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TO: Members of the State Board of Education
FROM: Jack R. Smith, Ph.D. 
DATE: May 24, 2016
SUBJECT: Update on the Maryland Association of Student Councils

PURPOSE:

The purpose of the attached report is to inform the State Board of Education of the activities and programs conducted during the 2015-2016 school year by the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) and to introduce the President and other officers of MASC for 2016-2017.

BACKGROUND:

Since 1971, the Maryland State Department of Education has sponsored the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC). Today, MASC is comprised of member schools from 16 regions across the state. MASC has a proud history of supporting and organizing civic engagement through advocating for students and supporting a state charity each year. MASC also sponsors four major events each year: Fall Leadership Conference, Legislative Session, Legislative Advocacy Week, and Convention. The MASC Executive Board meets five times each year: August, October, December, February, and May. MASC is the organization charged with selecting two students to recommend to the Governor for the position of Student Member on the State Board of Education.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Angela Chin, 2015-2016 MASC President from Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Prince George's County, will outline the group's successes during the 2015-2016 school year as well as introduce the 2016-2017 MASC Officer Team of: Colleen Larsen, President (Calvert County); Grace Wu, First Vice-President (Montgomery County); William Anderson, Treasurer (Washington County); and Avery Klein, Second Vice-President (Howard County).

ACTION:

No action required. This item is for informational purposes only.

Attachments

MARYLAND ASSOCIATION OF STUDENT COUNCILS 2015-2016



5/25/2016

Annual Report 2015-2016

The annual Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC) report outlines to the State Board of Education the activities and programs conducted during the 2015-2016 school year; moreover provides an introduction of the President and other officers of MASC for 2016-2017.

Angela Chin, 2015-2016 MASC President from Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Prince George's County outlines the group's successes during the 2015-2016 school year. The 2016-2017 MASC Officer Team of are as follows: Colleen Larsen, President (Calvert County); Grace Wu, First Vice-President (Montgomery County); William Anderson, Treasurer (Washington County); and Avery Klein, Second Vice-President (Howard County).

Maryland Association of Student Councils 2015-2016

ANNUAL REPORT 2015-2016

I. Brief History

Since 1971, the Maryland State Department of Education has sponsored the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC). Today, MASC is comprised of 148 member schools from 16 regions and 19 counties across the State. MASC is an active participant of the National Association of Student Councils and Region Two, also known as the North East Leaders. MASC has a proud history of supporting a state charity each year, and organizing civic engagement through advocating for students. The mission of MASC is to foster a statewide environment for all secondary school students to express, exchange opinions, ideas, develop leadership skills, promotes student representation, involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students.

The Maryland Association of Student Councils hosts several events throughout the school year such as: Fall Leadership Conference, Legislative Session, Legislative Advocacy Week, and Convention. The MASC Executive Board meets five times each year during the months of August, October, December, February, and May. MASC is the organization charged with selecting two students to recommend to the Governor for the position of Student Member on the State Board of Education.

MASC provides students an opportunity to experience the leadership training, advocacy skills, and student-led activities.

II. Leadership

Elected Officer Team 2015 – 2016

Angela Chin, President, Senior, Charles Herbert Flowers High School, Prince George's County
Phoenix Do, 1st Vice President, Junior, North Hagerstown High School, Washington County
Caitlin Sien, Treasurer, Senior, Century High School, Carroll County
Avery Klein, 2nd Vice President, 7th Grade, Patapsco Middle School, Howard County

Advisors

Mr. Lance Ledebur, Executive Director
Mrs. Karen Crawford, Assistant Executive Director

MASC strives to provide leadership development opportunities at all executive board meetings. All sessions provide substantive and informative workshops for delegates that empower students to enhance their student councils and their surroundings. Opportunities for participants are provided to experience public service and civic education first hand. The active and formal partnership with the Maryland Leadership Workshops (MLW) provides peer-led training that empowers students to make a difference in their schools and communities.

Through conferences member schools gain resources to enhance their organizations. Improvement of member schools is encouraged through an annual awards program. The effort is made to remain abreast; furthermore address the issues and concerns of individual school student councils.

MASC hosts five executive board meetings from August through May. These meetings were held in Baltimore, Calvert, Charles, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties. The attendance ranged from over 75 to 50 students. Some of the accomplishments of these meetings include the following:

- Forums presented on the college application process and the process for teacher certification
- Finalization of the Election and Standing Rules for both the Legislative Session and Convention
- Social forums on Suicide Prevention, Racial Discrimination, and Heroin Abuse Recognition and Prevention

The final executive board meeting, the Transitional Executive Board Meeting, will be held on May 3, 2016 at Charles Herbert Flowers High School in Prince George's County.

III. Membership

One mission of MASC is to promote student representation, involvement in all groups and organizations impacting the lives of students. All public middle and high schools are invited to join MASC.

