Candidates align on bringing community together

Three junior boys all vie for the position of all-school president. This is a guide to their positions and plans for the job. All responses were edited for grammar and length.

Johnny Brown

“I think I will be effective because I have a different sort of flavor than past presidents. I think I add more of a funny, bold, charismatic leader and being able to speak up on many different topics and many different current things that are happening.”

What is one substantive change you want to make by being elected all-school president?

One change I plan to make is to make it more of a priority to make Lab less clique-ish and more of a community where there’s an equal community for all people and to make a week where there’s a time for freshmen and seniors can meet with the upper students and also to binge so we can make this a bigger and better environment.

What’s an example of your leadership and why students should vote for you?

An example is me being a part of BSA, basketball and handling my school business. There’s a big load at Lab so for a person to handle all of that and run for presidency shows how I’m persevering through challenges that I have in Lab and outside of Lab by trying to make a change to Lab and the environment of Lab.

How are you going to build off of the current Student Council and what do you want to do going further?

I plan to make the Student Council my close friends, and it is not friends my close associates, and make us all more of a team, so we can tackle challenges like events as a team. Moving forward, if I get the presidency I plan to build on those people and to make changes throughout Lab with those people.

Why do you think you would be an effective all-school president?

I think I will be effective because I have a different sort of flavor than past presidents. I think I add more of a funny, bold, charismatic leader and being able to speak up on many different topics and many different current things that are happening. I think people will like being under a person who they can relate to. I’m more of a friendly person, so people can be friends with me. I will bond with the students more than past presidents and I’m more of a bold and charismatic person so I can bring that to the table.

Otto Brown

“Over the past three years of high school, I have had the chance to talk with lots of different students and hear different perspectives on different issues.”

What is one substantive change you want to make by being elected all-school president?

I think that course review is a really vital part to any school and I think that there are a lot of reasons that we don’t have course review at our school. I think that we need to create a course review plan that allows us to review courses, so that both teachers get feedback, and also students who are thinking about what classes they can take in the future have actual data points from other students. That’s something that I really feel passionate about, it not only helps the student body but it helps especially new kids or kids who don’t necessarily have friends in the upper classes.

What’s an example of your leadership and why students should vote for you?

I have been fortunate enough to been on Student Council for two of my three years of high school, meaning that I have been on both in and off of Student Council. I think that puts me in a unique position to understand student concerns because I to was a student who didn’t know what was going on in the student body and I knew what it was like to feel uninformed about things that are going on. This plays into communication with students, and not only that, but making sure that the information that I have is conveyed to students in a timely way and effective way.

How are you going to build off of the current Student Council and what do you want to do going further?

The feminine hygiene bill. It was a really big push at the beginning of the year, and once we got it passed, once the opportunity got serious and the big push. Making sure we find a more sustainable way to keep the feminine hygiene products stocked in the bathrooms is really important. It shouldn’t be a problem, it shouldn’t be something that we have to fight for, it should just be something that happened because it’s the right thing to do.

Why do you think you would be an effective all-school president?

I had the opportunity to be on the Executive Board and see how things run, the learning curve is different. I have had the chance to talk with lots of different students and hear different perspectives on different issues. I have also had the chance and exposure to a lot of the faculty and the administration my freshman year while working on the course review because that touches on a lot of different areas of the school. If we’re not for students, there would be no school. Even though it is a little bit outside of a student’s role, I think this is a great avenue to go on because I think there are a lot of different groups that share common interests with student council, so I think if you work together, which also provides a better environment to work with the faculty, then students are more likely to get involved.

What’s an example of your leadership and why students should vote for you?

I think one thing is my social skills because I’m used to talking with people in general. I try and talk to as many people as possible, and I think an effective all school president is approachable to not only students but faculty members. So, I think my approachability and also coopera-
tion skills in that aspect will make me effective.

Shiva Menta

“I’m experienced. I’ve worked on a lot of stuff that directly benefits the students and I think that because of that people can relate more and know they can talk to and also trust as someone who can work with the faculty but also properly represent the interest of the students.”

What is one substantive change you want to make by being elected all-school president?

One thing that I would like to see is more collaboration with student groups and Student Council. I think this year we’ve seen some examples of that such as the straw bill which Sustainable Ocean’s Alliance worked with student council to get biodegradable straws to use in the cafeteria. Although this may seem small I think this is a great avenue to go on because I think there are a lot of different groups that share common interests with student council, so I think if you work together, which also provides a better environment to work with the faculty, then students are more likely to get involved.

What’s an example of your leadership and why students should vote for you?

I’ve actually been lucky enough to be elected as class president for the four years of high school, three of which have been in U-High, so I think I’ve got to work on a lot of bills with different student council members and also the different faculty members. And also I’ve been able to act kind of as a mentor to the younger grades, especially this year, I tried to help the freshmen class as much as I could with their events, especially when they needed to help.

How are you going to build off of the current Student Council and what do you want to do going further?

An example is me being a part of BSA, basketball and coursework because that touches on a lot of different areas of the school. Even though it is a little bit outside of a student’s role, I think this is a great avenue to go on because I think there are a lot of different groups that share common interests with student council, so I think if you work together, which also provides a better environment to work with the faculty, then students are more likely to get involved.

