

# ***BCSC BULLETIN***

## ***Meet Your Representatives***

For each section of the county, the Executive Board has a representative from that area. This person will go on school visits and visit the schools in the area, get your input, and represent you to the Executive Board, Board of Education, and to representatives in Annapolis while lobbying.

### **Central – Shane Shakoor**

My name is Shane Shakoor, and I am the Central Representative this year for BCSC. I am a senior at Loch Raven High School and I have been involved with BCSC since my sophomore year. This year, I have the pleasure of serving as the president of the Future Business Leaders of America and Student Government Association at my school. Staying involved motivates me to reach my highest potential in terms of leadership. I applied to be a regional representative because I noticed a lack of diversity and involvement in BCSC. I hope to bridge the gap in communication for the less involved schools so that everyone has access to the training and resource that BCSC has to offer. I am very excited to go on school visits, talk to students, and unlock the potential of future leaders. I am passionate about educating myself and others on topics that affect global communities, equality, and helping children. I hope to major in business administration and film, but I hope to incorporate my passions into my career so that I can make real change throughout my life. Overall, I am a student in my last year hoping to make a lasting impact on this organization. Feel free to contact me [here](#).



## Northwest – Zack Ziman

Zack Ziman is a senior at Franklin High School. He serves as the Northwest Representative for the Baltimore County Student Councils. Ever since he heard about BCSC, he knew he could make an impact for others. His focus is to represent all students in the Northwest area, ensuring that every student has his or her voice heard. He is a leader who is selfless, respectful, and caring in everything he does. Inspired by his best friend, Ruben Amaya, he wants to reflect the determination, spirit, and integrity



## Northeast – Nisha Shah

Hello everyone! I am Nisha Shah. I'm so excited to be your Northeast Regional Representative this year! I am a freshman at Eastern Tech in the allied health program. I am thrilled to work with everyone and get student input as well! My main goal for this school year is to get more students involved in BCSC. To do this, I will try to visit as many schools as possible in my region. I hope we can work together and make BCSC even more diverse and have student voices from all schools, all over the county! If you would like to contact me, click [here](#).



## Southwest – Sahib Maan

My name is Sahib Maan and I am a sophomore at Western Tech! I am engaged in multiple clubs after school, but most importantly I am part of BCSC, this being my 2<sup>nd</sup> year. That means that I am YOUR southwest rep, so feel free to ask any questions that you need to and have any

discussion that you would like. My goals for this year include increasing the amount of participation we have for General Assemblies (so that you can meet more peers at the General Assemblies), make sure we understand the importance of leadership, and, last but not least, make sure that students know when and how to stand up for bullying! I hope to see you all and have the opportunity to talk to you guys at the conferences and the General Assemblies that BCSC hosts! Again, please feel free to contact me for any comments, questions, or concerns. To email me, [click here](#).

### Southeast – Brittany Grubb

Hello, my name is Brittany Grubb and I am the Southeast District Representative! I am a senior at Sparrows Point High School. I have been on the Executive Board for five years now and I am glad to be back for one more year. I am very excited to work with everyone this year. I want to meet as many people as I can from across the county. I do a lot of activities at my school such as Spanish Honors Society, Rho Kappa, and cross country. My main goal this year is to meet as many people as I can. By meeting a lot of students, I can make sure that everyone is represented and not just the student council members. Please contact me if you have any questions or if you just want to say hello and make a new friend. [Click to contact](#)



## *Update from the President – Ruben Amaya*



Hey BCSC! It's exciting to start the new school year with a fresh start. BCSC has many things planned and I am excited to be sharing them with all of you. I have worked on visiting schools this school year, so far visiting Kenwood High, Franklin Middle, and Reisterstown Elementary. The student voice is my focus for this year. Every student deserves to have their voices heard on any topic or issue that affects them. I can say with great confidence the Executive Board is doing everything to make it so. We are working with the offices of Transportation, School Safety, and Food & Nutrition to ensure students are represented in the decision process. I cannot wait to see many of you at the Fall Leadership Workshop and our general assembly in December. Have a great start to the school year and feel free to reach by clicking [here](#).

## **Halee's Corner – A Report from your SMOB**

Once again, welcome backkkkkkkkkkkkkkk students \*sings\*! It has been about five weeks since school started, and I HOPE everyone is having a smooth transition into this school year! If you have not checked out my SMOB "Back to School" message, please make sure you do; I made it just for you all.

How is your school year going? So far, mine has been filled with school visits where I get to meet with you all as amazing students of BCPS as well as explore your schools! I have also had the chance to, of course, to be your Student Member on the Board, continuously advocating for your needs as the significant piece of this whole system.

Guess what? I am hosting a show called "Hanging Out With Haleemat" through the wonderful BCPS-TV. Are you interested in showing off a club/activity at your school that you are proud of? Well, here is your chance! You can do just that on Hanging Out With Haleemat :) Email me at [hadekoya@bcps.org](mailto:hadekoya@bcps.org) if you are interested! #ShowOffYourGood! #RepYourSchool! #RepYourClub! #HangingOutWithHaleemat! Don't be shy! It will be amazing.

