

Leesburg, Virginia
November 29, 1944

To Members of the County
School Board:

At your next meeting you will need to decide two important questions in relation to the Unison-Bloomfield school.

1. Will the school continue temporarily in the church or will pupils be taken this year to other schools?
2. Will a new building be erected or will children be permanently transported to other schools?

I wish very definitely to be on record as recommending that you arrange permanently to transfer these children to other schools, namely Bluemont, Middleburg, Round Hill and Upperville.

If this should prove to be a mistake it could be corrected in 5, 10 or 20 years without financial loss. On the other hand, should you decide to build and this should prove itself to be a mistake it is likely to be a \$100,000 mistake.

There is no question of consolidation, or not, here. We already have Blakeley Grove, Bloomfield, Leighton and Unison Schools consolidated into one unit. It is proposed and seems necessary if we are to have a four teacher unit (which is generally accepted as the minimum school that should be set up) that the areas of the Mountain, Trappe, Philomont and Mountville schools be included. But four of these eight units are definitely closer or more accessible to other schools and two others, Trappe and Leighton, are almost as close to other schools.

At your meeting on December 12 I hope to have worked out and set up the best transportation scheme that I can devise for each of the proposals.

It seems absolutely necessary to provide one more bus with the school than without it. Actually the bus miles (one way from the time the first child is picked up) in each case are:

3 busses to Unison-Bloomfield and 1 each to Bluemont and Round Hill ----- 43.80 miles
 1 bus each to upperville, Middleburg, Bluemont and Round Hill ----- 35.25 miles

(In each set up 2 busses go on to Lincoln High School but mileage from Bluemont and Round Hill is not included above.)

I am giving on a separate sheet the enrollment at five year periods of the former schools involved here beginning in 1917, which is the beginning of our permanent records, and the enrollment this year.

The estimate cost of a 4- teacher school unit and other financial factors are:

Cost of building \$60,000.
 Interest on loan to build
 \$45,000 at 2 % for 15 yrs. 13,500.
 Furniture and Fixtures not required if children are transported to other schools. 1,500.
 Additional operating cost for fuel, repairs, etc. (30 yrs). 30,000.
 Additional Transportation cost (30 yrs) 15,000.
 \$120,000.

Even if we assume that the transportation cost will be the same in each case, there is definite evidence that this School would add in 30 years \$100,000 to the expenditures if operated as compared with the plan to eliminate the school. I have not charged back tuition in Fauquier County because it should not cost us more for a teacher and other items in Fauquier than in Loudoun. Also we have some Fauquier children in our schools.

While we are considering the possibility of a building that would cost-- building, equipment, and interest-- a total of \$75,000. it is well that we take a preview of building needs in this County.

1. Douglass High School enrolls 150 pupils, has seven teachers, has 4 rooms, a small library room, small office and shop. One class room is a science laboratory, another is a home economics kitchen. They need 4 rooms.

Cost ----- \$40,000.

2. Sterling needs and should have a four-room elementary school with small auditorium. The pupils are there nearby. Cost _____ \$60,000.
3. Aldie High School needs a minimum of three class-rooms (library, laboratory, and one class-room). Cost _____ \$30,000.
4. Leesburg School needs at least two additional classrooms. Cost \$20,000.
5. Lovettsville needs library and home economics space. Cost \$20,000.
6. Lincoln High School needs one more room. Cost _____ \$10,000.
7. We have housed most of our white school children in reasonably comfortable Buildings, with central heating plants, drinking fountains, & indoor toilets, etc. Nearly all colored elementary school children are housed in comparatively poor buildings. In the course of the next four years the school board will either make plans for improvements in the housing of colored children voluntarily or can expect to be required to do so by court action. Very clearly there has been discrimination here. There is indicated to me the need for two consolidated elementary schools for colored children.--

- A. A seven-room elementary school to care for Willisville, St. Louis, Middleburg and Marble Quarry. Cost _____ \$85,000.
- B. A seven-room elementary school at Purcellville to care for Hughesville, Lincoln, Hamilton, Hillsboro, Powell's Grove and Purcellville. _____ \$85,000.

In order to put our transportation system on a more satisfactory basis we should have our own garage and employ our own mechanic. This would insure keeping our busses in better condition and also give us a check on the care each driver gives his bus. The parts used would cost us much less than now. We could also buy gasoline at tank prices at the school or schools where garage is located. (Leesburg now has 9 busses coming here)

There will also be a need for warehouse or storage room. At present we are using space in the Purcellville school that will undoubtedly be required for their use in the near future.

Continuance of a school at Unison-Bloomfield and the inevitable rerouting of the high school bus from Unison and Bloomfield directly into Round Hill so that these high school pupils could leave home later in the morning would directl nearly a room full of children from Bluemont. This would leave a two-room school in a four-room building which has a life expectancy of thirty to forty years. It could very well result in closing this school entirely.

It seems important that I emphasize the fact that the final consolidation plans in Loudoun County as now set pxup for both high and elementary schools is much more conservative than the average for Virginia Counties. Without the Unison-Bloomfield school we would have fifteen elementary school centers as follows: Aldie, Arcola, Ashburn, Bluemont, Hamilton, Hillsboro, Leesburg, Lincoln, Lovettsville, Lucketts, Middleburg, Purcellville, Round Hill, Sterling, and Waterford. The average area for each school is 35 square miles. This actually equals a radius of 3.3 miles reduced to the average.

Many of our schools face urgent need of improved facilities and since there is no evidence that the construction of a new building in this case would either be of distinct educational advantage or reduce transportation required, the proposed outlay of so large a sum would surely prove to be a boomerang that would cripple the future development of our schools in the years to come.

Enrollment in Elementary 8 Grades

<u>Year</u>	<u>Mountain</u>	<u>Elakeley O</u>	<u>Leithton</u>	<u>Mountville</u>	<u>Philomont</u>	<u>U.L.</u>	<u>Trappe</u>	<u>Totals</u>
1917-18	23	20	43	31	61	66	25	279
1922-23	14	56	48	33	53	90	30	332
1927-28	Closed	39	34	29	51	92	Closed	244
1932-33		22	25	41	68	55		211
1937-38		Closed	Closed	22	46	63		151
1942-43				20	87	91		138
1944				20	13	60		93

The last year Mountain School was operated the average attendance was nine.

The last year Trappe School was operated the average attendance was ten.

Schools closed to us the present Unison-Bloomfield school, were Unison, Bloomfield, Leithton and Elakeley Grove.

Schools proposed to be included are Philomont, Mountville, Trappe and Mountain.

Estimated total enrollment 125 to 130 for new consolidated Unison-Bloomfield School.