

## MASC Legislative Session Minutes Saturday, February 3, 2018

*Synopsis: The election for the two finalists for Student Member of the State Board of Education took place where they gave their speeches and participated in a question-answer period. MASC took stances on various bills. Convention will be held April 11-13 in Ocean City. The two finalists for Student Member on the State Board of Education are Bryce Awono and Ruben Amaya.*

**I. Call to Order** A General Assembly of the MASC was held at St. Charles High School on February 3rd, 2018, hosted by Charles County Association Student Councils (CCASC). The meeting convened at 11:34 AM, Grace Wu presiding, and Krisha Patel, secretary.

**II. Approval of Agenda** Motion made to approve the Agenda. Motion passed. Agenda approved at 11:35 am.

### **III. State Student Member of the Board Report**

- Maryland's Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan Received Approval by the US Dept of Education
- State Superintendent's New Task Force on Maryland High School Graduation
- Use of Robots in School
- Received Update on Baltimore City Schools Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Maryland State Department of Education
- The third State SMOB Advisory Council meeting was held on Sat. January 20 at the Accokeek Branch Library in Prince George's County, MD
- Next SMOB Advisory Council meeting: Sat. March 10
- Topics discussed at the SMOB Advisory Council
- Suspension & Expulsion Rates that Disproportionately Impact Students of Color
  - Testing Fees for Students Across School Districts
  - Local School System Support for Dual Enrollment and Vocational Training/Certification
  - Issue of Student Counselor Ratio
  - Elevating the Importance of Student Health
- New SMOB Website: mdsmb.org
- Working with MASC Executive Director, Ms. Keithley, to ensure students are placed on committees and task forces within the State Department of Education
- Planning Student Forum in March

**IV. Student Member of the State Board Nomination Process** The 4 candidates for Student Member of the State Board of Education each presented speeches and participated in a question and answer period, in order to provide delegates an opportunity to make an informed vote.

#### **A. Candidate Speeches (20 minutes)**

➤ Ruben Amaya – Junior, Franklin High School in Baltimore County

▪ Goals:

##### Providing Opportunities, Taking Down Barriers

- Advocate for more funding of programs and schools.
- Provide an equitable school environment that benefits ALL students so that we can focus on doing what we love.
- Bring awareness towards discrimination, bullying, mental health, and racism.

##### Empowering the Student Voice

- Create a student leadership campaign that allows students to speak up about the issues we care about.
- Create a platform that allows those who aren't on student council or SGA to speak up and advocate for issues.
- Use the SMOB Advisory Council to work directly with students on state issues.

##### Communicating Our Message Together

- Create regional town halls to hear and speak with students in person.
  - Create surveys and statistics to provide to the Board of Education.
  - Set up weekly to bi-weekly calls with students to create more options of reaching out to students.
- Nata Assad – Junior, Wheaton High School in Montgomery County
- Goals:
    - Foster communication between counties and the Board of Education
      - Monthly town halls open to all students from all counties
      - Monthly Instagram and Twitter updates throughout my term
      - Regular (weekly) school visits throughout the state
    - Make strive towards closing the achievement gap in low income areas
      - By modifying and eliminating standardized testing that is unnecessary to student achievement
    - More equitably distribute resources available to level the playing field for lower income schools
    - Increase college readiness
      - Offer college readiness electives, such as ACES & CollegeTracks, across the state
    - Implement tools to raise future graduation rates of minority students
      - By creating SAT and ACT prep classes for lower income students
      - Providing and creating better resources for our students
      - Create programs that would help our students master subjects while dealing with other personal priorities and responsibilities
      - New curriculum, modifications that incorporate real world application
      - Creating training programs that help our teachers connect to their students.
      - Implementing Meaningful education (modified curriculum)
- Bryce Awono, Sophomore at Parkdale High School in PG County
- Goals:
    - Equity
      - Attended discussion on Equity
      - Advocating for School Funding
      - Closing the Achievement Gap
    - Advocacy
      - AP Testing
      - Noah’s Story
      - State BOE Meetings
    - Infrastructure
      - School Resources
      - Lauryn’s Law
      - College and Career Readiness
- Nina Huff, Sophomore at Meade High School in Anne Arundel County
- Goals:
    - With her experience of growing up in a military and multicultural family, Nina is exposed to various amounts of students and education.
    - Nina attends a diverse school and interacts with my student body population through class, clubs, and sports.
    - Nina believes that education is the foundation of school, school is the foundation for careers, and with education and school students fulfill their careers and that if schools lack the support system for the students, then their careers will be affected negatively in the future.