Year	Total Number of Membership Schools
2013-2014	189
2014-2015	163
2015-2016	148

Factors Impacting Decline

Unfortunately, there has been a decline in membership over the past three years. Several factors have had an impact on membership to include the following:

- Changes in local leadership (new advisors)
- Several long-standing regional advisors retired

Several of the local school systems forced to make budget cuts, removed funding from student activities. Student activity funds are often used to pay for school membership. The two largest jurisdictions impacted by this were Baltimore City and Baltimore County. These budget cuts eliminated transportation funds used for transportation of students to events. Regions were forced to charge students an extra fee to pay for transportation to major events.

IV. Training/Hosted Events/Convention

Advance Retreat

- Smith Center, Montgomery County
- Average attendance 75 students
- Finalization of Theme for the year: MASC Olympics: GOLD Medal Leadership. G - Getting students engaged; O - Opening Communications; L - Legislative Advocacy; and D- Developing Leaders
- Training for certification or re-certification, approval of annual budget, and selection of hosts for events

Fall Leadership Conference (FLC)

- Gaithersburg High School in Montgomery County
- Over 500 attendees (the largest attendance in 10 years)
- Middle school and high school workshops presented by MASC trained certified trainers

Training Day for Legislative Session

- Manchester Valley High School
- Forty-four trainers participated
- Interviewed the candidates for the 2016-2017 Student Member of the State Board of Education and selected five finalists selected to speak before the General Assembly at Legislative Session

Leadership Experience and Development (LEAD) Conference

- Crystal City, Virginia
- Six advisors and 56 students attended
- Eight of MASC trainers presented workshops showcasing the Maryland Certified Training program

Legislative Session

- Manchester Valley High School in Carroll County
- 378 attendees
- Selection of Delegates chose David Edimo and Veeraj Shah as the two Student Member of the Board candidates submitted to Governor Larry Hogan for appointment

Advocacy Week

- One hundred fifty students attended
- Regions take groups of students to meet with their state delegates and senators

Annual Convention

- Clarion Hotel in Ocean City
- Host - Prince George's Regional Association of Student Governments
- 850 attendees

Region Two Conference

- River Valley Ranch in northern Carroll County
- 90 delegates and advisors
- Student leaders and advisors from New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Delaware (who attended for the first time in 8 years) meet for training and networking

V. Travel

National Association of Student Councils Conference

- Albuquerque, New Mexico
- Officer team and four other students accompanied by two advisors
- Several of students facilitated various workshops

National Association of Workshop Directors Conference

- Niagara Falls Executive
- Director, Assistant Director, and nine other MASC advisors attended

VI. Summary of Major Accomplishments

MASC increased the number of certified trainers from 68 in 2014-2015 to the largest number of 106 in 2015-2016. Trainers not only presented at workshops here in Maryland, but at the National Association of the Region 2 Conference, Workshop Directors, and the National Association of Student Councils. Even though we experienced a decline in membership schools, we experienced the largest attendance at Fall Leadership Conference in over ten years. Queen Anne's High School attended the Convention with six students. This conference marked the beginning of an increased contact with our middle and high schools located on the Eastern Shore. The website was updated and revamped allowing registration for events to be completed on-line.

VII. Summary of Upcoming Goals

Though MASC is a well-established organization that has been in existence for over 45 years, there's always an opportunity to accomplish more goals. Our primary goal is to increase school membership. We are not satisfied with the steady decline of membership over past several years. We plan to meet with the newly appointed Regional Advisors to share with them the many benefits of MASC in early June. Our students are our best ambassadors, and it is our desire that they will present this valuable information. In order to increase the number of certified trainers the team plans to advertise opportunities and benefits of serving as a certified trainer. A MASC trainer receives national recognition.

Leadership development can begin in elementary schools. Even though membership starts in middle school, MASC's leadership team could create service-learning projects to initiate student council groups in elementary schools. These groups would prepare our students to be advanced leaders in the middle school.

To build the capacity of our local advisors, we will lay the groundwork for establishing a statewide Advisor Community with a MASC Advisors' Conference. This one-day event would provide Student Council and other activity advisors the chance to network with peers while receiving valuable training and information about how to become more involved with Maryland's State Association.

MASC will promote diversity especially true in the area of involving our non-traditional leaders. Our increased active role will ensure that all students i.e. minority, disabled, etc. feel more connected and capable of actively participating; moreover serving as student leaders in their local schools and districts.

MASC

Maryland Association of Student Councils
2015-2016

Advance



Training Days



October Executive Board Meeting



Fall Leadership Conference



December Executive Board Meeting



TRAINING DAYS



LEAD Conference, Washington DC



Legislative Session



February Executive Board Meeting



Convention



Region 2 Conference





Looking Ahead...