

November 23, 2020

SMOB Platform Speech

FCPS Students:

My name is Dominic Phillips-Moore. I'm a sophomore at Frederick High School, and a student advocate. It is with great honor and gratitude to write this letter seeking nomination for the 2021-2022 Frederick County Student Member of the Board of Education.

The Student Member of the Board position is something that is so significant and so elite to Frederick County Public Schools, and I want to assure you that I have the leadership skills, experience, and dedication that is needed to succeed while serving **You**, the students of Frederick County. I have devoted the majority of my secondary education to student leadership along with student advocacy, and it is most certainly a passion of mine to make a difference in the lives of students.

Starting as a 7th grade student at West Frederick Middle School, I attended my first Frederick County Association of Student Councils General Assembly. I knew from that day forward I wanted to represent the students of Frederick County and to advocate for students on a greater scale. That April, I then took the risk and responsibility to run for the position of Frederick County Association of Student Councils' Second Vice President. I was then elected to represent the middle school students and voice their concerns to the FCASC Board. This was and is only the beginning of what would be years worth of advocacy and my goal is to continue to advocate for the students of Frederick County.

Aside from advocacy, I am running for the Student Member of the Board of Education to make sure students are not only represented on the Board of Education, but to make sure that every unheard issue is brought to their attention. These issues include the current stigma around mental health, social injustice issues, as well as a very important topic pertaining to the Student Member of the Board of Education, Student Member of the Board voting rights.

Mental health is something that is affecting everyone in various ways. Especially during these trying times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the mental health of students are quickly deteriorating. There must be a clear understanding among the entirety of FCPS as to how we can address hindrances such as lack of understanding or funding for mental health resources in schools. If elected, I want to make sure this is a discussion brought to the Board immediately, to ensure that students are able to seek the resources necessary to better their mental well being, such as talking to Mental Health professionals.

In addition to mental health, our nation is also suffering through the issue of social injustice. This is something that is targeting minority groups, whether it be African Americans or members of the LGBTQ+ community. When considering the wellbeing of students, we must also think about how issues like social injustice can cause a student to struggle in terms of academic performance. If elected as SMOB, I plan to work extremely hard with the Racial Equity Committee and implement the discussion of social justice into the curriculum..

Last but not least, Student Member of the Board voting rights. This is something that has been mentioned numerous times and something that many student leaders have worked towards. Obtaining Student Member of the Board partial voting rights will ensure that the SMOB is able to truly represent all student voices on the board. It is extremely important to work towards this to make sure that the concerns of our students are truly being addressed and taken into consideration when making the final decision on pieces of legislation. If elected, I will work endlessly and enthusiastically to advocate for this vital piece of legislation, along with dedicating myself to placing this legislation back into the hands of the Maryland General Assembly.

With my platform of addressing mental health issues, social injustice, and SMOB voting rights, I will be the most effective leader for the students of FCPS. Having my intentions in mind, it is now up to you to make the decision as to who you want to be your voice. I am Dominic Phillips-Moore, and I hope to be the change you want to see.