

STATEMENT BEFORE THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

November 10, 2004

SUBJECT: RELOCATION/CLOSING OF SEVEN LOCKS ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL AND BUILDING A REPLACEMENT SCHOOL ON KENDALE
ROAD

David Tiktinsky, Concerned citizen of Seven Locks neighborhood.

My name is David Tiktinsky and I am a resident of the Seven Locks community and the father of a 1st grader at Seven Locks Elementary school.

The Board of Education's current plan to close Seven Locks elementary school and consideration of "leveraging " the property (i.e. surplus), as stated and agreed to by the BOE in March 2004, and the construction of a replacement school on Kendale Road could be called the "4 L Plan" for all the losses it creates.

The first loss is to the Seven Locks community - Building a replacement school at Kendale Road will likely result in the Seven Locks site being surplused and replaced with a high-density, affordable housing development. The Potomac Master plan would be sacrificed by building this high density housing. The traffic impact from the additional housing units will add to gridlock in our neighborhood. The loss of open space and fields (the county already has a shortage of playing fields) in an area in which there are few places for our kids to play. Additionally, the Seven Locks community is overwhelmingly against the plan.

The second loss is to the Kendale Road community. A new school will change the nature of a serene neighborhood. The site is on a very narrow, windy road which can not accommodate school buses in its present condition. The school site is also on a flood plain.

The third loss is to the kids that will be going to the replacement school on Kendale Road. The school will be at capacity when the it opens and does

not include any plans for the impact of new housing at the abandoned Seven Locks site. Our students will likely have to deal with trailers in the foreseeable future.

The fourth loss is to Potomac Elementary school. Although their student population will decrease temporarily due to moving some of their students, the current plan does not provide one dime for needed renovations or improvements to a school badly in need of updating.

Let's support fixing this 4L mess with a "4 W (win) Solution" with the following action plan:

- A. Build a one step addition/renovation to Seven Locks Elementary School and do not build a replacement school at the Kendale Road site.
- B. Reallocate the funds from the proposed school at the Kendale Road site for construction at Seven Locks Elementary of 10-room addition, gymnasium, road improvements, enlarged cafeteria, and additional restroom facilities without a "modernization" of the existing building. Further, remaining funds should be allocated to Potomac Elementary school to support their urgent needs such as a three room addition and general renovation of that facility (e.g., painting).
- C. Do not surplus the Kendale site. Hold the site in reserve in the event it is needed as a school site in the future.

I fully support the positions of the West Bradley Citizens Association and the Save Seven Locks coalition representing over 5000 families.