

**Candidate Essays for Student Council Officer**

**Jennifer Godfrey – President**

**David Ott – President**

**Miles Richardson – Vice President**

**Josh Baik – Treasurer**

**Breana Ashkar – Public Relations**

## **Jennifer Godfrey – President**

One day, as I walked down the crowded hallway on my way to class, I overheard some kids talking about a great new idea for our school. It wasn't anything big, but it got me thinking. I liked their idea and I thought other kids would, too, but I knew the idea would never happen because it would not be heard.

I want to give students a voice.

How about a facebook page with the announcements and information you WANT to know: for example, is the big game a blackout or a whiteout? (so you don't show up the wrong color!) .... Just when are those National Honor Society Service forms due and what things actually count as service hours? .... What should you pack for the choir trip? ..... Can anyone really get up & sing or play at a coffeehouse? .etc. Instead of having to look in a million different places, you can get the answers there and students could post their ideas in the group so they could be heard.

In Glen Rock, we jokingly refer to our little town as a "bubble". Well, I want to pop that bubble.

I want to create more outreach programs with both the local community and with people/organizations around the world. We are being educated in a time when the internet and new technologies instantly connect the whole world and we should know about what is going on in that world. As we become more globally aware, students who see issues they are interested in can start their own clubs, do fundraising, travel, etc.

I want students to know what is happening in the world, and I want the world to know us.

So that when colleges see "Glen Rock High School" on a transcript, they think: "Wow: that's a school with creative students and great programs who can bring those experiences to our campus". It is true we are a small school, but our students can make a big impact and we can stand out from the crowd!

I also want to continue the awesome traditions of Glen Rock High School.

Our small school has been open for 50+ years. By the time we graduate, most of us will have spent 7 years together, growing up, in this MS/HS building. Then, as is our tradition: we will graduate on our home fields and celebrate with the best Grad Ball anywhere! We already have amazing school spirit and I want to build on that. And let's start some new traditions! Any ideas? Post them in the new facebook group!

I have ideas. I want to help students develop their ideas. As president, I will communicate our ideas to all grades in the school and to the administration ...and together: we will make things happen!

I hope you will vote for me for GRHS Student Council President.

## **David Ott – President**

I am David Ott and I am running for Student Council President. The reason I am running is to ensure that the school has a stronger, more in touch, and active student council. I ensure that the student council will serve the student body by representing every single student that wants to have a voice at Glen Rock High School. During my past three years here I feel like I have met and connected with so many great students through my classes and extracurricular activities. As a student council representative earning the students' respect and listening to students is important. I want to find and meet even more students to create strong connections between the outstanding student body and the student council. There is no better way to represent the students of the school than to have a great connection with the average student and the overall student body. I believe the student councils we had in the past did not connect with the student body as much as they expected to. By continuing a healthy relationship with the student body, the student council will succeed at representing the student body. I want to be on a student council that represents the majority of the school. I want very much to publish or announce some kind of weekly notice to update the entire school on what we are thinking or doing to keep, not just the senior class informed but, the whole school informed. By keeping the students linked to the student council, the student council can maintain a more usual and accurate pulse of the school and know what decisions to make based on what the students believe.

The majority of the student body enjoyed the events that were created on this year's student council and as a member I will continue, improve and recreate these events. As a member of student council I would like to introduce more opportunities to the students at Glen Rock High School. Some new activities can be created to make next year here even more enjoyable. As president I will work with the members of student council and with the entire student body to guarantee that everyone's upcoming experiences at Glen Rock High School are positive ones.

All in all, I believe I can continue the positive aspects of this year's student council and fix any minor problems that might arise. Everything that you loved about your time here at the high school will continue. The title of Student Council President is deserved by someone who is a great leader who can make important, independent decisions with the students in mind. I will work hard to be that leader and make those decisions.

## **Miles Richardson – Vice President**

Dear students of Glen Rock High School,

Glen Rock High School has many strengths, such as a diverse student body and a myriad of extracurricular activities. However, Glen Rock's potential is not being realized in a number of ways.

The coordination between the multitudes of clubs at this school is quite poor. Many clubs meet on the same day, ignorant of other club activities and many are willing to change days if needed. Thus, I propose a centralized, unified system for the posting of club meetings and activities. It could be physical, taking the form of the oft-underused community bulletin board. Or, it could be created using the electronic calendar present on the Schoolfusion website. I see the electronic option as the most viable, as it provides an instantaneous method of contacting every student in the school. I also believe this could be easily implemented through an additional calendar on the Schoolfusion website.

On the other hand, there is another, less serious problem that necessitates a solution. The lack of a frozen yoghurt machine Glen Rock's competitive edge in gastronomic endeavors. Thus, if elected, I fully intend to enter into talks with the food contractor to remedy this deficiency. This problem may be easily solved, and I intend to be remembered for it.

