



MASC Executive Board Meeting

February 8th, 2025

Hosted Virtually via Zoom



Overview: The Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) convened for its fourth Executive Board meeting of the 2024-2025 school year. The meeting's key activities included:

- *Voting for the Unsung Hero Award: Board members cast their votes to recognize an outstanding individual for their contributions.*
- *Voting on the MASC Platform: A discussion and vote were held on the association's platform for the upcoming year.*
- *Stance on Bills: The board reviewed and took positions on various bills related to student interests and advocacy.*

In addition to these votes, brief reports were shared by MASC officers and directors, providing updates on their respective areas. The meeting also featured a Q&A session with the State SMOB finalists, allowing board members to engage with the finalists before the final selection.

Credentials: 43 voting members were present, all virtually; exceeding the quorum needed to vote. The simple majority was 22, $\frac{2}{3}$ majority was 29, and $\frac{4}{5}$ was 34.

Call to Order

A. Approval of the Agenda

- a. Motion to approve the agenda passed at 9:33 a.m. The motion was made by Mikal Witherspoon, with a second from Jordan Salkeld.

B. Approval of Standing Rules

- a. Motion to approve the standing rules passed at 9:38 a.m. The motion was made by Mara Babb, with a second from Daphne Wang.

Motion to amend the agenda to allow Ms. Keithley to speak when she arrives at 9:40. The motion was made by Karen Crawford, with a second from Jordan Salkeld.

Unsung Hero Award

- A. The two nominees for the Unsung Hero award are Mrs. Desira Kelly from Calvert County, and Mr. Andrew Boone from Carroll County. The Executive Board voted and selected Mr. Andrew Boone as the award winner.

MLW Scholarship

- A. MLW is offering two [scholarships](#) to MASC Executive Board members to participate in the MLW summer program, available from grades 10-12 (including graduating seniors). MLW is a week-long residential leadership [program](#).

MASC Platform

- A. Motion to put the MASC Platform on the table. The motion was made by Jordan Salkeld, with a second from Karen Crawford. Motion passed.
- B. Motion to table the platform to the next General Assembly (Convention). The motion was made by Jason Semanoff Jr, with a second from Michelle Fadele. An objection was made by Mara Babb, which prompted a vote. The motion to table failed.
 - i. The vote count for the motion to table was 9-28-1(Support-Object-Abstain).
- C. Motion to review the Platform plank-by-plank. This motion failed
- D. An amendment was made by Jason Semanoff Jr. to remove the strikethrough of line Q on plank 5. With no second, this motion was not brought to the floor.
- E. An amendment was made by Grace Hollingsworth to remove the words “on campus” from plank 5. A second was made by Cameron Houck.
- F. An amendment was made by Jayden Yokwan to the previous amendment made by Grace Hollingsworth.
 - a. This amendment was not recognized, as a point of order was made by Karen Crawford, clarifying that non-voting members are prevented from putting forward amendments, as listed in the approved standing rules.
- G. An objection was made by Ethan Xu to the amendment previously made by Grace Hollingsworth.
 - a. A pro-con debate began.
 - b. Call for a previous question. The motion was made by Mara Babb, with a second by Derrell Gross. A vote by a simple majority was called; the amendment passed with a simple majority.
 - i. The vote count was 32-1-1 (Support-Object-Abstain).
- H. An amendment was made by Cameron Houck to reinstate the words “on campus” to plank 5 and add “with exception to designated school resource officers”. With no second, this motion was not brought to the floor.
- I. Call for division was made to vote to confirm the Platform.
 - a. With a simple majority, the MASC Platform passes at 10:31 a.m.
 - b. The vote count was 36-1-3 (Support-Object-Abstain).

MASC Bill Stances

- A. *HB156 - Fairness in Girls Sports Act*
 - a. **FOR** Requiring certain interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams or sports sponsored by certain schools to be expressly designated based on biological sex; prohibiting certain entities from taking certain adverse actions against a school for maintaining separate interscholastic and intramural junior varsity and varsity athletic teams and sports for

students of the female sex; and providing that certain individuals have the right to bring a civil action under certain circumstances.

b. Resolved that MASC opposes HB156.

- i. A call for unanimous consent was made, with an objection by Gavin Falcon. Pro-con debate was enabled.

