

Claire Morris: Sophomore Class President

September - October 2022

ASB Formal Report

Position Assessment: That's a wrap on Homecoming! Right as Club Rush ended, prep and planning for HOCO began. Organizing and scheduling are two of the most crucial aspects of putting together a good event so the officer team and myself had to get work on that right away. We discussed ideas on spirit wear, competition decor, and the overall result of what we wanted the week to look like. To outline our tasks and what needed to be done, I made sure my class had a shared Google Doc where I lay out every aspect of whatever event we're putting on and how to make it happen. A few of the sophomores went to Morty's house to build the Lemonade Stands for the week which was a pretty long day. Along with the class preparations that needed to be done, I was also in charge of putting together a group of ten escorts for the candidate rally and four people to walk in the fashion show. I made sure to do this in advance to avoid chaos and made sure every participant knew dates, times, and what to wear. We sent out forms asking our sophomore student body to help build the float and participate in the Night Rally lip sync. While there wasn't a huge amount of volunteers, we got many more than we did last year which was reassuring. With this in order we were able to schedule practice dates for the dance and decoration days for the float. We settled on having about three dance practices, one being at Gia and Sofia's house, and keeping all of the decorations for the week at my house.

The first event of the week was the gym decorations for the candidate rally and the window decor. The day prior to this, almost all of our class was able to make it to help decorate our sophomore student section in the gym which looked great. A few of us celebrated with a

much needed Denny's vent session. That Monday, we got to the school early to decorate our window and finished tying for first place! This was a great way to kick off the week and encouraged us to continue putting in strong effort since you don't always see underclassmen getting first place. I assisted with setting up the gym for the rally and dressed formally to crown and sash the candidates. The next day was Tuesday, the Night Rally and lip sync competition. The dance went really well, the class looked super coordinated in our outfits, and we placed second. The choreographers did an outstanding job of teaching our volunteers and putting together a dance that was simple to learn but still entertaining enough to place! Wednesday was the competition for Lemonade stands so we got there early to get it ready. We had a lot of props and 3D elements to it so that it would stand out. This ended up paying off because we placed first for the competition! It was such a great feeling since we put a lot of thought into how it would look and focused on small details. The Thursday after was the Powderpuff game and king and queen reveal. I was not in Powderpuff this year so I was able to assist with the risers and coronation crew for the reveal. Then Friday was the big parade! We had worked really hard on it in the past weeks (especially the night before...) and were eager to get it up and moving. Making sure all of our decorations stayed up and intact was a little worrisome but it ended up being okay. There wasn't very much we needed to add on in the last second since we had assembled the main parts the night before. Some of us were in pirate attire to match with our island treasure hunt theme and others were in red and white for school spirit. In the float we placed third which we felt was deserved. We could have done a bit better but what was important was the major improvements we made from last year. Overall, I'm super proud of what we accomplished and how HOCO turned out for my class. We grew from our freshman year mistakes and worked together really well as a team. I'm super grateful for the bond the sophomores have formed and

the support system we have built with each other. Aside from Homecoming “craziness” Ximena and I also helped out the freshmen with the Halloween Dance soon after. Freshman year coming into the leadership program can be a little difficult to adjust to so we wanted to make sure they had help in their main event of the year. I’m glad we were able to support them and make them feel a bit more assured in their process of planning. And of course, class t-shirts! They finally came in and we were able to pass them out to the students that purchased them. I’m really happy with how they turned out and am even happier to see how popular they are. Even on days that aren’t Friday or spirit days I’m seeing people wearing them. This is such a good change from freshman year to see our student body enjoying what we put out for them. For the future, we’re going to sell off our last t-shirts for this year, continue in our preparations for Winter Formal in December, and begin organizing Winterfest.

Standing Committee: The standing committee I’m a part of is the Balloon Arch Committee. In the past month, we’ve built an arch for the candidate rally and built balloon bunches and pillars for the HOCO king and queen reveal. Love my balloon arch girls.

Special Committee: The special committee I was a part of was Homecoming Coronation Committee. I was to be Makenzie’s backup if she got nominated for queen, and along with this I participated by building balloon arches, crowning and sashing the Homecoming candidates, finding court escorts, bringing records for our supplies, and helping with the risers and decor for the night of the reveal.

Mentorship Evaluation: April has been such a strong supporter of me and my class in the past month. Anytime I've needed guidance or advice (which was pretty often) I was able to turn to her and she was such a big help. Her being there for me means a lot and impacts me more than she could ever imagine. She's the perfect role model of someone who leads with their heart and makes decisions for the good of her class. I'm so happy she's my mentor in hectic times like Homecoming. I can't wait to spend more time with her and hopefully go on a coffee run soon.

Concerns: My main concern for this program is the attitude and relationships in the class. During Homecoming especially I felt there was a lot of tension not only within the classes, but between other grade levels. I think that while the competition and banter aspect of Homecoming is expected, it got taken out of hand and was more harmful than playful. It created a lot of unnecessary drama during an already stressful week and I believe it reflected on the relationships within this program. There needs to be a more understood level of respect amongst our peers in the program and an outlook to support each other rather than judge or tear down.

Positive Comment: My positive comment goes to Gia Grewal. I have so much admiration and respect for this girl. She has been working tirelessly on everything she's been involved in. (which has been A LOT) Gia has so many powerful assets, from her constant creativity and innovation to her insightful perspective and strong sense of determination. She balances dance, academics, and her leadership life so well and it's honestly crazy to me. In everything she does she gives 110% effort no matter what, and that's so inspiring to see. She's insanely dedicated and such a great person to learn from. I love being around her and am so lucky to have her a part of this program.

Change: One change I would make as of recently is the amount of focus and effort being put into our classroom environment. It feels as though people aren't giving their full attention to listen and are doing their own thing when others are speaking to the class. Along with this, the situation with people not using work days efficiently was upsetting. We have those days for a reason and even if you don't work on anything, the least you can do is to not be a distraction for others. Having a healthy and structured class environment is an important aspect of our program and it feels as though not everyone sees it that way.

My Impact: I tried my absolute best to be a strong leader in one of the busiest weeks of the year for our program. I showed spirit by dressing up for every day as well as participating in the Night Rally dance. I assisted with decorations by keeping all of our class items, along with the trailer, at my house and bringing the needed supplies each day for competitions. I wanted to make sure that we had a place where all of our items would be secure for us to decorate and that was close in proximity to the school for easy transport so my house worked well. But most of all, I put a lot of work into making this a good week for my class and ensuring they knew I would always be a resource for them if they were in need of assistance. I made a more conscious effort of communicating effectively and tried to stay level headed in any sign of conflict.