

South County Secondary School

Comments by School
Board Members



at

The Boundary Hearing

January 27, 2005

“...there is an opportunity to do the right thing the first time.....

“We don’t want to create another Westfield...the advantage we have here (South County) is we have the land, we have the plan for a middle school....moving the middle school to 2011 or even earlier can be done without usurping any other project”

“There will be overcrowding, there is a solution and that solution is a middle school and we will build it....”

Steve Hunt
At-large School Board
Member



“South County will have a middle school...we have the land... we do have a solution”

“We will push ourselves, we will face that, we will find the resources...that school will be built....”

Jane Strauss
Dranesville School Board
Member



“Truly we need to have a middle school out in that area (South County) and if we can get it done sooner rather than later it will help everyone...”

Cathy Belter
Springfield School Board
Member



“...classrooms for kids will allow revenue streams...there is an opportunity out there to help South County if the school is overcrowded and we can address it...”

Brad Center
Lee School Board
Member



“...It is our responsibility not to overcrowd this school ...”

Cathy Smith
Sully School Board
Member



“...2% potential overcapacity in 2009...that middle school will be supported by me if the numbers show it ...”

Dan Storck
Mt. Vernon School Board
Member



“...I don’t want to hear Board members complaining when we have to fix this when it is the Board that made the problem...if the School Board is willing to open the school at overcapacity then the school board must consider the consequences...we have an obligation to find a solution...”

(continued)

“...It is irresponsible for the Board to put more students in this school than it can accommodate without planning for what comes next”

...”

(continued)

“...I move to ... direct the Superintendent to begin the planning and design process to construct a new middle school to serve the South County area, to open in the fall of 2009 ...”

Stuart Gibson
Hunter Mill School Board
Member



The school Board, having no personal staff relies extensively on Facilities for projections and other information when making decisions.....

Comments regarding the South County Secondary School

“...Let’s be realistic about what’s happened here...we are not going to get as many kids as we thought. Hayfield’s numbers haven’t grown as fast as we thought they would. The way I see it you are walking a fine line here...look at just Hayfield and what’s happening there...if you look at their membership there is nothing that can’t be accomodated there”

(continued)

“...There is no big bulge in the next five years that can't be dealt with....There is no real pressing need for a new facility (SCSS) based on membership ...”

Gary Chevalier

Director of Facilities Planning

(Quoted and taped 12/13/1999 explaining why SCSS did not need to be built as there wasn't a need based on enrollment)

SCSS Projected Enrollment from Facilities presented to Board 1/27/05*

YEAR	1/27/05 Projection
2005	1571
2006	2003
2007	2394
2008	2478
2009	2530
2010	N/A

*does not include amendments adding approximately 70 students

SCSS Projected Enrollment from Facilities presented to Board 12/05

YEAR	1/27/05 Projection	12/05 Updated Projection
2005	1571	2454
2006	2003	3006
2007	2394	3163
2008	2478	3282
2009	2530	3292
2010	N/A	3344

Capacity = 2500 students

SCSS Projected Enrollment from Facilities Variance in Projections

YEAR	1/27/05 Projection	12/05 Updated Projection	Projection Variance (1 YEAR)	Percent Change
2005	1571	2454	883	56.2%
2006	2003	3006	1003	50.0%
2007	2394	3163	769	32.1%
2008	2478	3282	804	32.4%
2009	2530	3292	762	30.1%
2010	N/A	3344	N/A	N/A

Quote from Charlotte Observer November 27, 2005

“We have tremendous credibility with the public....we have full disclosure. We bring projects in on budget and on time. We communicate with the public in a way they find credible...we get them to understand what they are facing.....”

Response to Charlotte school system whose \$427 million bond referendum was defeated due to among other things “public distrust of the school board and School officials, management problems...” .



Dean Tistadt
Asst. Superintendent

Facilities Solution to SCSS Overcrowding

Probable recommendation to the School Board on 1/23/2006, less than 1 year after creating the problem is to have another boundary study with the sole intent of throwing a group (middle schoolers or a community) out of the SCSS....



Dean Tistadt
Asst. Superintendent

...based upon the same faulty math and student population statistics that created this problem less than 1 year ago....and now conveniently showing “thousands of seats” to the East & West where 12 short months ago none existed.

The “Credible” Solution

Another private public partnership, better than the last one, which capitalizes on the existing middle school land and the assets in South County, and doesn't take away from the other schools in the County such as Westfield and my alma mater Woodson which need and deserve relief....

Quote from Charlotte Observer
November 27, 2005

“Public-private partnerships are also part of Fairfax’s strategy...it worked. The building of the school (SCSS) got accelerated and it saved us money.....”



Dean Tistadt
Asst. Superintendent