



Dulles District Representatives Statement on the Acceleration of Future Dulles North High School (HS-6)

Leesburg, VA -- Dulles District Supervisor Matt Letourneau and School Board Representative Jeff Morse today voiced their support for investigating the feasibility of accelerating the construction by one year of HS-6, a new high school to be built in the Dulles District's Loudoun Valley Estates community. HS-6, which is currently scheduled to open in 2015, would relieve severe overcrowding at Briar Woods High School and other Ashburn-area high schools. The latest Loudoun County Public Schools enrollment projections released on November 13 show that Briar Woods will be overenrolled by 655 students by 2014.

"The latest projections clearly demonstrate that Briar Woods High School--which is already overcrowded--will reach an unacceptable level of overcrowding in the very near future," said Letourneau. "Therefore, I believe that LCPS and the County should make every effort to accelerate the planned construction of HS-6 to 2014. The alternatives to doing so, which could include a one-year change in attendance boundaries, would be disruptive and unfair to the students in the Dulles North and Ashburn area."

"I support an effort to investigate the possibility of accelerating the construction of HS-6 by one year," said Morse. "The current overcrowding at Briar Woods has become a critical "quality of education" issue that will only be exacerbated by the rapid growth in our local communities. "

Loudoun County voters overwhelmingly approved a bond referendum to finance the construction of HS-6 on November 6. The funds to construct the school have already been allocated by the County. According to an initial review, accelerating the school should not negatively impact Loudoun County's debt ratios, which have been carefully managed to maintain the County's top-level bond ratings.

The School Board is expected to consider a resolution regarding acceleration of HS-6 at its November 27 meeting. Supervisor Letourneau and School Board Representative Morse will provide updates to constituents as more information becomes available.

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