## **B.Question and Answer Session**

- As State SMOB, how will you ensure equitable funding for all boards of educations in Maryland?
- Wacky Personality Question: If you could be a vine or meme, which vine or meme would you be?
- Seeing as being State SMOB requires a lot of time and you all partake in a lot of activities, how would you prioritize being State SMOB?
- Could you all take the time to highlight something you admire about your fellow candidates?
- What does being a minority in the State of Maryland mean to you?

**V. Recess** *Motion made to reconvene the General Assembly. Motion passed. Recess at 12:35.*

**VI. Call Back to Order** *Motion made to reconvene the General Assembly. Motion passed. General Assembly reconvened at 3:05.*

## **VII. Credentials Report**

### **VIII. Officer Reports**

- 2nd Vice President: Grace Herron
  - joint call with Josh with regional presidents and 2nd vice presidents
  - contacting NHS, NJHS
  - couldn't be at Legislative Session because of an orchestra concert
- Treasurer: Bryce Awono
  - Attended Maryland Board of Ed Meeting
  - Attended Weekly Officer Calls
  - Working on School Membership and Outreach
- 1st Vice President: Josh Omolola
  - Attended Officer Calls
  - Attended NASC Lead DC
  - Created Regional President T-Shirts
  - Visited regional GA's
  - Coordinated Prince George's County Teen Dating Violence Summit
- President: Grace Wu
  - LEAD DC Emcee & Workshop Presenter
  - MSDE High School Graduation Task Force
  - Legislative Panel
  - Strong Schools MD
  - Officer Calls
  - MSDE Reports
  - Southern Divisional Leadership Conference

### **IX. New Business**

#### **A. Platform Review**

➤ **Support** for 17/18-GA-01: *College Readiness- MASC Platform, Plank III Education*

- Add "BB. Programs that help students improve their college readiness."
- Call for unanimous consent, motion passes

➤ **Support** for 17/18-GA-02: *Domestic Violence- MASC Platform, Plank V Health and Social Issues*

- Add "Q. Providing education on domestic violence and healthy relationships."
- Call for unanimous consent, motion **passes**

#### **B. Pre-filed Legislation**

➤ **Support** of 17/18-GA-03: HB0042 – Handheld Telephone Penalty

- **FOR** the purpose of repealing certain fines and instating others, including increasing the maximum fine for a violation of prohibitions against using a handheld telephone while driving a

motor vehicle; and generally relating to the prohibition against using a handheld telephone while driving.

- Call for unanimous consent, motion **passes**

➤ **Support** for *17/18-GA-04*: HB0030 – Domestic Violence

- **FOR** the purpose of requiring the State BOE to encourage regional boards to incorporate age-appropriate lessons on domestic violence in the curriculum; altering the definition of “abuse” to include harassment and malicious destruction of property; and generally relating to domestic violence.

- Call for unanimous consent, motion **passes**

➤ **Support** for *17/18-GA-05*: HB0010 – State Lottery

- **FOR** the purpose of requiring the Director of the State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency, at the end of each fiscal year, to remit money in the unclaimed State lottery prize fund towards each county board of education in the State in a certain manner; requiring that a county board of education use distributions from the fund for public prekindergarten programs; and generally relating to the distribution of unclaimed State lottery prizes.

- objection, pro-con debate, call for previous question passes, vote, call for division, *17/18-GA-05* **fails**

➤ **Support** for *17/18-GA-06*: SB0103 – Student Cell Phone Use Task Force

- **FOR** the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Impact of Student Cell Phone Use in the Classroom; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Task Force; prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to study certain matters and report such findings to the Governor and General Assembly on or before a certain date

- Call for unanimous consent, motion **passes**

➤ **Support** for *17/18-GA-06*: HB0251 – Sex Education/Consent

- **FOR** the purpose of requiring county BOE’s to provide age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of “consent” and respect for personal boundaries as part of the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum in all grades in which the curriculum is taught in public schools; and generally relating to the Family Life and Human Sexuality curriculum in public schools in the State.

- Motion **passes with amendment** to support if Baltimore City is added

**C. Legislative Lobbying Day**

➤ March 5th to 9th

➤ Tour of State House, talking with legislators, and attending hearings

➤ Contact State Legislative Affairs Coordinators Taharat Sheikh or Alexis Lepe for more information

**D. Convention**

➤ Will be in Ocean City April 11-13 (BCSC and WCASC hosting)

**X. Announcements**

A. Evaluations

B. MASC Nominees for the Student Member of the State Board of Education

➤ Bryce Awono, Prince George’s County

➤ Ruben Amaya, Baltimore County

**XI. Adjournment:** *Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:32*

*Minutes submitted by Krisha Patel, MASC Secretary*