

Pranav Sristy GA SMOB Speech

Hey everyone! I would like to start off by thanking everyone for being here today and giving me the opportunity to share my vision and goals with each of you.

Nelson Mandela once said "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" . Today, I stand before you as a passionate student advocating to use this weapon for change in our very own FCPS.

My name is Pranav Sristy, I am a junior at Urbana high school, and am thrilled to be a candidate for the Student Member of the Board of Education in Frederick County. We all had that first day of school where you could feel the excitement and anticipation coursing through our veins—each of us brought a unique story to our shared educational experience. This diversity and quality of education is what made FCPS the esteemed school system it is today. Yet, we have room to improve and enact that change together.

My plan towards educational excellence encompasses three main pillars: student health, college readiness, and providing financial support for extracurriculars. A Student's learning capability is highly dependent on their health whether it be mental, physical, or social. I will aim to tackle existing health problems by increasing counseling services and health education so that the bright young students of FCPS have proper guidance. College readiness doesn't just mean studying - it is about skills that go beyond the classroom and prepare students for life outside of home. As an upperclassman myself I can relate to the need for more college support like many others; as SMOB I will advocate for more college & career counselors to be available for guidance in schools.

Furthermore, financial barriers should never be a limiting factor in a student's pursuit of an extracurricular. If elected, I will identify & recommend grants and sponsorships to FCPS, that allow students to pursue their extracurricular activities.

In addition to these three main initiatives, we must strive for more positive changes like improving transportation to schools, quality of school lunches, sustainable and green practices, and expanding the IB program. When opportunities are available to every student at every school, we forge the foundation for educational success in the lives of every student, K through 12.

As your SMOB, I will make it a point NOT to confine the decision-making process to the boardroom, but to expand it to every student. In order to foster this necessary communication with students, I will engage on social media platforms that are accessible to them as well conduct school visits or weekly podcasts. I will prioritize transparency and inclusivity during my tenure. With this plan moving forward, I can't promise that everyone will get what they want, but I can guarantee that every single one of the 45,000+ students in FCPS will feel that their voice is heard.

I am ready to be your advocate, and to work tirelessly to make FCPS the best they can be. I am asking for your support, your trust, and your vote. Together, let's build a better future for Frederick County Public Schools!