Over the course of the past few years, we have been presented with all kinds of challenges. Each family in our county has faced a set of unique problems. It’s a struggle day to day. For some, it might be figuring out what you're going to wear to school, for others it might be figuring out how you'll even get there; and for some it may be juggling a part time job, homework, and helping take care of siblings at home. My name is Brady Vlha, and I want to help you overcome those challenges, both in education and your daily lives, as the 2022-2023 Frederick County Public Schools Student Member of the Board.

Ever since I was in grade school, I've been dedicated to making a difference in my community. That's why I’m here today. I’ve worked with organizations to collect thousands of pounds of food for local food banks, participated in the annual Antietam Battlefield Luminary lighting in remembrance of those who lost their lives, and am currently leading my own project to better my local community park. I understand how important it is to help those who are less fortunate than I am and make a difference in our community.

In order to prepare ourselves for success in this global society, we must reach out with caring support for all of our students, as it aligns with the mission of our school system. Addressing discrimination is the first step in that battle. This starts with listening to the voices of students in underrepresented areas. The SMOB cannot function primarily online. It’s time we start meeting face to face. We must preserve the equity of opportunity, as not every student uses the internet the same way. I want to visit your middle and high schools to listen to and understand the problems you face from your own point of view.

I want to leave you with an open ended thought. Some rules are nothing but old habits that people are too afraid to change. In an ever evolving world, we can’t live on these old habits. We must raise awareness of each and every issue that concerns the Student Body. If you want to talk about masks, lunches, hats, clubs, course offerings, you name it, we’ll talk about it. I promise I will represent your voice on any issue, no matter what school, grade, or part of the county you are from. As Henry Ford once famously said, “Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress and working together is success.”

I, Brady Vlha, promise to work with you to make the changes our school system needs. We can no longer wait. The time for change is now.

Thank you for listening to me, and I promise to return the favor by listening to you.