

STUDENT MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF FREDERICK COUNTY

Applicant Questions

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 to effectively represent all students in Frederick County Public Schools, K-12 includes three main parts. The first part of my plan includes visiting the SGA and PTA meetings for various schools in the county, or emailing and calling the advisors of the SGAs and PTAs in the county. This will ensure that I am hearing the voices of all different age groups and concerns of parents, teachers and most importantly, students in Frederick County. Another part of my plan includes putting up polls regarding questions I have or questionnaires on my social media, and on the Schoology pages of various schools to get direct input from students at different schools. It is important that I understand the goals and feelings of all students in the county, especially if I cannot visit every school. Every student's voice is important to me and I would like to give every student an opportunity to speak up about an issue if they would like. The final part of my plan to represent all students in Frederick County Public Schools is to attend different dances, fundraisers or carnivals held by various schools in the county. I want to be a part of the different school communities in this county, and really get to know each community on a personal level. I believe I cannot truly understand someone unless I am getting to know them on a personal level, and interacting with them outside of my work time.

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.

There are multiple ways that I will change the way I manage my time to be able to meet the demands of being the Student Member of the Board. One way I will change the way I manage my time is to set a specific amount of time I have for each task I need to get done, for example, an hour to work on work for each of my school classes. This will keep me on track, but also ensure that I am spending at least an hour on each different task I need to accomplish in my life. Also, I will wake up earlier in the morning, instead of 6:00 in the morning, I will wake up at 5:00. This enables me to get a more productive start to my day, as I can get more work done when I wake up earlier. Also, it will allow me time for myself, as this is important for my mental health. Having good mental health is important for being the best leader and person I can be, which will also help me make an impact on my community. Finally, I will ensure that I am always prioritizing my work for each day. For example, if I have an FCASC meeting on Thursday, I may not do my history work if it is due on Sunday, because for Thursday, FCASC is the most important event.

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?

As the Student Member of the Board of Education, my main priorities and topics I wish to discuss include the mental health of students, bringing all students and teachers back to school safely and putting more emphasis on teaching about social justice issues in schools. First, I wish to put emphasis on the mental health of students, as mental health is the core of every student's life. Each and every student should know that their mental health is important, and they should be involved in exercises and programs during the school day to optimize their mental health. Next, I wish to focus on ensuring that all students and teachers are able to go back to school safely, as online school is not sufficient for most students. Students do not have nearly the same instruction as they would if they were in school, online school is limiting socialization for students, and it is damaging students' mental health, as they are under more stress and are having to stare at screens for four to ten hours a day. Finally, I wish to focus on implementing social justice lessons in all levels of school. Students should be educated on social justice issues, and how to deal with social justice instances in their community, whether they are a victim, or a witness. There should be clubs in the schools, monthly assemblies and announcements during the mornings for elementary school students or during extra learning time for middle and high school students regarding this issue.

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?

It is very important for me personally to have voting rights on the Board of Education. This will enable me to have even more of a voice for the students in Frederick County and will allow me even more insight on the decision making process of the Board of Education. There are several different steps I will take to ensure that I am informed on issues that I may vote on. The first step is I will do research on online websites or other outside resources so I can have a well-rounded perspective on the various issues. While looking at verified websites, I can learn about perspectives of people from all different ages, jobs and genders and see the information they offer. Next, I will talk with various board members to get more information on the issue. Each board member has much more life experience than me, and even though I may not be able to talk about their opinion, we can discuss the core information they know about the issue. Third, I will put up polls and google forms for students in various schools to fill out, to understand how they feel about the issue. I am the voice of the students, and should take into consideration the feelings and ideas of the students, not only what I feel about a certain issue.