League for Fiscal Responsibility—**Vice-Chairman**

Poolesville High School—**SGA Vice President**,
Sophomore Class President, and **Freshman Class President**

Being a Student Board Member requires a lot of skill in decision making and prioritization. Getting things done requires efficiency and clear and thoughtful planning. Please state a tangible change you would like to make within MCPS and outline specifically how you would be able to get it done from inception to success.

The budget controls a vast share of the issues in which students are invested. However, if we want better results from the Board, the student voice must be active. I want to substantially increase student input in the process of creating policies and budget issues in order to maximize support for student initiatives and protect vital programs. I will hold Student Town-Halls in schools across the county to hear your recommendations while creating student-driven Policy Workgroups to proactively analyze and craft policies on crucial student issues. With more students involved, we can achieve real and effective solutions for MCPS students.

One of the fundamental aspects of serving as a public official is having the ability to learn fast and build relationships. Explain a past experience for which you had to learn fast and build relationships. Share any relevant information that you think has prepared you for your first term. In short: how can we count on you to make things happen?

The SMOB has myriad responsibilities not only in working with the Board of Education, but also with the County Council and the State Legislature in Annapolis. Through my experience lobbying County Councilmen, testifying to the House Ways and Means Committee, and discussing youth issues with Governor O'Malley, I have worked tirelessly to promote action on issues such as the budget, SMOB Voting Rights, and other educational initiatives. More importantly, I have developed a sincere rapport with these legislators, which enables me to build stronger professional relationships as we collaborate to produce meaningful change for our students.

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.