Good morning. My name is Bella Amell, and I am running to be your next Student Member of the Board of Education.

More than ever, the past year has proven the time for inaction is over, and that this is a moment for change. The disparities facing FCPS students didn’t just happen- they are the result of decades of shortsighted, exclusionary policies that have created inequitable opportunities, solidified institutional barriers, and advantaged those in power. As students, we’ve shown we are stronger together, and that it is possible to create an education that works for all of us- we just need to choose it. We deserve representatives who are committed to us, and will deliver strong, empathetic solutions capable of addressing the crises we face.

I’ve spent the past seven years advocating for our future by demanding change- but I’m just getting started. I believe that those affected by legislation should be the closest to the decision-making, and that the inclusion of diverse voices in the political process is essential in creating more effective policy. I’m fighting to resist outdated and unjust policies put forward by the Board of Education, which threaten to reverse what progress we’ve made. I am committed to advancing bold and ambitious policies on initiatives of importance to the students of Frederick County, from mental health support and the impending climate crisis, to renewed diversity and inclusion efforts, and a more holistic approach to college and career readiness.

Now, our future is on the ballot. As a lifelong FCPS student, I know the power our student body holds, and I understand that this change can’t wait. Together, we are unapologetically building a movement fueled by change-makers, and those closest to the inequality. It is everyday students, and not the politicians who profit from them. It’s me, it’s you, it’s us.

I’m asking each of you for your support in advocating for change. Fight for our future, and vote Bella Amell for Student Member of the Board of Education beginning January 6.