



# The Boys Statement

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## Congratulations to our very own

Peter Diaz  
*staff writer*

**A**t last, the long days of election preparation have ended! Around 9:30 yesterday morning, politicians quickly reviewed their remarks and citizens filed into the auditorium for the final round of speeches.

First up were the candidates for Attorney General. Both party nominees delivered similar, compelling arguments. Eventually, based on the reputation he had built here at Boys State, Thomas Mecherikunnel seized the position. One could not have wished for a more entertaining Lieutenant Governor race as CJ

Cruz stepped up to the podium. While his introductory speech would have been enough to carry him to victory, his slam poetry dazzled and endeared him to his comrades. However, just as CJ's speech was very entertaining, Yoseph Boku's was one of the most sincere. Sticking to his party's platform, Boku conquered the opposition and won his position as governor.

As the band played, the new officials marched on stage, followed by the color guard. These new officials were sworn in and received six standing ovations. Boku took the mic and made sure to thank God, his counselors, and hyped his city for aiding him in the race. Additionally, he informed the state that he would push for three more bills as the keycard and toilet paper bills were already being



considered by the Senate. The first, only the Supreme Court would be allowed to gerrymander. The second, hats and sunglasses would now be permitted. Finally, third parties would be allowed to give speeches, if they received one hundred and forty signatures.

The Boys Statement would like to congratulate its own Yoseph Boku on his election to governor as well as CJ Cruz, Thomas Mecherikunnel, and the newly appointed members of the Governor's Cabinet.

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## Take risks, but don't gamble

Khalil Russell  
*staff writer*

**T**his entire week, from the very first day, has been filled to the brim with speakers from all walks of life: from politicians, to inspirations, to even members from our own ranks. As different as they all have been, each and every speaker had one thing in common. They each deserved our collective, unwavering respect. Each speaker has accomplished something different. From attaining high office to overcoming insurmountable obstacles they all should be treated as though they have something incredible to offer, which, in fact, they all do. They all offered wisdom, gained from

experience, and after they spoke, the Q&A was and is our time to try to learn as much as we can in order to better ourselves as individuals, as a state, and as a nation. However, yesterday, the question time adopted a different purpose, if only for a moment. Yesterday, the Honorable Nancy Rodrigues, Secretary of Administration in Governor Terry McAuliffe's cabinet, spoke to Boys State. A stark and unexpected difference from the trend of questions asked to the men over the past four days, a citizen of Washington asked her "Truth or Dare?" Upon responding with 'truth,' Rodrigues was asked a highly inappropriate question.

Whether it was the nature of the question, or the fact that the

line had been crossed so late in the program in front of so many listening ears, the shock among the audience was palpable. After leaving the mic, the questioner returned to his city. When asked what put the question on his mind, he responded with, "Nothing really, no one really asked an interesting question in my opinion." Later, when asked for a second quote to later be put in the paper, he said, "Take a risk, take chances, take a risk." A member of his city, when asked what he thought about it, responded, "I feel it was kind of entertaining. . . it also seemed really immature." But I believe far more can be said about what took place today.

I believe that wisdom can

be gained from any situation, even the worst of experiences. Though his decision yesterday was poor, it offered an opportunity for all of us here at Boys State to realize and remember that we don't just represent ourselves anymore. Here, we represent our cities, our hometowns, our schools, our posts, our families, Boys State as a whole, and the Commonwealth of Virginia. As we've heard so many times before, we are the future of America. As Chris Skinner stated Wednesday, all of our actions have consequences. It's up to all of us to make sure that our actions reflect us well, and that their consequences are lasting for the better.

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Check out Boys State's Facebook page for photos of great moments @vaboysstate

## Roll Call Tips

John McSorley

staff writer

**T**wo roll calls a day. Everyday. At first a simple here was appropriate, but it quickly became a test of enduring creativity. Some cities have a natural talent for a cool roll call, others do not. The Boys State Statement has compiled a list of some of the best roll calls from this week in no particular order.

- The Band: "99 Bottles of milk"
- Henry: "No this is Patrick"
- Marshall: Commercial Mimic
- Washington: "We didn't know what he was going to say"
- Bradley: "Slim Shady"

- James: "We exist"
- Lee: "Crusty Crab Pizza"

All of the most memorable roll calls follow a common of characteristics (to be honest, it was hard for our staff to remember most of them). But here's some things we feel every city should consider when planning their roll calls.

**Loud:** if it can't be heard, it's simply not good.

**Understandable:** make it easy to pronounce. The fewer words, the better.

**Pop culture references:** Sponge-Bob is really popular, commercials catch phrases are too.

Appropriate comments about Boys State controversies can be very funny, but risky.

Don't repeat roll calls, please (Nimitz's roll calls do have limits).

# Exciting visit from Governor Terry McAuliffe

Aaron Hodges

staff writer

**F**rom the second he arrived, Boys State erupted in ovation with the presence of our Governor Terry McAuliffe. The band's fanfare of the American Legion song resonated through Preston Bonduant Auditorium as the Governor shook hands with countless eager audience members excited to hear his presentation. Being the one position that many citizens of Boys State aspired to achieve, delegates listened intently to how a Governor with no previous political position becomes elected. Terry McAuliffe had originally graduated from the Catholic University of America, later to receive his Juris Doctor degree in 1984. McAuliffe started his career in the world of business and entrepreneurship at the age of 14, later dabbling into campaigning for political figures such as Bill and Hillary Clinton. After being offered



a job that would totally send him in another direction, Terry McAuliffe became committed to the life of a politician. As the governor explained his story, an onslaught of Boy State Citizens rushed to the podium. However, the Governor would not get off easy as pointed questions, from McAuliffe's Investigation to his views on immigrants, showed his stances. Terry McAuliffe spoke with unwavering fervor on his initiatives to eliminate SOLs (eradicating 5) and speaking of his accomplishments of resolving homelessness of veterans that want to possess a dwelling. Cleverly using a relevant allegory, McAuliffe responded to the discussion of building a wall to stop immigrants by replying, "We tear down walls," in a land of opportunity. Finally, the Governor left us with some parting words. "Don't be afraid to take a chance."