

June 12, 2023

Hello TABCO members,

I am Vickrant Puri, a teacher at Parkville High School and the new Chairperson for our TABCO Minority Affairs Committee (MAC).

With your membership and direct action as a minority or as an ally, I am asking for your assistance to relaunch MAC in the 2023-2024 school year. The goal of MAC is to be a representative voice for all minorities in BCPS. We will develop programs and activities that promote human rights and relations in BCPS. MAC is also in the process of finalizing a Co-Chair and I look forward to introducing everyone to this person soon.

As a BCPS teacher and a leader in TABCO, I know what it is like to be a minority under several categories, but I do not know what it is like for everyone or what programs or initiatives will best help improve working conditions for BCPS staff and students. I will need the support of other TABCO members and leaders and that includes you.

We have already started work on one exciting project that is aimed at increasing the number of minority teachers applying and working in BCPS. We are partnering with the Teacher Academy of Maryland (TAM) which is a state-approved Career and Technical Education (CTE) program, designed to prepare high school students for future careers in education.

We will be collaborating with TAM to spend time in feeder middle schools to hopefully spark interest and recruit students into the TAM CTE program. We hope to provide mentors through MAC to increase participation of minority students in TAM. We are also planning to conduct an outreach program to collaborate directly with Minority Based Community Centers and other groups to encourage enrollment into TAM.

I hope this collaboration between TABCO MAC and TAM sounds promising and exciting to you, and I also hope there is another project or idea that you feel passionate about and that you are willing to start with MAC. I look forward to hearing your ideas and working collaboratively with you.

Again, with your membership and direct action as a minority or as an ally, I hope we can relaunch the MAC in the 2023-2024 school year to be a representative voice for all minorities in BCPS. MAC is currently setting a tentative schedule to meet in the evening of the first Tuesday of every month in the 2023-2024 school year. Our first meeting will be on Wednesday August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Please use this google form to join the MAC email distribution list and to stay informed about our meetings:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfoVRp9mMU7CQScZo5RM9HAebUU2kMj9RfiQLNJ-7qFNwbMGQ/viewform?usp=sharing>

Thank you and have a wonderful summer.