4. Change grading policies to reduce and redefine homework and

1. Expand our technology implementation to include personal phones

A 5-point plan to obtain realistic and meaningful results:

- Increased bus waits as a result of the new bus depot
- In-school punishments for off-school transgressions
- The replacement of on-level courses with honors courses
- In-school punishments for off-school transgressions
- Increased bus waits as a result of the new bus depot
- Loss of class credit or other academic punishments for unexcused absences

If elected, what are your top three non-budgetary priorities you wish to see completed during your term? What actions/steps would be needed to obtain them?

As outlined in my 5-point plan, there are meaningful changes to our school system which can be achieved without spending money. First, I will create a task force with the superintendent that carefully examines student workload and its effect on student well-being with the goal of reducing student workload. Second, I will increase communication between the SMOB and the students by doubling the number of student town halls and effectively integrating technology such as Google Apps. Third, I will implement a Bring Your Own Device policy where students are allowed to bring technology from home into the classrooms to reap the benefits of educational connectivity.

Even though the Student Member of the Board currently does not have a vote on the MCPS budget, they do have an active role in expressing the student's voice in it. If you could allocate an additional five million dollars anywhere in the budget, where would it be and why?

In order to empower students to make a difference, I would establish a countywide social impact competition called the MCPS Student Impact Challenge. Students of all grades would be able to design and propose their proposals.

I Support:

- Greater student involvement as stakeholders in the decision-making process
- Real and lasting solutions to close the achievement gap and the engagement gap, such as promoting student and parent engagement through high expectations, college and career readiness programs, and diversifying the teacher workforce
- Fully funding the Operating and Capital Improvements Budgets
- Reducing class sizes through an increase in the number of high-quality teachers
- Expedited school renovations, additions, and modernizations
- Green initiatives, including green roofs and solar panels on school buildings
- Greater internship and career opportunities
- Student evaluation of teachers
- State of the art athletic environments, including turf fields in more schools
- P.E. credit exemption for student athletes in varsity and JV sports

I Oppose:

- Increased class sizes
- Budget cuts to vital academic and extracurricular programs
- Teaching to the test
- The replacement of on-level courses with honors courses
- In-school punishments for off-school transgressions
- Increased bus waits as a result of the new bus depot
- Loss of class credit or other academic punishments for unexcused absences

I Do Not Support:

- State of the art athletic environments, including turf fields in more schools
- Increased class sizes
- Budget cuts to vital academic and extracurricular programs
- Teaching to the test
- The replacement of on-level courses with honors courses
- In-school punishments for off-school transgressions
- Increased bus waits as a result of the new bus depot
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election of the 38th student member of the board of education

MCR special elections committee 2015 voters guide

The candidates’ profiles have been prepared by the candidates and do not necessarily represent the views of the Special Elections Committee (SEC), the Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MCR), or Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The SEC cannot assure the accuracy of the statements contained in this document. Published by the SEC of MCR in cooperation with MCPS.

Eric Guerci
Candidate Profile
Grade 10 Bethesda Chevy Chase HS
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www.EricForSMOB.com

Between 6th and 12th grade, each of us will take dozens of standardized tests, hundreds of final exams, and be judged by colleges on our GPAs. When did we just become numbers in MCPS? Who decided that letters and numbers define our potential to lead, learn, and grow? As students, we want to be defined by our actions and our character, not our GPAs and test scores.

I am running for SMOB because our education is at a crossroads. We want an education that prepares us for the future and cultivates our academic, athletic, and extracurricular interests.

As a fellow student and advocate in MCPS, I share your concerns about our daily school lives. With a track record of serving you, the endorsements of two former SMOBS, and the support of students across our county, I am proud to be running to be the voice of our diverse and vibrant student body. I have passionately fought for our voice by serving as the Vice President of the Montgomery County Regional SMOA and working side-by-side with our SMOBs to champion initiatives such as technology in the classroom on the SMOB Advisory Council.

These past few months, I’ve been visiting your schools to meet you in person because I value your concerns, ideas, and suggestions. I’ve sat down with fellow students, including Minority Scholars leaders and student athletes, in order to fully appreciate your values and the policies that impact your daily lives. My campaign isn’t built around me; it’s about you, your beliefs, and your desire to see tangible change.

My vision for MCPS is simple: every student should have the opportunity to fulfill his or her highest potential. That means closing the achievement gap with real solutions, such as my plan to implement project-based learning in every school. That also means securing additional money to renovate our schools to combat overcrowding at schools like Clarksburg and Wootton. My plan for MCPS puts education back into your hands. Taking our education back won’t be easy, but if we as students come together, empowered by a strong student voice on the Board, we can achieve real progress for MCPS. Please join me in our fight for our education.

Endorsed by SMOB Justin Kim: “Eric is uniquely qualified to be SMOB, with extensive experience and a proven record of fighting tirelessly for the student body. I urge all MCPS students to stand up for a better Montgomery County by voting Eric Guerci for SMOB.”