Therefore, there are two main problems that befall this school which I intend to tackle as Vice-President. The lack of coordination among clubs severely impacts our competitiveness, as does the lack of a frozen dessert machine. Thus, as Vice-President, I would make positive and lasting change to this school.

## **Josh Baik – Treasurer**

Fundraisers are a great way for specific school clubs and sports to raise money. Bake sales, sponsored tournaments and others are among the ways many of our extra-curricular organizations earn valuable capital. More often than not, these events are the main source of revenue of these organizations and provide for the success of said organization. However, sometimes these campaigns fail, much to the dismay of those who have organized them. I myself have been at the head of a “failed” fundraiser and with this experience; I can tell you what we did right, and what we did wrong.

Back in the fall of 2011, the unofficial branch of the Teen Institute of Glen Rock (TIGR), Awesome Club, decided it needed additional funds. However, another ordinary TIGR bake sale simply would not do. The parent group of TIGR had just recently held a bake sale, and having another one would seem redundant and unoriginal, and students wouldn’t be able to differentiate the two groups. As such, students wouldn’t be as inclined to purchase our baked goods. Through the Awesome Club “brain trust,” we devised a solution to fundraiser problem: grilled cheese. It was teenage novelty at its finest: no one had ever heard of fresh grilled cheese sold after school. No one had ever heard of a “grilled cheese sale.” Members would supply the ingredients and the pans, and to minimize the possibility of fire, we used the hot plates from the science department. After school one day, the Club put its plan into action. Setting up in the front lobby, we called to those passing by, and eventually a crowd formed around the assembly line making sandwiches...in a school lobby. However, we had just barely been able to break even with the costs of the sandwiches. Thus, we deemed the fundraiser a failure. But why? We had a unique idea with many people buying, yet we still were able to raise only a meager amount of money.

Simply put, our failure can be attributed to the fact that we overlooked many factors, which is a common mistake for most clubs. We did not advertise the fundraiser with signs or posters, news of the grilled cheese only spread through word of mouth and chance. Also, those who supplied the ingredients did not buy wholesale, which would have minimized the costs and maximizing the profits. There was also no target audience for the fundraiser, which led to us “firing blind,” and missing. Like us, most fundraisers made the same mistakes, but also made huge steps in innovative fundraising.

Now, what does this anecdote have to do with improving the school and student council? As treasurer, I’d like to implement various fundraising tactics to improve profits for both extracurricular activities as well as the school itself. Already, we can see successful fundraisers rising up: the TIGR Pickleball tournament and the Relay for Life floor hockey tournament are both recent examples of accomplishment. More can be expected with me as treasurer. Other tournaments can be started; for example, one possibility is to utilize the widely popular video game Super Smash Bros Melee, which had a massive presence at the Multicultural Festival this year. As treasurer, I’d like to improve funds for clubs and extracurricular activities through clever and well-organized fundraisers, as well as other methods.

## **Breeana Ashkar – Public Relations**

Communication between the students and faculty is necessary for a school to function as a whole. This is where the position of Public Relations fits in. The position I am running for allows me to sit in on the Board of Education meetings held with the staff and faculty members that help run the school. I listen in on the meetings and contribute the student opinion on the given topic. This position may not be the same as 'President', but I can assure you it is just as important. It is vital to have good communications between the students and board of education officers because it allows the students to say what they feel in an orderly and polite manner.

There is an obvious divide between the faculty and students. This position is the bridge in between that divide. I would alleviate some tension between the students and the faculty because, yes, we do disagree on subjects. It would be my job to represent the student's opinion properly and formally, and have it addressed at these meetings, to make it fair for everyone. It is a difficult job because I would have to accumulate the popular vote on certain topics and subject matter, as some topics may be controversial so it would be especially difficult, but this is where I would rise to the occasion.

It is my responsibility to represent the student's of Glen Rock High School. I will do everything in my power to achieve their wants so they have a joyful school year, but at the same time I would maintain the rules and restrictions of the Board of Education. If a conclusion cannot be reached, I will simply try to break even, so no one is truly upset with the outcome. I want to improve the results in some decisions made during these meetings because it is only appropriate that the opinion of the students is addressed before coming to a conclusion.

The barrier between the Board of Education and students will be lowered if I come to office because I find it important that we establish a good and respectful connection with each other, or else problems will arise throughout the school year. If I am elected as Public Relation, I can assure this will not happen because I know how to negotiate well and respectfully. I am aware that I'm dealing with authority and adults so it is necessary to keep my composure. I know how to handle myself in tough situations and I know when and how to rightfully pursue the wants of the students meaning that I will represent the student body rightfully. The student's need a rightful opinion on the matters about the school because we are the ones who attend the facility. Public Relations would be a perfect match for me because I'm willing to improve everyone's school experience, not just for the student's but for the faculty too. I am positive that the students and faculty want an exciting, fun-filled, ambitious year.