

# STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY

## Applicant Questions

AGYEM

*Respond with paragraphs of no more than 250 words per question, not bulleted lists.*

1. **What is your plan to effectively represent all students in Frederick County Public Schools, K-12?**  
My plan is to utilize social media regularly to get the opinions of the student body, inform them about information, and to get to better know the SMOB. In unprecedented times like these, we've seen how critical online interaction can be. Connectivity in our day and age is a forerunning factor of many things. To make it as easy as possible for all students in the county to get to know me and what is going on, social media key. I aim to host bimonthly livestreams on the SMOB instagram account for any student questions on events or changes in the county as well as to gauge student opinion on changes that the county is considering. My social media outreach plan also includes frequent tips and suggestions for students in terms of school, health, and life to encourage them during this difficult time. I also plan to make the SMOB portion of the FCPS website more active with updates on FCPS policies and events. I hope that through this connection, I can be a SMOB that the student body feels is easy to access as well as is involved to make it easy for students to come to me with their issues.
2. **Describe how you will change the way you manage your time to be able to meet the demands of Board of Education meetings, FCASC meetings, MASC meetings and your own academic and extracurricular demands.**

If I were to be elected as SMOB, the students would always come first. I would schedule out my weeks and time block my days so that I could space out my duties going over BOE materials packets, talking to students about their opinions and feelings about school, different policies, research, and any other duties needed of me to prepare for as SMOB. This structure would be crucial so that I could maintain my personal life as well as my life as SMOB. The meetings for BOE, FCASC and MASC would always be top of my priority and I would always devote as much time as possible to preparing for them as well as attending them as possible.

3. **As the Student Member of the Board of Education, what will be your priorities, the policies you might advance, or topics you might wish to discuss?**

One of my main priorities would be to push more mental health policies for students and a diverse student board to give suggestions and feedback on how well policies work. Mental health has always been important for students, but the recent public health crisis has proved this point even more crucial. With social distancing and the issues that have arisen from it, many students that I've spoken to across the FCPS system have come to me voicing their mental health struggles that have worsened over quarantine and with the shift of virtual learning. I want to pursue this topic and create a policy for the students that has their input throughout the process to ensure that it would truly help them. In addition, I'd like to have more discussion on cultural studies and diversity in our school system. Recently, it has become a topic of discussion that is needed if we want our county to improve to be as diverse as possible, starting in the classroom. While distance learning has proven to be effective, many things are lost in translation and students may not always be able to get the support they need. Many students in the school system that I have talked to have mentioned that while they appreciate the numerous services offered to them during this pandemic, they find it hard to make the first step due to lack of connections with administration. To combat this, I'd like to focus on a new and easier social support system that ensures student services are always accessible so that students can feel comfortable enough to ask for help.

4. **Legislation is being drafted that could provide voting rights to the SMOB. What steps will you take to ensure that you are fully informed of issues on which you may vote?**

Having voting rights as SMOB would be an extremely useful tool that a SMOB could have. If I were to be given voting rights, I would use this power with as much respect, contemplation, and dignity as possible. I would make sure that like any adult member on the board, I would fully read through, annotate, and form opinions on the BOE materials packet. I would also educate myself on different topics, the effects of them, and how they would affect the students of our county. Above all else, as a representative of the student body, I would ask for public student opinions on different topics the BOE may be focusing on to make informed decisions for my student member comments. As SMOB, this would be the most important way to represent my constituents. When it comes to voting, part of the acronym "SMOB" is student, that of which I would be out of the thousands of students in the county. If I can't adequately vote with wisdom and intelligence in the voice of my fellow peers, then the opportunity to be able to vote would be wasted. It is through preparation and proper representation that I would ensure that I would be fully informed on issues on which I may vote to be the best SMOB to my ability.