- 1. A call for a previous question was made by Cameron Houck. Motion passed.

c. A call for division was made by Daphne Wang to confirm the resolution.

- i. This resolution passes at 10:42 a.m.
- ii. The vote count was 37-1-2 (Support-Object-Abstain).

B. SB82 - College Preparatory Programs and College Admissions - Fees - Prohibitions

- a. **FOR** the purpose of prohibiting a county board of education from charging fees to certain students related to enrollment in or completion of certain college preparatory programs; prohibiting public institutions of higher education from charging certain high school graduates any fees associated with certain college admissions applications; and generally relating to fees for college preparatory programs and college applications.

b. Resolved that MASC Supports SB82.

- i. This resolution passes at 10:48 a.m.

C. HB197/SB68 - Public Schools - Restorative Practices Schools - Comprehensive Plan

- a. **FOR** the purpose of requiring the State Department of Education to develop a comprehensive plan to implement requirements for the establishment of Restorative Practices Schools; requiring a county board of education to use the comprehensive plan if the county board chooses to establish a Restorative Practices School; and generally relating to Restorative Practices Schools.

b. Resolved that MASC supports HB197/SB68.

- i. This resolution passes at 10:52 a.m.

D. HB52 - Election Law – Voting Age – Board of Education Elections (Your School, Your Voice Act)

- a. **FOR** authorizing the General Assembly to provide by suitable enactment the authority of a county to lower the age at which an individual may vote in an election for members of an elected county board of education; authorizing a county to enact a local law that allows an individual who is at least 16 years old to vote in an election for members of an elected county board of education; submitting the amendment to the Maryland Constitution to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection; etc.

b. Resolved that MASC supports HB52.

- i. This resolution passes at 11:02 a.m.

A motion was made by Jordan Salkeld to not have the officer, departmental, MYAC, and NASC reports shared during the meeting. Therefore, the only report given during the meeting will be that of the State SMOB, as to keep the agenda moving promptly. Karen Crawford then offered an amendment to include missing reports in the meeting minutes. Motion with amendment passed.

- E. HB200 - Workgroup to Study School Bus Safety (Maryland School Bus Safety Act of 2025)
 - a. **FOR** The purpose of establishing the Workgroup to Study School Bus Safety; and generally relating to the Workgroup to Study School Bus Safety.
 - b. Resolved that MASC supports HB200.
 - i. This resolution passes at 11:07 a.m.
- F. SB96/HB277 - Environment - Water Bottle Filling Stations - Requirement
 - a. **FOR** the purpose of requiring that a water bottle filling station be installed in certain new construction or as part of certain renovations beginning on a certain date; requiring the Maryland Department of Labor to adopt regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act; and generally relating to water bottle filling stations.
 - b. Resolved that MASC supports SB96/HB277.
 - i. This resolution passes at 11:11 a.m.

A motion was made to move 5 minutes from the divisional caucuses to the SMOB Q&A. This motion was made by Shradha Bista, with a second from Jordan Salkeld. This motion passes at 11:26 a.m.

Meet the State SMOB Nominees

- A. SMOB Nominees O'Marie Barnes and Zaria Naqvi split up into breakout rooms to answer questions and speak with delegates.

Reports

A. MASC Officers

- a. President - Shradha Bista
 - i. Following the December Executive Board meeting, Shradha planned the Winter Leadership Conference and conducted the Student Member of the State Board of Education election process. She has also begun planning for Convention and is excited to see everyone in Ocean City next month.
- b. 1st Vice President - Madison Watts
 - i. Madison is streamlining divisional caucuses, assisting with the staff application packet, planned and attended Winter Leadership Conference, and is working on finalizing school rosters.
- c. Treasurer - David Arowolo
 - i. David has been leading Finance Committee meetings, working on merchandise expansion, including college grey hoodies and tote bags, and handling various miscellaneous officer duties.
- d. 2nd Vice President - Derrell Gross
 - i. Derrell attended the Winter Leadership Conference and is currently planning the AIMS (Action in Middle School) Kickoff event. They are also preparing for the next AIMS meeting and working with AIMS members to create a middle school campaign for Convention.

