

MASC Legislative Session Minutes

Saturday, February 6, 2016

Synopsis: The election of the two finalists for Student Member of the State Board of Education took place. Each of the 5 candidates participated in a question and answer period as well as gave their own speech. Additionally, MASC took stances on various bills, which will be advocated at the upcoming Lobbying Day that is being planned. The platform will not be amended and voted on this year as this only happens on odd years. The Convention hosts provided an update. Convention will be held April 6-8 in Ocean City. The two finalists for Student Member on the State Board of Education are Veeraj Shah and David Edimo.

- I. **Call to Order** A General Assembly of the MASC was held at Manchester Valley High School on February 6th, 2016, hosted by Carroll County Student Government Association (CCSGA). The meeting convened at 11:31 AM, Angela Chin presiding, and Ananya Tadikonda, secretary.
- II. **Approval of Agenda** Motion made to approve the Agenda. Motion passed. Agenda Approved at 11:32 am.
- III. **Student Member of the State Board Report**
 - 4 new Board Members – Michelle Junkins Guyton, Stephanie Iszard, Laura Weeldreyer
 - Resignation by State Superintendent, Interim Superintendent is Dr. Smith, who is starting a new contract in Montgomery County, July 1, 2016
 - Searching for new MD State Superintendent – town hall meetings and a search firm
 - PARCC Update –
 - PARCC Results are on a scale of 5-1 (5 and 4 passing, 3 cusp)
 - Algebra II PARCC Results – 19.3% at passing level
 - English 10 – 11.3% passing
 - Trend tends to go up
 - 2014-15 and 2015-16 PARCC Assessments do not count toward graduation requirements trying to implement for the 2016-17 year
 - Still many major decisions to be made regarding PARRC by the Board of Education
- IV. **Student Member of the State Board Nomination Process** The 5 final 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 (25 Minutes)
 - Sarah Perez – Junior, Tuscarora High School in Frederick County, Maryland
 - Goals: Use of communication to spread message to diverse group; Support AP, Honors and online classes; Providing appropriate funding; Opportunity for “leg up” in employment; Pursue student opinion in all major issues and have more direct advocacy from students from all counties
 - Veeraj Shah – Junior, Severna Park High School in Anne Arundel County, Maryland
 - Goals: Hire bilingual facilitators; Plans about bell times; Replace semester exams with quarterly assessments; Empower students to lead; Be more accessible; Advocate for policies that benefit students by understanding them well
 - Experience: Testified at Maryland bill hearings;

- Challenges: Addressing needs of growing population of limited English knowledge, closing the achievement gap
- Hannah Heron, Junior at North Harford High School in Harford County
 - Goals: Ability to bring technology to school (Bring Your Own Technology) – learning and interacting with students easier; Act on the needs of students
 - Experience: Participates in a variety of activities – work life balance
- David Edimo, Junior at Richard Montgomery High School in Montgomery County
 - Main Goals: Encourage innovation in every area; tackle the achievement gap; limit time spent on standardized testing; build mental health support and awareness
 - Other Goals: Share responsibilities with county SMOBs to advocate for issues; Establish a SMOB Advisory Council; Video messages and newsletters to send messages to students
 - Experience: Started a grant program
 - Characteristics: United – lawmakers, created model to limit testing for the state; Team player – State SMOB isn't a position you serve on your own, you have to work with 11 other members
- Juwan Blocker, Junior, Parkdale High School in Prince George's County
 - Characteristics: One who listens to issues of peers; Actively draft issues for the students; Craft solutions for problems
 - Goals: Monthly SMOB newsletter; Spend time listening to students; Establish relationship between high school and middle school student leaders; SMOB Advisory Council
 - Educational Issues: Achievement gap; Excessive testing

B. Question and Answer Session (20 Minutes)

- What jobs have you held and how will you balance this with the role of SMOB?
 - Sarah – Lifeguard for FCPS, Manager of a bagel shop, FCPS SMOB
 - Veeraj – Babysitter, tennis and guitar lessons to students in community, nonprofit tutoring company, works at Johns Hopkins hospital in radiation oncology, CRASC member
 - Hannah – Intern at a vet, Lifeguard, Pool operator, babysitter, coaching and teaching swimming lessons to kids
 - David – Regional SGA President, tutor students
 - Juwan – scholar, advocated for citizens and students in Annapolis
- What experience do you have with mental health advocacy and what will you do about it as State SMOB?
 - Veeraj – Doing research on board policies
 - Hannah – Encourage students to keep working hard even if they have these illnesses, support and counsel
 - David – Two terms on county's commission for children and youth; Chaired committee on mental health; Providing counsel and psychiatric help for all
 - Juwan – Implement and come up with solutions for this issue
 - Sarah – Expand budget to hire teachers to support students with mental illnesses
- Public education in the state of Maryland has changed rapidly in the last decade. Where do you see public education in the state of Maryland in the next few years?
 - Hannah – more technology use in the future