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Speeches to start Wednesday, voting to begin Friday

by TALLA GOERGE-KARON

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Student Council election speeches and voting will oc-
cur this week. Speeches for Student Council positions will be held beginning with Class of 2020 candidates April 24 during lunch. Class of 2021 and 2019 speech-
es will be during assembly period April 25. Finally, speeches for all-school positions will be during lunch April 26. All speeches will be in Cafe Lab. To vote, students can go to the speech table and submit their ballots from it a.m. to 3 p.m. April 27. Student Council members will have lanyards in the cafeteria during lunch April 27 for students to vote. Student Council is current-
ly meeting to decide which stu-
dent will be the Director of Stu-
dent Technological Services. Cur-
rent DOST, Campbell Phalen, will

train the new student after the de-

cision has been made. Election results will be made available April 27 after voting has ended.

Speeches and Voting

Class of 2020 speeches: April 25 during lunch in Cafe Lab

Class of 2021, 2019 speeches: April 26 during assembly period in Cafe Lab

All-school positions speeches: April 26 during lunch in Cafe Lab

Voting: Students can go to scarletlabuchicago.edu to vote from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Class presidential hopefuls share goals

CLASS OF 2019 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

THOMAS HSEE:
I am organized and hard-working, but what prompted me to run for this position is my growing affinity for our grade and my will to improve Leadership skills and my public speech abilities are proven in my experiences in theater (being both an actor and an assistant director) and in my summer internship program this past summer in which I was panned as the group leader consistently by the coordinators.

STEPHANIE MILLER:
I am running for Senior Class president because it is going to be my last year at Lab after being here since Pre-K. I want to help make the year the best possible year for the Class of 2019 next year. Though I have not had any experience on Student Council, I believe I have the leadership and responsibility skills needed to be class president next year.

SOPHOMORE CULTURAL UNION VICE PRESIDENT

MARCIA CHUNG:
I am running for office because I would like to help my peers succeed at the Lab School. I also want to make the Lab the best it can be. I have led several clubs and reams think the things that distinguish my leadership style are inclusiveness, boldness, and real commitment. I want to follow through. I think that everyone is helped in making any major decision for the class.

JOSHUA RAVICHANDRAN:
I am running to improve the student life for the Class of 2021. I want to be able to help voice the concerns that my classmates care about. I also want to be able to help with planning grade events. I am the only official candidates for this position. The job of the Cultural Union vice president is to plan and organize school-wide events. My goal, if I am elected, will be to focus on two things. First of all I want to increase attendance at all school events, and I want to plan more smaller events for the maybe during lunch or finals week.

OMAR SIDIQQI:
As a regular student, I know how other kids felt last year as if they were not being heard,rügy events, and I want to help my fellow student officials to help make fun school events.

CLASS OF 2021 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

KENNEDY COATS:
I am running because I want to be the change. I have been involved in student government since the seventh grade and I believe the treasurer for my lack and skill chapter. I am different because I am open. I want to govern for the people, which means everyone’s needs come first.

JOSHDUB:
I am running to improve the student life for the Class of 2021. I want to be able to help voice the concerns that my classmates care about. I also want to be able to help with planning grade events. I am the only official candidates for this position. The job of the Cultural Union vice president is to plan and organize school-wide events. My goal, if I am elected, will be to focus on two things. First of all I want to increase attendance at all school events, and I want to plan more smaller events for the maybe during lunch or finals week.

CLASS OF 2020 PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

NICK BEACH:
I am running for this position because earlier this year, at our winter grade lock-in, only five people attended, which saddened me. But also awoke a fire in me to try and provide the materials and opportunities to create the most memorable year possible. I do not have that much experience with StuCo, but that also means I can bring new and different ideas. Also our grade will not have such times for us to come together and connect with one another.

BENJAMIN CIFU:
I am running for Junior Class president because I feel that I can still make a change at Lab regarding our technology and resources and work to give students more power at Lab. I have experience working in Student Council for two years, and for the Cultural Union. I have also worked with and built relationships with many administrators, faculty, and others who make decisions at Lab through projects on Schoology and the future of Lab. These relationships separate me from other candidates.

Class presidential hopefuls share goals

Why are you running for president?
What makes you a unique candidate? What is your previous experience?

ALL-SCHOOL TREASURER

I am running for this position to advocate for clubs and help restructure the budget. From what I have heard, the budget could have many changes such as a smoother funds request for clubs that is quarterly rather than annually. Along with better fund allocations, hundreds of clubs, each wanting funds and reallocated to the ever-increasing club count. I would be able to do this because I have talked to a few clubs about this and been told how often money is not used/wasted, I believe I can change this. I also have some free time consistently in the nights that I could use to work on the budget.

ALL-SCHOOL SECRETARY

I want to make sure we're spending our budget effectively. I think that student input on events is a crucial part of this budgeting. If our money is spent favorably, more students will want to participate. Also, I want to implement budget expansion and fundraising for all grades all with the same level. I want to act as a friendly face that these students can come to with concerns about how their events, clubs and dances are put together and how the budgeting can improve. I don't have previous experience as a Student Council secretary, but I think this will serve as a benefit to our school. New ideas bring about new conversation and new outlooks on issues within the school, of my three years in the high school student body.

CULTURAL UNION PRESIDENT

I am running for this position because I want to bring up the school spirit in our community, and make lab a more enjoyable place. I want people to be excited to come to school and not distrub it. Lab is so much more than just homework. I have been on Student Council for sophomore and junior year as a CJ rep. This experience will definitely help me because I am familiar with how everything works, and I’m willing to experiment with new ideas.

CULTURAL UNION VICE PRESIDENT

I am running for all-school Cultural Union vice president. This would be my second year on Student Council because I served as Junior Class Cultural Union this year. There are no other official candidates for this position. The job of the Cultural Union vice president is to plan and organize school-wide events. My goal, if I am elected, will be to focus on two things. First of all I want to increase attendance at all school events, and I want to plan more smaller events for the maybe during lunch or finals week.