B. MASC Chief of Staff/Department Directors

a. Chief of Staff - Jordan Salkeld

- i. Jordan created the slideshows for Winter Leadership Conference and February Executive Board.
- ii. Aided in the planning of the Winter Leadership Conference and presented.
- iii. Ensured official school membership of all appointed staff members.
- iv. Conducted a mid-year report for all appointed staff and reviewed/followed up with all members.

b. Communications Department - Barna Begzad

- i. Barna participated in the Instagram department director takeover, reviewed emails and documents, led department meetings, and attended leadership meetings
- ii. Social Media Managers focused on promoting events such as Winter Leadership Conference, February Executive Board, and Convention, managing award posts, and overseeing the Instagram department director takeover for Winter Leadership Conference.
- iii. Publications released the [winter publications](#) and are planning a Winter Leadership Conference Special Edition, which will include divisional liaison reports and a recap of WLC.
- iv. Historians published the WLC pictures, while the Secretary took minutes for the Winter Leadership Conference and is currently doing so for the February Executive Board meeting.

c. Special Issues - Grace Minakowski

- i. The Directors, Grace Minkaowski and Emily Noonan, have been attending bi-weekly leadership meetings, reviewing the bulletin, assisting with the planning of the Division 5 Conference, and preparing for Convention.
- ii. The SLACers attended monthly Civic Engagement Committee meetings, drafted revisions to the MASC platform and bill stances, and met with legislators to advocate for MASC youth bills.
- iii. The Environmental Affairs team organized the Environmental Award, wrote monthly *GreenCrabs* and *Green Goals* updates, and hosted monthly Environmental Affairs Committee meetings.
- iv. The Mental Health Committee has been hosting monthly meetings and planning an upcoming webinar on mental health topics.
- v. The Service Committee hosted the Winter Leadership Conference service project, a winter clothes collection drive, published the monthly Service Spotlight, and is currently planning the *Threads of Service* webinar.

d. Operations - Madelynn Kelly

- i. The Operations Director, Madelynn Kelly, appointed a new Evaluations Coordinator and ensured that SWCs sent out updates on Convention workshops. SWCs also reviewed workshop evaluations from the Winter Leadership Conference.

- ii. The Tech Operations team has been keeping the website up to date and assisting with setting up online attendance for events.
- iii. The Parliamentarian helped facilitate the General Assembly at WLC and updated the legislation spreadsheet.

C. State Student Member of the Board (SMOB)

- a. Abhiram Gaddam attended the December 2024 General Assembly in Prince George's County, where he worked with the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) to exchange insights at student roundtables. In the latest Education Policy Committee meeting, the board reviewed modifications to COMAR regulations, including updates on reportable offenses, teacher licensure, national board certification, and Purple Star Schools. Additionally, revised social studies standards were discussed, with a focus on equity, representation, diverse interests, and future academic alignment. Looking ahead, a major priority for the State Board is the revision of the K-12 math curriculum. Through these efforts, Abhiram continues to advocate for student representation and meaningful improvements in Maryland's education system.

D. Maryland Youth Advisory Councils (MYAC)

- a. MYAC has been working on a youth grant opportunity, providing five \$1,000 grants to support youth-led initiatives. They are also planning an Advocacy Day in Annapolis.

E. National Association of Student Councils (NASC)

- a. NASC has hosted the NASC conference in Chicago from Jan 31st to Feb 2nd, with over 1,800 students. Together, they created over 3,200 hygiene kits for local shelters. They are planning an advocacy week trip to Capitol Hill.

Announcements & Closing Remarks

The election for the following candidates will take place during the Convention.

- Introduction of MASC Officer Candidates
 - President: Jordan Salkeld
 - 1st Vice President: Daniel Cornitcher, Krish Putta, Mikal Witherspoon
 - 2nd Vice President: Brianna Cuba, Jeremy Zhang, Kanish Agrawal, Nirbhay Wadehra
 - Treasurer: Caiden Ogden, Goodness Alafe, Prisha Geire, Ronith Girish
- [MASC Spirit Wear](#)

Adjournment

- a. There was a motion to adjourn the meeting made by Ben Loudenslager, with a second by Jordan Salkeld. The meeting was adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by Qamryn Askew, MASC Secretary