

APPROVED  
16-2007

Rockville, Maryland  
July 2, 2007

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Monday, July 2, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Ms. Shirley Brandman, Vice President  
in the Chair  
Mr. Steve Abrams  
Mr. Christopher Barclay  
Dr. Judy Docca  
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill  
Ms. Sarah Horvitz, Student Board Member  
Mr. Benjamin Moskowitz, Student Board Member-Elect  
Dr. Jerry D Weast, Secretary/Treasurer

Absent: Ms. Sharon W. Cox  
Mrs. Nancy Navarro

Re: **SWEARING IN**

Ms. Loretta Knight, clerk of the circuit court, administered the oath of office to Mr. Moskowitz.

Re: **STATEMENT BY MR. MOSKOWITZ**

"Dr. Weast, Members of the Board of Education, I need to start today by thanking the 63,732 students who cast their ballots in this year's Student Member of the Board of Education election. Whether they voted for me or not, these students all took the opportunity to have a say in the future of their education, and they deserve our commendation for that. This was truly a chance for youth to make their voice heard, and on April 25th, with the highest voter turnout ever, they did just that.

It's hard to express in words how elated I am to be here today. The past nine weeks have been truly surreal and almost overwhelming. I've attended Board meetings, sat in on Policy Committee sessions, gone through orientation, and spoken with key stakeholders in our community. The support and encouragement I've received from all of the Board members gives me every reason to believe that this year will be incredibly productive and that I'll really be able to make a difference. Believe it or not, I still can't wait to get my hands on crafting policy, operating the school system, and even helping Board members adjust to the new microphone system. In all seriousness, this position demands great responsibility and great maturity. Now, I'm confident that I'm ready to take on this job and get right to work. While all the attention is focused on the election for President that's just 486 days away, we have to remember that it's our local Board of Education who has the biggest impact on the day-to-day lives of our 140,000 kids, which is why I am so eager

to serve at the local level.

There's one person who I have to mention who has had and continues to have an enormous impact on my life, and I can't leave her out. That person is, of course, Helen Lovejoy from the TV show The Simpsons, who every chance she gets screams, "Won't somebody PLEASE think of the children?!" And that's a question I constantly find myself asking. I may be the representative of the students, but we're all here to serve the students, and I know my fellow Board members and Dr. Weast agree. I know that in our hearts, each of us cares deeply about the future of every single child in MCPS. We are all here because we firmly believe in the right of every child to a free, quality, public education. I am so proud to be part of a district like ours that values diversity and promotes success for every student.

I've been very fortunate in my life so far. Not only have I always had enough to eat and a roof over my head, but I've had all the resources necessary to succeed - from fantastic teachers, some of whom are here today, to activities to participate in after school, to the technology to supplement what I've learned in class. I owe this success to MCPS and to the teachers, administrators, and support staff that make it up. It is the people who make Montgomery County Public Schools the wonderful, constantly improving institution that it is. I will never forget that fact or those that helped me get where I am today.

Along the same lines, I especially want to thank my mom, my dad, my brother, and my entire extended family who not only are here today to support me, but have been there to support me my entire life. I want to thank my friends for lending their time and effort to helping me achieve this goal. I want to thank my teachers and my principal Dr. Garran for their support and putting up with my constant absences during my campaign. I also want to thank two other students who ran for this position: Chris Yates and Will Bucher. Both Chris and Will worked extremely hard, ran great campaigns, and are very passionate about working on behalf of all students.

Last but not least, I want to take this opportunity to thank Sarah for all that she's done, not for me, but for every student in MCPS. As much as I'm looking forward to this coming year, I'm going to miss having her around. She's helped me get up to speed the past couple months, and her expertise and insight have been invaluable. Not only is today about welcoming in a new student member, it is also about saying farewell to an outgoing student member, and a terrific one at that. So Sarah, thank you for your service - and I mean that from the bottom of my heart.

I hope to continue in her legacy and make her and all of the students proud. I owe it to these students to keep them informed next year, listen to their concerns, and have them hold me accountable. Let's continue our work together and find common ground on our shared priorities. Let's continue to focus on outcomes and make progress. There's so much I want to accomplish, but I only have twelve months to make it happen. So Dr. Weast, Members of the Board of Education, I think I speak for all of us here when I

say: let's get started!"

**Re: STATEMENT BY MS. HORVITZ**

"Congratulations, Ben. I have had the pleasure of knowing Ben for the last two years through MCR, which is the county's high school SGA. I always knew he would end up as SMOB his senior year. I'm sure you will do an excellent job, Ben, and I wish you the best of luck.

I cannot believe an entire year has gone by since I was sworn in. People always say – time flies when you are having fun. Although I was not having fun the entire year I served on the Board, I still had plenty of good moments such as visiting schools all around the county, attending the NSBA conference, meeting people all over the state of Maryland, meeting elementary school students, and being able to voice a student's opinion to a governing body. Most of all I deeply miss long Board meetings late into the night, listening to angry parents complain and reading seemingly endless Board packets of papers for hours on end.

I am so thankful to have had this tremendous experience serving on the Montgomery County Board of Education. When I made the decision last year to run for the Board, I don't think I could have imagined what I was getting myself into. I knew it was a major time commitment and a lot of work, but I had no idea that I was basically giving myself a part-time job on top of school. It was definitely worth it, though, and I will treasure this experience for the rest of my life.

My commenting on the county's education system is extraordinary. Most counties would not allow students to serve on the Board of Education. When I mentioned that I was a student on the Board, one person from another state gave me a funny look. The idea seemed completely absurd to that person. Moments like that remind me how thankful I am to come from such a great place where adults value student opinions.

Thank you, Dr. Weast and the members of the Board of Education for making this past year such an amazing, memorable experience. You do a superb job, and I appreciate the advice each of you have given me. I admire you for your hard work, time, and dedication you put into our school system. I would like to thank my parents for their support and understanding. I want to apologize for putting a ton of extra miles on the car. Also, I drove them crazy with my extra schedule. Thanks to all my friends and Mr. Nicholson and Ms. Crawford. Thanks to the Board staff for always being there to answer my questions, concerns, and working so hard all the time.

Finally, I would like to thank the students of Montgomery County for giving me this opportunity. We have come so far in making our county as great as it is, and I hope it only gets better in the future.

Thank you.”

Re: **COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND THE SUPERINTENDENT**

Board members welcomed Mr. Moskowitz and thanked Ms. Horvitz for her work on the Board of Education and wished her well in all her future endeavors.

Re: **PRESENTATION TO MS. HORVITZ**

On behalf of the members of the Board, Ms. Brandman presented Ms. Horvitz with memorabilia of her service on the Board of Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. A reception followed in the auditorium.

---

PRESIDENT

---

SECRETARY

JDW:gr