

**BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC HEARING  
FY07 Capital Budget and FY07-12 Capital Improvement Programs  
For Montgomery County Public Schools**

**November 9, 2005**

**TESTIMONY OF JAY M. WEINSTEIN**

GOOD EVENING, MY NAME IS JAY WEINSTEIN. I HAVE BEEN A PARENT AT SEVEN LOCKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR OVER 5 YEARS, AND I AM ALSO A MEMBER OF THE SEVEN LOCKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION, GREENTREE ESTATES HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, AND THE PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE SEVEN LOCKS PTA. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TWO BRIEF POINTS IN MY TESTIMONY TONIGHT.

FIRST, AS SHOULD BE APPARENT BY THE LOPSIDED PTA VOTE AND THE CONTINUING OUTCRY FROM MANY CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS, THE VAST MAJORITY OF THE COMMUNITY IN THE SEVEN LOCKS AREA DOES NOT SUPPORT THE NEW SCHOOL AT KENDALE. PERIOD, END OF STORY. WE BELIEVE THAT IT IS A WASTE OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS, ILL-CONCEIVED, ILL-DESIGNED AND HAS BEEN SHOVED DOWN OUR THROATS WITHOUT DUE PROCESS. VERY LITTLE MONEY HAS BEEN ACTUALLY SPENT ON THE PROJECT, AND I URGE THE BOARD TO CHANGE ITS MIND BEFORE MORE MONEY IS WASTED. ANY STATEMENT OR DOCUMENT THAT INDICATES THAT THE COMMUNITY SUPPORTS THE NEW SCHOOL IS AT BEST MISLEADING, OR AT WORST A SIMPLE LIE.

SECOND, LET ME UPDATE YOU ON WHAT IS HAPPENING AT SEVEN LOCKS, A SCHOOL THAT YOU HAVE VOTED TO CLOSE. IN 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE MSA MATH TESTING, THE NUMBER ONE SCHOOL IN THE ENTIRE STATE OF MARYLAND WAS---DRUM ROLL PLEASE---SEVEN LOCKS ELEMENTARY. NOT THE BEST IN BETHESDA, NOT THE BEST IN THE COUNTY, BUT THE BEST IN THE STATE.

In the MSA Reading Scale Score Chart, 80% [Eighty Percent!!] of the recently graduated 5th grade class scored ADVANCED (the highest category)!! That is incredible. That compares to 40% of the 5th graders in Montgomery County and 30% statewide.

In the MSA Mathematics Scale Score Chart, 69% of the 5th graders scored advanced compared to 31% of the 5th graders in the County and 17% statewide!! Also totally amazing.

In both categories, Seven Locks had DOUBLE (or more) the percentage of advanced students than Montgomery County.

Now of course, all of our children are naturally brilliant. And these results are certainly a testimony to Mrs. Gordon and the tremendous staff--their contributions cannot be underestimated. But you also cannot underestimate the value of the Seven Locks small school environment and the family atmosphere that nurtures the kids and makes the school work so well.

Just last week, the State Superintendent of Schools released the list of statewide schools that earned outstanding achievement awards based on test results. And guess what school was one of about 50 elementary schools to earn an overall achievement award? Drum roll please...that's right, Seven Locks Elementary.

In fact, Lieutenant Governor Michael Steele visited Seven Locks this past spring as part of the Governor's Commission on Quality Education, hoping to glean ideas from our success that he could pass on to other schools. Neither Dr. Weast nor any members of the School Board were there.

So the response of the County bureaucracy and School Board is to CLOSE ONE OF THE BEST PERFORMING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND!!

**SO IF DR. WEAST WERE THE HEAD COACH OF THE REDSKINS, HE WOULD DECIDE TO BENCH SANTANA MOSS—BECAUSE EVEN IF HE IS HAVING A PRO BOWL SEASON, HE CAN'T BE GOOD ENOUGH BECAUSE HE IS ONLY 5 FOOT 9 INCHES TALL. Personally, I will stick with Joe Gibbs.**