

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
NOV. 10, 2004 STATEMENT OF COURTENAY ELLIS

MY NAME IS COURTENAY ELLIS. I AM THE FATHER OF TWO CHILDREN AT SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL. I AM HERE WITH MANY OTHERS TO **SAVE SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL**.

LET ME TALK ABOUT THE ISSUES OF **RELIANCE, COMMON SENSE** AND **DUE PROCESS** WITH RESPECT TO THE PLAN TO RIP DOWN MY KIDS' SCHOOL.

RELIANCE

LIKE MANY FAMILIES WE CAREFULLY CHOSE OUR HOUSE SO OUR TWO KIDS COULD ATTEND SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL. WE RELIED ON THE EXISTENCE OF SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL. TO KNOCK DOWN THE SCHOOL IS TO KNOCK THE LEGS FROM UNDER US AND COUNTLESS FAMILIES.

COMMON SENSE

THERE IS NO COMMON SENSE IN THIS PROCESS.

THERE IS A PROBLEM OF EIGHT PORTABLES AT POTOMAC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. INSTEAD OF SOLVING THAT ONE COMMUNITY'S PROBLEM, OUR GOVERNMENT IS TURNING THREE COMMUNITIES UPSIDE DOWN.

POTOMAC ELEMENTARY HAS BEEN DENIED FUNDING TO FIX THE PORTABLES – A \$5 OR 6 MILLION PROJECT. SO THE POTOMAC COMMUNITY IS ANGRY.

INSTEAD, THE DECISION IS TO KNOCK DOWN SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL AND TURN IT INTO HOUSING – A MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR PROJECT THAT WILL MAKE SOMEONE RICH. SO THE SEVEN LOCKS COMMUNITY IS UPSET.

THE THIRD NAIL IN THE COFFIN IS TO DROP A MEGA SCHOOL INTO TINY KENDALE ROAD FOR AN EXPENDITURE OF AT LEAST \$14 MILLION. SO KENDALE TOO IS IN TURMOIL.

INSTEAD OF FIXING ONE COMMUNITY YOU TURN THREE COMMUNITIES UPSIDE DOWN.

WHERE IS THE COMMON SENSE HERE?

### DUE PROCESS

THIS PROCESS HAS BEEN A TRAVESTY OF DUE PROCESS SUMMED UP BY MR. LAVORGA'S COMMENT THAT NOTHING COULD BE DONE BECAUSE THE HORSE HAD ALREADY "LEFT THE BARN."

THIS CUTE ANALYSIS DOES NOT REMEDY THE LACK OF DUE PROCESS.

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DO EVERYONE A FAVOR:

- END THESE SHENANIGANS.
- DEVELOP A SOLUTION TO THE POTOMAC ELEMENTARY PORTABLES THAT DOES NOT UPSET AND ALIENATE THREE COMMUNITIES
- DO NOT DEMOLISH SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY
- INSTEAD DO THE RIGHT THING AND –

**SAVE SEVEN LOCKS SCHOOL**

THANK YOU.