

## Many Voices, One Message

Letter to the Editor

December 13, 2007

To the Editor:

The time has come for concerned residents of southern Fairfax County to join together with one message and speak directly to the Fairfax County School Board about the need for a South County Middle School. The annual public hearings on school construction issues, known as the Capital Improvement Plan or CIP will be at 7 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2008 at Luther Jackson Middle School in Falls Church. Registration to speak is required in advance, and residents in South County are strongly urged to sign-up online beginning this Friday, Dec. 14 at 6 a.m. for a limited number of speaking slots.



By getting a large contingent of residents to attend and speak at this vital meeting, we will continue to gain momentum to show overwhelming grassroots support for building a middle school by 2012.

Building a South County Middle School is the only way to effectively solve the growing overcrowding situation at South County Secondary School (SCSS), which is over capacity by hundreds of students. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has not placed design, planning or construction of the middle school on their immediate list of priorities, instead placing it in the year 2017 or beyond, or perhaps never. Furthermore, another SCSS boundary study could be held in the fall of 2008 if our community is unsuccessful in formulating a plan and finding the money to build the middle school by mid-2008.

The South County Middle School Solutions Group has been working toward a solution for over three years with community representatives, businesses, local politicians, and school officials. Our efforts have continued to gain grassroots momentum, most recently with a very successful community rally Oct. 24. Our next, and perhaps most crucial event, will be to have a large showing of parents, children and other south county residents at the hearings on Jan. 9 and voice their concerns. Every person who gets involved can make a difference, and together our energies can get this middle school built. Even if you have never volunteered or participated in an event like this before, please consider this wonderful opportunity to bring about change in your community and improve the quality of life for everyone in our area.

Each citizen will have up to three minutes to speak, and children are welcome to sign up to speak also. If you do not wish to speak, please come sit in the audience in your middle school T-shirt, which is available on our Web site, and also remember, you can submit a written statement. Without the concerted efforts of many of our South County neighbors just a few years ago, there would be no South County Secondary School today. We can do this too, but we need your help!

To register to speak, please visit the FCPS Web site at [www.fcps.edu/schlbd/calendar.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/schlbd/calendar.htm) or call 571-423-1075.

Or visit the South County Middle School Solutions Group Web site at [www.SouthCountyMiddleSchool.org](http://www.SouthCountyMiddleSchool.org) for details.

Christine Morin

Co-Chair

South County Middle School Solutions Group