

Rockville, Maryland
July 1, 2014

The Board of Education of Montgomery County met in special session at the Carver Educational Services Center, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, July 1, 2014, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Philip Kauffman, President
Mrs. Patricia O'Neill
Mr. Christopher Barclay
Ms. Shirley Brandman
Dr. Judith Docca
Mr. Michael Durso
Mrs. Rebecca Smondrowski
Mr. Justin Kim, Student Board Member
Dr. Joshua Starr, Secretary/Treasurer

To view the Swearing In, click

<http://mcpsmd.swagit.com/play/07012014-918>

Re: **SWEARING IN**

Ms. Loretta Knight, clerk of the circuit court, administered the oath of office to Ms. Dahlia Huh

Re: **STATEMENT BY MR. KIM**

"First and foremost, I would like to thank everyone who is here at today's installation and farewell ceremony.

I feel very blessed to have served as the Student Member of the Board, and am humbled and honored to have been part of the collective effort we're doing to serve our students, their families, and the community at-large.

This past year has been a great learning experience for me. One of the first lessons I learned coming into the job was to not be afraid to take risks. From the summer before my junior year, I spent a great deal of time working on my campaign: making calls to new student government leaders, visiting schools, handing out campaign literature, and constantly updating my website. Many friends and teachers supported me at every stage, but there were some people who questioned my decision to run and asked me if it was really worth the time missing so much school. I've had my share of doubters, but the campaign process taught me this fundamental lesson: to believe in my own work.

Because we have so many meetings, briefings, and presentations on the Board, sometimes you wonder whether you, as an individual, are making a difference in the

school system. Well, at least I did earlier this year. But every time I asked this question to myself, it only made me work a little bit harder, hoping to make every meeting meaningful - hoping to contribute something, even just a small step in the right direction. Again, it was only possible because I was invested in our work. It is because of this belief in the work that we're doing that allowed me to develop the passion and appreciation for serving others that I have today.

Looking back, this was quite the eventful year for the Board: we developed the new Strategic Planning Framework, placed a new emphasis on social and emotional learning, implemented a new model for school support and improvement, updated the health curriculum, renewed the conversation on career readiness, established new ways to close the achievement gap, expanded our community outreach efforts, and attempted to change the decades old practice of starting school way too early. Outside of the Board, I met with student leaders from across the state to effectively lobby state senators to prevent the loss of full voting rights of the Anne Arundel County SMOB. Further, during our CIP (capital budget) season, I was able to get various student organizations in our county together to submit over 20 student testimonies, asking our state representatives to invest in our infrastructure to alleviate current overcrowding issues and to better prepare ourselves to accommodate a growing county. It is a great feeling to leave knowing that I helped make positive changes for this community.

Although we are working hard every day to adapt and better position ourselves for the future, many challenges still lie ahead. School curriculums, AP tests, and SATs are changing, PARCC is replacing the MSAs, and the demographics of the students we serve are rapidly changing. Montgomery County's minority population continues to grow, and many younger generation students are connected more and more to technology and social media.

The next Student Member of the Board will be representing students in a critical year, and I truly believe Dahlia will do an amazing job. I have known her since my involvement in the Montgomery County Regional Student Government, and we are very blessed to have someone who is so hardworking and passionate about improving the school system. Not only will she be a great asset to the Board, but she will serve as a great mentor and model for younger students to follow.

Mike - I think what makes you a great Board member is your willingness to listen to others. You always keep the community members, students, teachers, and administrators at heart when we're discussing any issue. But I will have to say, your looks are very deceiving. You're thoughtful and serious in Board meetings, but when we're having fun, you are a teenager at heart. You are always the life of the party. I enjoyed being your seatmate, and I will dearly miss you.

Shirley - As a new member on the Board, I had a huge learning curve, and you were always there to help me understand different issues. You looked out for me constantly throughout the year. To me you've been more than a mentor. The level of care that you show to those around you is something I hope to model after you as I grow.

Pat - Your years of service have always proven to be invaluable to this Board. Many times its your insight and experience that guided us in the right direction. And also, thank you for always making sure that we're hearing from the students about the matters at hand. It was a pleasure getting to know you this year.

Phil - It's funny because in business meetings you look really serious, but when we're outside of this room, you're always cracking jokes. So thank you for always turning those sometimes boring moments into cherishable ones. And also, thank you for your leadership and I wish you the best for the rest of your presidency.

Dr. Starr - Happy third year anniversary on your job as the superintendent. As a student, I greatly appreciate your commitment for continually seeking out student input, whether it is through me, visiting schools, or including students in your workgroups. But not only do I think you are a great leader for our school system, but you have been a great role model for me, as well. Thank you.

