

Kevin Bokoum

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Education

[2018 – PRESENT]

[International Baccalaureate Diploma / High School Diploma] / [North Hagerstown High]

Actively involved in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Program
Current GPA: 4.3

[2020 – PRESENT]

[Dual Enrollment – Essence Program] / [Hagerstown Community College]

Currently enrolled in classes at Hagerstown Community College
Current GPA: 4.0.

Student Advocacy Experience

[2020 – PRESENT]

[Student Member of the Board of Education] / [Washington County Public Schools]

Represented ~23,000 students in Washington County Public Schools and served as a liaison between students and staff. Facilitated communication with fellow board members and superintendent on topics that concern youth such as an inadequate allocation of counselors, improvements in ways for students to report safety concerns in a safe manner, and reduce the number of standardized tests for students.

[2019 – PRESENT]

[WCPS Committees – Student Member] / [Washington County Public Schools]

Served as student member on seven WCPS committees alongside staff from Washington County Public Schools. Within the WCPS School health council, I gave recommendations on sexual and mental health and implemented them within schools. In the Board Curriculum & Instruction committee, I advocated for equitable grading and advance course options for fine arts students.

[2020 – PRESENT]

[Division 1 Liaison] / [Maryland Association of Student Councils Executive Board]

Represented Garrett, Alleghany, and Washington Student Councils on the Maryland Association of Student Councils Executive Board. Kept in communication with the regional student councils and dispersed MASC resources & information through emails and presentations.

[2020 – PRESENT]

[Student Focus Group] / [Maryland Center for School Safety]

Helped to spread the Safe Schools Maryland tip line and app by hosting a General Assembly on the topic of school safety in Washington County, MD in coordination with the Maryland Centers for School Safety. Aided the Maryland Centers for School Safety by giving valuable feedback in response to their initiatives.

[2019 – PRESENT]

[Hagerstown Youth Advisory Council] / [Hagerstown, MD]

Worked with City staff and other council members to review policy presented to the Hagerstown City Council and Mayor. Collaborated with other members to provide youth opinion on policy, and organized youth related activities around the City of Hagerstown surrounding the main topics of wellness, environment, and financial literacy.

[2019 – 2020]

[Treasurer] / [North Hagerstown High Officer Team]

Served as the only treasurer in the WCASC region that had the permission to handle and process cash as well as make deposits and request statements. Planned successful fundraisers that raised ample amounts of money for the North High Student Council. Helped organize a free community Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by the North Hagerstown High School Student Council which earned high praise from the Board of Education, Superintendent, and WCPS Staff.

[2018 – 2019]

[Fundraising Chair] / [North Hagerstown High Exec Board]

Helped the Treasurer in coordinating fundraising activities as well as evaluating fundraisers for their effectiveness. Helped to build and fundraise multiple thousands of dollars for our school's "Be Smart, Don't Start" anti-drug campaign.

Activities

- Black Student Union: 2019 – Present
- Twilight Tutor: 2018 – Present
- Calculus Club: 2019 - Present
- National Honor Society: 2020 – Present
- Weightlifting: 2018 – Present
- Clarinet and Bass clarinet: 2011 - Present

Awards

- Acceptance into All County Honors Band for 5 years
- Distinguished Honor Roll – from 4th grade to Present
- Science, Technology, Math, English, and History Awards
- AP Scholar Award
- Successful completion of IBMYP with Distinction
- NHD District Winner

Additional Information

- Employed Part-time at the Hagerstown Ice and Sports Complex
- Working fluency in English and French
- Student Service-Learning Hours: 222.5 Hours
 - Volunteered at the local hospital, nursing home, and for after school community events

Hey MASC! How do we feel! My name is Kevin Bokoum, and I'm a Junior from North Hagerstown High School in Washington County. I first became involved in student council in 6th grade because I wanted to make a food pantry. I assessed the problem and attempted to solve it. When I finished that I found a passion - a passion to help others. A passion to help the community. A passion to help students. Over the years I have become more involved in the student council. This year I served as Student Member of the Washington County Board of Education and advocated day-in and out for student interests. Now, a year from my election as a county SMOB, I am running to be your next Maryland State SMOB so I can continue, and expand on my efforts to advocate for student equity, and accessibility to a true world class education.

I am running for State SMOB because I believe students play a critical role within the Maryland Public Education system. Many students still face unequal and systematic barriers to a true world class education.

As State SMOB, I will unequivocally advocate for educational equity for all Maryland Students. The most important stakeholders within Education in Maryland are foremost the students. Many policies in place still continue to hurt students and prevent them from reaching their true potential. To address the growing inequalities within our Schools we need to:

1) Significantly expand Pre-kindergarten programs, so every child can have the opportunity to succeed. Studies have shown for every one dollar we invest into Pre-kindergarten we get back seven dollars through additional economic productivity, and reduced incarceration rates. 2) We need to fix our failing school infrastructure. If a student does not feel comfortable going into a building they are not going to learn effectively. Many of our schools are approaching almost a century old and rapidly deteriorating local budgets are consumed by day to day operations which leaves very little for capital improvement. 3) We must close the opportunity gap. No student should face dramatically different education outcomes because of their zip code. We need to invest in 1:1 technology access for every student, and diversify CTE programs. Additionally, we must ensure that our students have diversity in their thoughts by reforming our curriculum to focus on a global perspective, not just a eurocentric one. 4) We must wage war on COVID-19. Many students have suffered exponentially from the effects of COVID-19 socially, emotionally, and educationally. To combat this we must ensure mental health supports are directly available and easily accessible to every single student. Students have faced a drastic and aggravated learning loss from the pandemic, the learning gap can only continue if we let it. More funding has to be equitably allocated, so school systems can accelerate learning and work to repair the gap created. Additionally, stakeholders must work together to introduce students back to in-person when it is deemed safe to do so. 5) We must ensure that there is transparency, accountability, and ample communication all the way from the State Board to the classroom teacher.

Being a SMOB is all about representing the students. Surrounded by adults, I've always stood up for the student voice, even when I am in the minority. I promise to do the same when I'm Maryland SMOB. With the power to vote on all items student-related, It is my guarantee that every policy of the Maryland State Board of Education will have the opinion of the student embedded in it. All my policies can be summed up in one statement: I'll take decisions which will allow each and every student of Maryland to receive a world-class education through increasing opportunities and providing safer environments.