

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
RICHMOND

May 4, 1940

Mr. O. L. Emrick
Superintendent of Schools
Leesburg, Virginia

Dear Sir:

On Wednesday April 24, I was in Leesburg, Virginia, and discussed the matter of better school facilities with approximately fifteen or twenty leading Negro citizens of Loudoun County. The following questions were raised by the citizens:

1. Should we press the court case against the Loudoun County School Board for better school facilities, or give them an opportunity to make good their promise?
2. Shall we insist upon having a temporary arrangement made by which the elementary school children may be cared for or wait until the school board can improve the conditions for both elementary and high school children?
3. Shall we insist upon having transportation for our children provided immediately, or consider this problem later?
4. Shall we finish paying for the land we are now buying or shall we discontinue this effort?
5. Can the deed of conveyance of the property bought by Negroes, and deeded to the school board, legally contain a provision that the property shall at all times in the future be used for the education of Negro youth?

These questions were discussed openly and frankly. Out of this discussion there developed an evident desire to work peacefully, amicably, and cooperatively with the school board on a calm, sane, and gradual program for the improvement of educational facilities for Negroes in Loudoun County.

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Dr. Sidney B. Hall from the Attorney General on question number 5. This letter is merely enclosed for your information. It refers to the Manassas situation as you can see.

Mr. O. L. Emrick - May 4, 1940

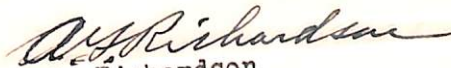
The impression which I brought away with me from this meeting was that these Negro people are in dead earnest about improving their condition; that only four or five are perhaps being a bit indiscreet; but that the majority of Negro people in Loudoun County are willing to give the school board an opportunity to make good its promise. I feel quite confident that if the Negro people will follow the leadership and guidance of Miss Alexander and Mr. Lucas, this problem in Loudoun County can be solved in a manner that will be satisfactory to all concerned.

I discovered upon my visit that efforts had been made to oust the supervisor and principal from the county organization because they had counselled the more insistent group to be both reasonable and discreet in their demands. This effort failed because it was not supported by the majority of Negro people in the county.

After a number of things were explained to the people their attitudes changed considerably. I do not think I am over optimistic when I say that since this meeting the majority of the Negro people will cooperate with you and your board in working out a plan to improve educational facilities for Negroes in a friendly manner.

If you think my coming to the county has helped, please write me or Mr. Alexander and let us know.

Very sincerely yours,


A. G. Richardson
Assistant Supervisor of
Negro Education

AGR/ec
Copy to -
Jeanes Supervisor and
Principal