Chris - You were the president last year when I came on the Board, and you always welcomed me with your big smile and made me feel comfortable in my new role. When I used to be somewhat reserved about voicing myself at times, you always sought my opinion. That meant a lot, so thank you.

Judy - You are so strong. Every time I see you, you are making so much progress! Although this past year presented you with some challenges, the students and your work on the Board remained your priority. On top of that, as we see the demographics change in our county, you continually remind us how different cultures play a significant factor in education and the need for us to increase cultural competency to accommodate the changing needs of our students.

Rebecca - In you I see someone who is so passionate about the Board. To be honest, I don't think anyone will ever match the enthusiasm that you bring to these meetings. You always go beyond your call of duty, making sure you take every opportunity to represent the Board at different events and to reach out to the community and your constituents. But above all, I see in you an awesome friend and someone who I know I can always count on. I'll miss being your seatmate in closed sessions, eating out together, and scheming to get everyone in this room to watch 22 Jump Street together. Also, thank you for all the advice you've given, and I'll cherish the laughs we've shared!

Saving the best for last, thank you Roland, Suzann, Becky, Kathy, Martha, Laura, Glenda who just retired, and everybody else in the Board office. I believe they make this world go around and keep everyone sane. Thank you for all your hard work behind the scenes.

This is a very bittersweet moment for me. While I'll be looking forward to the new chapter of my life in college and beyond, I will always hold all of you and my experience on this Board dear to heart.

So, before my term as a Board Member ends, I would like to leave you with a few words that I shared with some of our class of 2014 graduates.

In Steve Job's speech at Stanford, he encouraged graduates to take courageous risks. But I bring this up because it is impossible to take courageous risks until you believe in yourself and your own abilities.

So, what I implore you to do is to believe that you are worth something more. Bet on yourself and your own abilities to change the world around you, regardless of how small or big you see it. Don't let others' voices drown yours out and have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. Don't be trapped by the dogma which is living with other people's thinking. Stay entitled because you are worth something more."

Re: **STATEMENT BY MS. HUH**

"Good evening! I sit here today humbled by each and every one in this room, grateful for the trust my peers have placed in me, and incredibly thankful for this opportunity to voice the students of Montgomery County.

Eleven years ago, a girl walked into an MCPS kindergarten classroom plastered with encouraging posters and banners of excellence. While struggling to reach the faucet on the classroom sink to water a bean sprout, she felt a tap on her shoulder, Mrs. Sanders, who is here with us tonight, had brought over a footstool.

From day one, and even tonight, I witness the secret behind the success of this county: the steadfast supportiveness of its teachers, staff, and administration. So I would like to start off by first recognizing all my teachers who are here tonight for their unyielding support throughout this journey.

I'd also like to thank Mr. Koutsos for being an extraordinary principal and supporting me all the way through my campaign. I remember when I first told him that I wanted to run for SMOB how he instantly was excited for me and believed in me. Thank you.

I would also like to thank my new colleagues on the Board who have been so incredibly supportive to our SMOBs and who have already given me a warm welcome to the Board table.

I would like to thank Justin Kim for his service to the students - as well as the generosity he has shown throughout this transition.

And last but not least, words cannot describe how grateful I am to my parents and family, my friends and campaign team, and my school for providing me with the support I needed to succeed.

Every year since Kindergarten, school has taught me more and more about hard work, compassion, what it means to be an active member of the community. I am honored to be able to stand before the very system that I am indebted to - ready to serve.

It's truly humbling to think back to these past couple of months and it's an amazing feeling to be entrusted by the tens of thousands of students who voted. This campaign has been a wonderful experience and I am so glad that I was able to get to know the student body that makes MCPS what it is. Election day will definitely be one birthday I will never forget.

MCPS students are book smart, street smart, resilient, and passionate. And through the open minds of a student body ready and willing to learn, I know we can achieve whatever we set our hearts to. The challenges we face this coming year may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new. But those values which our success depends upon - courage, creativity, commitment - are old and true.

As the 37th Student Member on the Montgomery County Board of Education, I am ready to represent you, eager to get started, and promise that I will not give up unless I have given my best. Thank you."

Re: COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS AND THE SUPERINTENDENT

Board members welcomed Ms. Huh to the Board of Education and thanked Mr. Kim for his work on the Board of Education and wished him well in all his future endeavors.

Re: PRESENTATION TO MR. KIM

On behalf of the members of the Board, Mr. Kaufman presented Mr. Kim with Memorabilia of his service on the Board of Education.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m. A reception followed in the auditorium.

PRESIDENT

SECRETARY

JPS:pg