

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING – MARCH 7, 2006**

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL APPROPRIATION FOR SEVEN LOCKS ELEMENTARY REPLACEMENT SCHOOL ON KENDALE ROAD**

**STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD: SPEAKING AGAINST THE SCHOOL BOARD REQUEST TO BUILD KENDALE REPLACEMENT SCHOOL**

CARAH ABOD  
5TH GRADE STUDENT, SEVEN LOCKS ELEMENTARY

Good Evening, President Leventhal and Members of the County Council. My name is Carah Abod and I am a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student at Seven Locks Elementary School. Thank you for letting me speak to you tonight. I would like to tell you about my great experience at Seven Locks Elementary and why you should vote to keep my school on Seven Locks Road.

Seven Locks is a great elementary school, for many reasons. The small size of Seven Locks is perfect. No one gets lost. The teachers and the staff all know that my name is Carah. Even most of the kids in all of the grades know each other's names. When I was a new student at Seven Locks, this helped me feel comfortable and feel like I belonged. Because Seven Locks is a small school it has a lot more opportunities for kids to hold positions of responsibility. In a bigger school there are less opportunities for kids to be well-known and stand out. The kids would lose a lot of the comfort and support that I had while at Seven Locks.

Although I like the small school, I know that the County wants to make Seven Locks larger to help with overcrowding in other communities. If we must have a new school, I

think it should be built on the current site. First, the current site is already cleared of trees and is not on a flood plain. If you build the school on Kendale Road, almost 10 acres of forest will have to be cut down. We will lose many trees that help keep the air in our community clean. In addition, countless animals will lose their homes.

Second, at Seven Locks, the outdoor play space is infinite! There is plenty of space for kids to play and run around without bumping into others. If you build the new school on Kendale Road, the play space will be much smaller because Kendale Road has less usable land than Seven Locks. The Seven Locks neighborhoods would also lose the only playground and field space in our neighborhood. MSI Soccer and other sports programs would also have less field space for practices and games.

Third, I really like that many of us can walk to school during nice weather. It's great exercise and helps us to wake up in the morning. If you build the school on Kendale Road, no kids will be able to walk to school because there will not be any sidewalks and the road will be too narrow for safety.

It is the responsibility of the adults here to make responsible choices for the kids and the environment. Building the school on Kendale Road is not the right choice – keeping it at Seven Locks is.

Thank you and have a good evening.