A 5-point plan to obtain realistic and meaningful results:

1. Expand our technology implementation to include personal phones and tablets.
2. Expedite school and athletic facility renovations and additions.
3. Close the achievement gap with solutions such as expanding project-based learning.
4. Change grading policies to reduce and redefine homework and assessments.
5. Decrease class sizes to help make learning more personal for every student.

A Record of Fighting for You:

Montgomery County Regional SMOB (MCR) Vice President, Finance Committee Chairman, leads an organization to represent the 45,000+ High School Students of MCPS, fostering educational innovation and developing solutions to MCPS problems

SMOB Advisory Council (SAC) Senior Policy Advisor to SMOB Justin Kim, worked side-by-side with SMOB Justin Kim on open lunch, school construction, and bell times.

Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) Trainer B-CC High School Elected and reelected SGA Officer

Westland Middle School Co-President, developed first ever middle school legislative platform while reaching out to students through town halls with unprecedented success

I Support:

- Greater student involvement as stakeholders in the decision-making process
- Real and lasting solutions to close the achievement gap and the engagement gap, such as promoting student and parent engagement through high expectations, college and career readiness programs, and diversifying the teacher workforce
- Fully funding the Operating and Capital Improvements Budgets
- Reducing class sizes through an increase in the number of high-quality teachers
- Expedited school renovations, additions, and modernizations
- Green initiatives, including green roofs and solar panels on school buildings
- Greater internship and career opportunities
- Student evaluation of teachers
- State of the art athletic environments, including Turf fields in more schools
- P.E. credit exemption for student athletes in varsity and JV sports

I Oppose:

- Increased class sizes
- Budget cuts to vital academic and extracurricular programs
- Teaching to the test
- The replacement of on-level courses with honors courses
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If elected, what are your top three non-budgetary priorities you wish to see completed during your term? What actions/steps would be needed to obtain them?
Rachit Agarwal
Candidate Profile
Grade 11 | Richard Montgomery High School
Rachit_Agarwal@mcpsmd.org
www.RachitForSMOB.com

Hey! My name is Rachit Agarwal. I’m a junior at Richard Montgomery High School, and I hope to have your support in my bid to be your next Student Member of the Board of Education. Montgomery County is an incredibly diverse community—ethnically, economically, religiously, experientially. Here’s what I, Rachit Agarwal, bring to the table:

Passion. Dedication. Experience. Positivity. Visionary leadership. Foster support, and I look forward to talking to you!

In conclusion, #letsgetrachit.

Experience (more details at rachitforsmob.com/record)

SMOB Student Advisory Council (SAC) (2011) President: Led charitable and efficient efforts through events; Increased student engagement through social media and website

Platform (more details at rachitforsmob.com/platform)

Goal: Reducing the achievement gap with policies that benefit all students

Achievement Gap: Expansion of countywide Pre-K, staff development, lower class sizes, bilingual ESOL teachers, partnerships with SAT/ACT test prep companies for low-income students, school renovations, scholarships/internships app, use of free software tools in classrooms

Capital Improvements Plan (School Renovations): Expediting plan to target high-need schools faster Student Workload: Use of assessment schedules, consistent grading policies, project-based learning Environment: Continuation of recyclable lunch trays, use of solar panels in schools

Athletics: New athletic turf fields through partnerships with sports organizations

Magnet Programs: Emphasizing programs in under-performing schools

Extracurriculars/Electives: Partnerships with colleges and using free/low-cost online resources to increase variety and quality of extracurricular activities

Bell Times: More research into students, minimizing financial burden, talking to students and teachers to see which model is the best for them

Common Core/Curriculum 2.0: More research by communicating with current students to examine effectiveness, rethinking its implementation in classrooms

If elected, what are your top three non-budgetary priorities you wish to see completed during your term? What action/steps would be needed to obtain them?

1. Open Communication—Using my experience in technology, I will integrate an easy way to communicate with me into the myMCPS web/mobile app. I will also send frequent video updates and hold monthly open town hall meetings. This will let the students know and discuss the work of the SMOB.

2. Open Technology—Technology in the classroom isn’t just about purchasing devices; it’s about being smart in how we use software/hardware. My open technology plan helps teachers implement apps like Google Classroom and Khan Academy into their classes so students can learn effectively.

3. Open Scholarships/Internships—I plan to continue SMOB Dahlia’s work on an internships and scholarships database by continuing to develop a web/mobile app called Ship to help teachers, counselors, and students collaborate to find these opportunities. Scholarships and internships should be open and accessible to every student in Montgomery County, and this plan will do just that.

Even though the Student Member of the Board currently does not have a vote on the MCPS budget, they do have an active role in expressing the student’s voice in it. If you could allocate an additional five million dollars anywhere in the budget, where would it be and why?

I would add more of the single asset we cannot learn without: Teachers. I want to especially focus on high-need schools and bilingual ESOL teachers, as ESOL students commonly don’t get enough support. This would help reduce the achievement gap, and all students would benefit.