

• NOUREEN BADWI •

CANDIDATE FOR STATE SMOB - PERSONAL STATEMENT

WHAT I WANT TO ACCOMPLISH

As your SMOB, I would fight tirelessly for the issues that affect all of us. I truly do believe that education can be the great equalizer and that education can break down barriers, shape people's future, and change their lives, as it has mine.

Working with you all, making your goals my goals, and bringing ALL voices to the table, I would hope to give the 893,689+ students in Maryland a strong, effective, and fierce voice on the State Board of Education. To do this, I would work to:

Fight for ALL Students and Fight for Equity

One of the best things about Maryland is how diverse of a state of are. But with that diversity, we see barriers that disadvantage people of color and minority groups. We should constantly challenge the barriers that limit opportunities for everyone to be successful.

- Challenge and work to eradicate the school to prison pipeline through state board initiatives
- Be a strong and effective voice for students that are in foster care, a part of the juvenile correctional system, and are often neglected
- Ensuring that students with disabilities, mental health concerns, and medical barriers receive adequate resources
- Work to close the achievement gap and increase graduation rates

Create Consistent Curriculum Standards

Your zip code should not determine the quality of education you receive, nor should it determine the basic life skills you learn. Every student in Maryland should leave high school having basic knowledge of how to be a healthy, safe, ethical, and productive citizen.

- Create standards for sexual education in Maryland health curriculum
 - Moving away from abstinence-only curriculum, removing the stigma surrounding sexual education, and monitoring the enforcement of 2018 HB251 which added affirmative consent to health curriculum
- Integrating the importance of voting in school curricula and pushing for voter registration drives in school
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the State Board's Financial Literacy Education Standards

Work Together & Do More Than What the Job Requires

The students of Maryland deserve a SMOB who is transparent, genuine, and will work with them in the best interest of all of us. There is only so much I can do alone, but together there are endless possibilities. If elected, I will go above and beyond what my position description would entail and bring back initiatives that helped SMOBs in the past.

- Bringing back the SMOB Advisory Council (started by State SMOB David Edimo (2016-17) and continued by Kyle Smith (2017-18)) through the MASC State Board of Education Advisory Committee
- Bringing back having forums on educational issues
 - An initiative started by 2017-18 State SMOB Kyle Smith, forums he held focused on specific topics (equity, mental health etc.) and being able to attend some of them, they were very enlightening and eye-opening for everyone that was present to be able to talk about important educational issues
- Having an Education Youth Leadership Conference to discuss educational issues in Maryland and the youth perspective on a larger scale
- Using the State SMOB Twitter and Instagram accounts to communicate to students in an effective and transparent way