

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Press Conferences Scheduled Prior to School Board Meetings on Charter School in Rutherford and Montgomery Counties

Speakers include state legislators, parents, teachers and students who will urge school board members to deny American Classical Academy's applications to open additional charter schools in Tennessee

Montgomery-Clarksville Press conference:

When: Tuesday, April 25th 5:15pm CST (press conference immediately prior to 6pm meeting)

Where: 621 Gracey Ave, Clarksville, TN

Speakers: teacher, high school student, parent

Social Media: livestream event on Facebook (@SOCMTN)

Rutherford County Press conference:

When: Tuesday, April 25th 4:45pm

Where: 2240 Southpark Dr, Murfreesboro, TN

Speakers: community members, parent, clergy

Social Media: livestream event on Instagram (@socmtn)

Murfreesboro & Clarksville, Tenn., April 24, 2023 - Parent and teacher activists with Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (SOCM) are speaking out against efforts by American Classical Academy to establish charter schools across Tennessee. School boards in both Rutherford and Montgomery counties are set to vote on whether or not to approve applications for charter schools at their respective board meetings on Tuesday, April 25th and parents, teachers, and community members plan to show up.

"We urge school boards across the state to deny these applications," said Stefi Outlaw, SOCM member in Clarksville. "We urge the Rutherford County School Board and the Clarksville-Montgomery County School Board to deny these applications like they did last fall as it appears many of the issues in their previous applications have not been addressed. We do not need an outside entity with loose accountability taking tax dollars away from the majority of our public school students. We should be advocating for funding to support all public school students."

Some community members' concerns include the impact of the establishment of charter schools on local public schools. For example,

- American Classical Academy will be using public tax dollars without the same accountability as actual public schools. A public school is required to educate students that a charter school is unwilling to educate for any reason.
- American Classical Academy will take tax dollars away from the district requiring the district to provide the same services and resources with less funding.
- American Classical Academy will not offer bus transportation, limiting it as an option for families who can not provide transportation for their children.

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About SOCM

Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment (pronounced SOCK-um) is a member-driven nonprofit based in Tennessee that is dedicated to empowering Tennesseans in their efforts to have a greater voice in determining their own future. SOCM is celebrating its 50th year of training and organizing members to fight for a more just and equitable Tennessee. The organization is led by a board of directors and operates through local chapters and statewide committees. Currently, SOCM members are working hard to defend public education in the state. Visit socm.org to learn more.