

THE

MASC Monthly Briefing

February-March Recap Newsletter



February and March were busy for MASC - packed with many major events and activities! Publication Coordinators, Norah D'Cruze and Elani Bui, want to keep you up-to-date on these activities!

The Legislative Session

This year's Legislative Session occurred virtually and was successful in getting students engaged with advocacy! Here is a synopsis of the day:

- An introduction of the MASC directors, officers, and department directors
- Various workshops centered around advocacy and SMOB information
- Lunch break with meet the candidate sessions
- SMOB Q&A, voting period opened
- State legislator coordinators introduced youth-related bills that the assembly discussed and voted on stances
- Final two SMOB candidates were announced (Allison Schultz and Merin Thomas)
- Conclusion with evaluations

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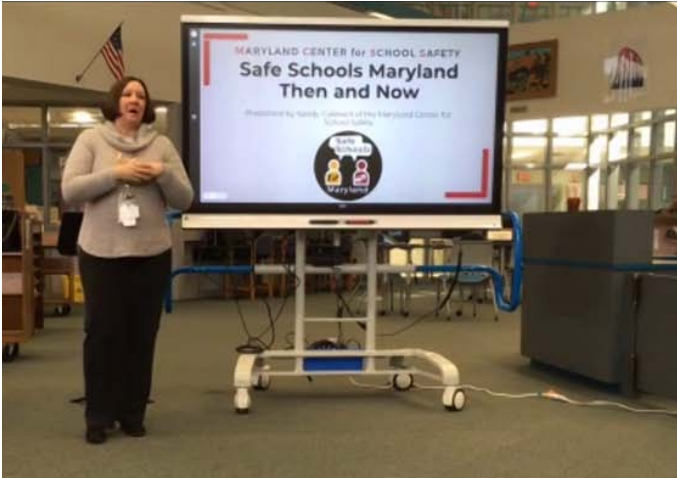
FEBRUARY LEGISLATIVE SESSION 1

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February Executive Board Meeting

New friendships blossomed as the February Executive Board Meeting came to a close. Going overtime by almost half an hour, many would agree that the Board meeting was a smashing success. The Executive Board meeting was held at Patuxent High School on February 26th, 2022. A virtual-option was provided and appreciated by many students.

Filled with several fun activities and bonding time, this meeting was interactive and educational. A popular in-person activity was writing kind words in a balloon and passing them around for participants to pop. Additionally, one mini-workshop done both virtually and in-person was creating 5 squares out of scrambled shapes.

But no matter in-person or virtual, advocates were able to voice their opinions and be an active participant in the discussions. Advika, the Environmental Affairs coordinator quotes, "It was so fun! MASC has a strong sense of community and that really showed during the exec board meeting, even virtually."

"I loved the workshops and being given the time to bond with other board members.

ADVIKA AGARWAL, 15

Along with activities and the standard officer and department updates, the Maryland Center for School Safety prepared a presentation that took an hour.

Furthermore, MASC introduced the candidates that had filed to be MASC officers, and they were met with enthusiastic support. There was a virtual town hall on March 20th to meet the candidates.

And to bring the meeting to a close, a passionate discussion was brought up about whether MASC should take a stance condemning the violence about the Russia-Ukraine conflict and if said action is purely for show. It was decided that foreign affairs does not fall under MASC's political abilities, but as an organization will try to advertise ways to help.

Women's Leadership Forum

"Loved all the powerful women in this," "I love it so so much!! Thank you all!!" and "It was such a great event! I can't wait to attend next year!" were only some of the compliments the Women's Leadership Forum garnered. Held virtually on March 12th, the Forum captivated the minds of over 30 participants.

There were three speakers,
 Kirsten Caminiti: a social worker and founder of Kindness Grows Here, Inc;
 Dr. Deborah Dennie: a current principal, has been working in the education field for almost four decades;
 and Jennifer Damschroder: a Command Protocol Specialist and Scheduler for the US Marine Corps.



The beaming participants of the WLF.

State SMOB appointment



2022-2023 State SMOB, Merin Thomas.

Congratulations to Merin Thomas for her appointment as the state SMOB for the Board of Education's 2022-2023 year. The swearing-in event will be in July. Merin began her leadership work in NJHS, leading to her involvement with SMART, FBLA, and hosting a women's drive.

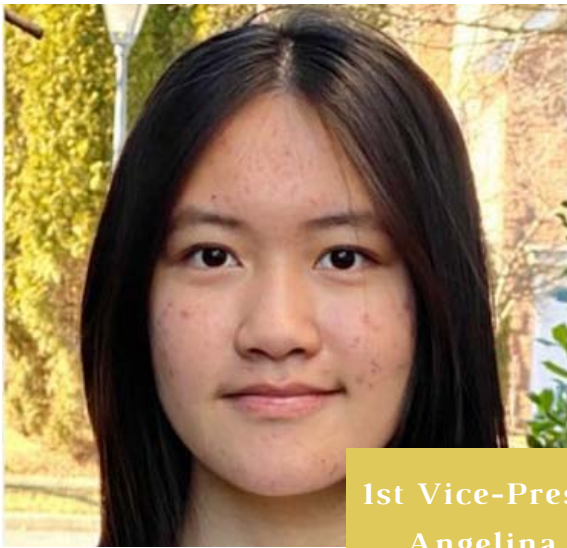
Follow her [@merin.smob](https://www.instagram.com/merin.smob)

Virtual Convention: Meet the New Officers!

Congratulations to the new MASC officers for the 2022-2023 term! These leaders were chosen during Virtual Convention held on Saturday, March 26th. Stay on the look-out for staff applications and Convention pt. 2 on April 30th at Richard Montgomery.



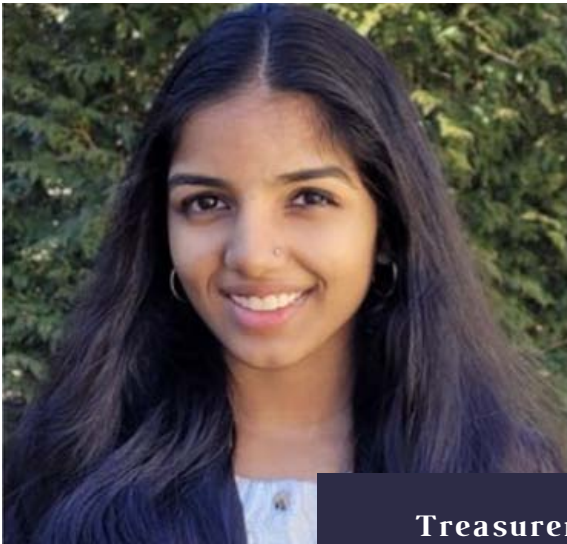
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Maja Durkovic
BCSC



1st Vice-President
Angelina Xu
MCR



2nd Vice-President
David Arowolo
BCJC



Treasurer
Shruti Vadlakonda
HCASC

Convention Part I

Rated 5s across the board, Convention pt. 1 was an astounding success. Roundtable discussions such as, "Bills Passing Through the Maryland General Assembly" and "Youth Organizations - What are they? Why do we need them?" captured the attention of over 30 students. A student praises, "I think this session was great. I'm usually a shy person but I felt very comfortable during the Roundtable discussion to talk about my opinions on certain topics." Many students are excited to see what pt.2 has in store.



What to look for in the following months:

Upcoming MASC-related opportunities

- Staff Applications from April 1-22nd
- Convention Part II (all schools welcome) on April 30, Richard Montgomery High School
- Executive Board Meeting on May 22



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