

I am Alex Thomas, a sophomore at Linganore High School and I am running to fight for you.

I am a lifelong student of FCPS, and it has provided me with opportunities and a promise to prepare me for the future. Since elementary school, I've wanted to be a leader and drive change in my community. Whether that be repairing homes for struggling families, volunteering at my local food bank, serving on the executive board of student led organizations, and simply just being involved in my school.

Everyone watching right now is part of the 45 thousand students who will be represented by one of the four candidates in this election. Many students don't know what the student member of the board does, and many don't know that they even have a representative on the board. One of my main goals is to bridge that divide and connect with as many students as possible, by visiting your schools, connecting through social media, and by just simply meeting with you.

In these past weeks, I have already reached out to thousands of students, hearing your ideas, and planning trips to your schools. Over that time I have seen your passion and heard your vision of your future and the future of FCPS. So if you're one of the many students who believe that we can do better, I am your candidate. Over that time I have come up with a platform that represents our needs and ideas.

Out of the 45000 students in FCPS almost a third qualify for free or reduced meals, meaning that a large population of students are in households that are at an economic disadvantage, FCPS offers many programs that help these students but offers no county-sponsored Aid for extracurriculars, which limits students' potential and future. One of my main goals is to provide after-school transportation and increase scholarship programs for students who participate in extracurriculars

such as sports, tutoring, or clubs. As SMOB I will commit myself to making sure every student can participate and have a chance, no matter their family's income.

Increased violence in our schools is not a new issue, but it seems that now we hear stories almost every week about another incident in one of our schools. We hear stories about targeted minority students, attacks on trans students rights, and threats of banning books in our libraries. I have seen my fellow students become uncomfortable and disturbed. This cannot continue to go on, it cannot be expected that students learn and feel welcome in these environments. Building community and school spirit in our schools must become a priority, protecting our students must become a priority, and electing a candidate who has made this a priority should be a priority for every voter.

Removing outdated SEL lessons, expanding school lunch choices, addressing the mental health crisis, and supporting our middle schoolers and expanding programs they have access too are just a few of the other issues I wish to address.

Together as a student body, we can fight for change. I will be there for students' issues to ensure you are represented and heard. It is essential that every student not only votes in this election but encourages others to do so and stays informed.

My name is Alex Thomas, and i'm running for you, thank you