As the school year continues, I plan on being very interactive with you all, asking questions and seeking feedback about your experience about being a BCPS student. Make sure to be on the lookout for a survey on my page on [bcps.org](http://bcps.org). The first survey is regarding your opinions on the food and transportation operations, which will allow for us to take your feedback into account and provide top-notch service. Thank you in advance for your participation!

How much do you know about student leadership in BCPS? Well, it is time to find out. Another survey in first two weeks of October will be available on my page on the BCPS website for feedback purposes. I want to know how much you all know about student leadership to be able to expand the knowledge about them system-wide. Once again, thank you very much in advance for your participation!

On this particular edition of Halee's Corner, I will be sharing my top 5 tips/reminders for a successful school year:

1. Treasure your education – Remember, your grades are pertinent; be alert and awake in class (phones away). Utilize coach class if you do not understand a certain topic. Do not settle for anything less than your best!
2. Involvement is key – Get involved and try a lot of different activities. If you do not know what your school offers, check on your school's website! If you believe your school does not offer what you want, create it (I am cheering you on).
3. Your mind, soul, and body matters – School can get overwhelming and takes precedent but you also come first! You cannot be your best in a school environment if you are weak and falling off as a person.
4. Surround yourself with positivity – From adults to those your age, seek out a community of people who bring out the best in you and will definitely bring you up when you are down.
5. Believe in yourself... you have the power to do ANYTHING you set your mind to. Even if it is out of fear, take that big step with a leap of faith. You'll be surprised at the outcome.

Well, students, that is it for this month. Please do not hesitate to contact me ([here](#), IG: @bcps\_smob, Twitter: BaltCoSMOB) or invite me to any school events. I cannot wait to continue to see all of your beautiful faces. #BCPSSchoolTour all aboard!

Signing off with love,  
SMOB Haleemat Adekoya.

## ***Legislative Report***

The Baltimore County Student Councils (BCSC) has been busy at work revising the BCSC Platform. This is the document that states the beliefs and stances of BCSC on a variety of different topics. According to the BCSC Bylaws, it should be revised every two years, so this year came time for revisions to occur again.

This duty is typically the task of the Legislative Affairs Directors, who are Carmelli Leal and Yara Daraiseh this school year. However, the BCSC Platform Revision was a large undertaking this year, so the BCSC Executive Board approved the creation of a Platform Committee, which included the Legislative Affairs Directors, Regional Representatives, Educational Liaisons, and the School Safety Liaisons. The BCSC President, Ruben Amaya, appointed Carmelli Leal to be the committee chair. They worked for about two weeks to thoroughly revise the BCSC Platform.

Their goals for revisions focused on increasing clarity, specificity, and the inclusion of topics concerning relevant student issues. The committee included subsections to particularly general statements to provide examples and definitions. They also included sections concerning school safety, building temperatures, drinking water, and bullying. Additionally, the committee reworded present statements to improve clarity and removed outdated statements.

The main changes were: specifying leadership training opportunities that students should be provided; the addition of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programs with priority given to schools with large populations of non-English speaking students; funding for year-round food pantries that are accessible county-wide; inclusion of proper drills and updated safety protocols, the opposition of safety measures that inhibits the school climate, the assurance of clean water and functional heating and cooling in all buildings, the inclusion of climate change solutions, and bullying intervention.

The BCSC Executive Board further revised the BCSC Platform and then voted to approve it at their September Executive Board meeting.

## Environmental Newsletter



Last year, the BCSC Environmental Affairs Coordinators worked hard to plan a spring project for BCSC to participate in. With many options to choose from, they finally decided to have BCSC students participate in a tree planting organized by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The event, which took place on May 2, was a great success, with over 40 trees planted by BCSC students and 673 in total. We are looking forward to coordinating another event like this again, so stay tuned!

November 6<sup>th</sup> is election day! Many seniors who will be 18 years old by November 6<sup>th</sup> will be able to vote not only for MD seats in the House of Representatives, but also for Governor of Maryland. You only must be 16 years old to register to vote. You can register using the form [here](#). We have a voice and we should use it! Be educated on your candidates. See who takes money from corporations and who has good policy for the people, the environment, and the country.

## ***Middle School Team Update***

Hello BCPS! My name is Caroline Weigel and I represent the middle schoolers of Baltimore County by serving as a Middle School Liaison on the Executive Board for BCSC! It is so important that middle schoolers in our county have a voice! Since the job of the middle school team is to represent these voices, we want to hear your issues! Please feel free to reach out to the Executive Board and attend BCSC events throughout the year! I am so excited for an upcoming, middle school only BCSC event! The BCPS Middle School General Assembly for Anti-Bullying will be taking place October 8<sup>th</sup>! This event is so special because it allows middle schoolers to be open about bullying problems in their schools, and work with BCSC Executive Board members to create action plans to combat bullying, and strategies to execute these plans in their schools! As we transition into a new school year, be sure to talk to your student council advisors, and make sure you are registered for this fantastic General Assembly! I can't wait to see you there!

***Caroline Weigel***  
***Hereford Middle School***  
***Middle School Liaison for BCSC Executive Board***