- David – agree on focus on technology, implementation of Wi-Fi in all school; Achievement gap, need to make sure system takes care of all students
- Juwan – Improve PARCC assessment; assist low income students who need more resources
- Sarah – working to make technology more available
- Veeraj – Bridging the achievement gap; PARCC is past us
- What are your plans for implementing policies when you get elected as SMOB?
 - David – Close achievement gap; evolution of curriculum so it matches the world around us, Establish a SMOB Advisory council to communicate policy
 - Juwan – Analyze the progress that has already been made in order to move forward
 - Sarah – make sure you are well versed in Maryland policy, understand all policies, make sure you have direct communication to get realistic ideas
 - Veeraj – not a job to implement policy but rather garner student input on policy so that it can be taken to the counties to be implemented so work to implement policy
 - Hannah – leave a framework for the next year, just have one vote so can't do much in a year
- Position on the PARCC exam
 - Juwan – based on his understanding, justification is required in order to pass; doesn't agree on student to sit through these exams for hours and hours and not even have it as graduation requirements; find other ways to test students
 - Sarah – its hard, but students are thinking more analytically and are working towards college readiness, which needs to be seen more
 - Veeraj – PARCC is a hot topic but its behind us as the BOE has already decided on this, however there is a significant say on how PARCC is implemented, important to advocate for students who cannot speak English, make it a universal test to put it on a level playing field
 - Hannah – disagrees with PARCC, we already have a lot of standardized testing so we need to work to support students rather than just test them
 - David – we spend 32 hours a year on testing and he does not support over testing, need them but they should not be part of teacher evaluation because it does not reflect the teachers

V. Announcements

- Advisors pick up ballots from Mr. Perry, see advisor to get a voting card
- MASC Spirit wear available

VI. Recess *Motion made to call for recess. Motion passed. Recess at 12:32 pm.*

VII. Call Back to Order *Motion made to reconvene the General Assembly. Motion passed. General assembly reconvened at 3:38 pm.*

VIII. Credentials Report

- Total number of students attending: 255
- Total number of school delegates: 194
- Total number of number of executive board members: 35
- Total Voting Delegates: 229
- Simple Majority: 116

- Two-Thirds Majority: 153
- Four fifths majority: 183

IX. New Business

A. Platform Review

- The platform is only reviewed on odd years and therefore will not be reviewed this year

B. Pre-filed Legislation

- **Support** of HB 86 - Full SMOB voting rights
 - Full SMOB Voting Rights for the SMOB of Montgomery County Public Schools
 - Motion for MASC to support, **motion passes**
- **Support** for HB0018 - Maryland Education Opportunity Act of 2016
 - Bill to pay tuition of eligible Maryland residents for in state community college tuition
 - Motion to support, pro con debate as there is no call for unanimous consent, no con side debate, call for previous question, motion passed, vote on this bill, **motion passes**
- **Support** for HB0029 - Education – Participants in Youth Sports Programs – Concussions – Penalties for Coaches
 - Penalizes coaches who allow students to continue playing with a concussion
 - Motion to support, second, point of inquiry, no objections, **motion passes**
- **Support** for SB0323 – Greenhouse Gases Emissions Reduction Act - Reauthorization
 - Requires measures for Maryland to decrease their contribution to greenhouse gas production,
 - Motion to support, objection, pro con debate, call for previous question, motion fails, back into pro con debate, revote on previous question previous question motion passes by 2/3 vote, vote on legislation as a whole, **motion passes**
- **Support** SB0461 - Education – Prekindergarten Students – Funding
 - Redefines “students” to fund Pre-K students, to increase funding for their programs
 - Motion, second, call for an objection, pro con debate, point, call for previous question, motion passes, legislation as a whole, 2/3 vote to support this, **motion passes**
- **Support** SB0493 - Teacher Induction, Retention, and Advancement Act of 2016 and SB0512 – Task Force to Study the Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion of Teachers in Maryland)
 - SB0493 increases the maximum amount a State matching stipend can be awarded to Public school employees, task force is created to make recommendations regarding recruitment of teachers,
 - Motion to support, second, objection, pro con debate, no cons, point of inquiry, vote for previous question, motion passes, vote on bill as a whole, motion, 2/3 vote, **motion passes**
- **Oppose** SB103 – State Government – Maryland Youth Advisory Council – Revisions
 - Inequitable reduction of membership on MYAC
 - Motion, no call for unanimous consent, pro con debate, no con debate, move into call on legislation, motion passes, **motion passes**

C. Legislative Lobbying Day

- Planning an advocacy date for students across the state to testify in Annapolis in front of House and Senate delegates, visit with legislators, tour in Annapolis

D. Convention

- Will be in Ocean City April 6-8,
- New host location - talent show and better food, old vendors will be back but looking to include new choices, identified a DJ and looking into having a performance
- Selection of workshops during registration

X. Announcements

A. Evaluation

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

- Veeraj Shah, Anne Arundel County
- David Edimo, Montgomery County

VII. Adjournment *Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 2:51 pm.*

Minutes submitted by Ananya Tadikonda, MASC Secretary