

Good Evening. My name is Jay Weinstein and I am a parent of two children at Seven Locks Elementary School. I am here to strongly object to the plan to close the current school, surplus the land to the County, and build a 740 seat school at the Kendale site.

First, we must all acknowledge that the decisions to build the new school and surplus the land are one and the same, flip sides of the same coin if you will.

The notion that closing a perfectly good school and giving the site away is GOOD for the school system strikes me as a bit Orwellian. As Janis Sartucci has testified, it is clear that we will need ALL the school sites we have for future use. You might ask yourselves, how did we get in this predicament? Well, we all know of many school sites that were closed, sold, and leased to others over the last 20 years. Did any of the demographic forecasts of the 80's and 90's foresee the explosive growth in the County? Of course not. It's not the demographer's fault-- no one can see that far into the future about anything. If he can, then set him loose on where the stock market and interest rates will be in ten years so we can all make some money.

Building high density housing on the current site is in violation of so many sections of the Montgomery County Potomac Subregion Master plan that I had a hard time choosing one to quote. I chose the Special Exception Policy section, which reads as follows: "Increase the scrutiny in reviewing special exception applications for highly visible sites, such as properties and parcels located at corners of residential streets with major arterial highways..." A perfect description of the intersection of Bradley Boulevard and Seven Locks Road where Seven Locks Elementary sits.

Here's the rub-- this plan has no chance of actually coming to pass. Why? Because, it is inherently counterproductive, in direct violation of the County master plan, and aggravates an already overloaded traffic problem. And what are the chances of it getting funded anyway, when there are over \$600 million in requests for spending versus \$100 million in the state budget? Do you really think this will get approved over other equally worthy projects when the affected community is battling this hard against it?

So instead of wasting time, financial capital, and political capital fighting with your constituents, the Board needs to work WITH the community to find a solution that we can back together. There is no need to create our little version of "Crossfire." For instance, I suggest a forming a small committee of civic association members and a representative of the Seven Locks PTA to meet with Board staff to find some common ground. There are plenty of compromise plans that can work. But giving away valuable and irreplaceable property will never be part of that solution.

Resolved:

The Parent-Teacher Association of Seven Locks Elementary School issues the following resolution:

- 1) We absolutely oppose any school building plan that includes the closure of the current site of Seven Locks Elementary School and/or surplus of the property to Montgomery County. The County Council and School Board should re-examine this short-sighted decision to give away scarce and expensive physical resources that are needed for the education of the children of Montgomery County.
- 2) The process by which the surplus decision was executed was unfair and did not include sufficient input by our organization. The entire decision should be revisited so that all affected parties can have the opportunity to present evidence and testimony in an open public hearing.
- 3) We reprimand the Montgomery School Board and County Council for publicly misrepresenting the position of this PTA. At no time has there ever been support for the closing and surplus of the current Seven Locks site.

We invite other Parent Teacher Associations of other schools in Montgomery County to join this resolution.