

December 14, 1944

Mr. James H. Raby
526 N. Partick St.
Alexandria, Virginia

Dear Mr. Raby:

At the meeting of the County School Board on December 12 an order was entered authorizing the employment of an additional teacher at Middleburg Colored School and the payment of a reasonable rental for suitable quarters if such could be found. A committee representing the P. T. A. came to our meeting and they are trying to assist us in finding a place in which to carry on the work temporarily. The senses of the school board is that a new school should be provided for about 160 children around St. Louis and Middleburg at Middleburg and I hope that such a building of modern type can be provided.

We already have one school closed for lack of a teacher and we have no certainty that we can find someone for the position at Middleburg but it would seem a more desirable location and it should be possible to find a teacher.

The school board considered the request for transportation for certain patrons but took no action because they had no facilities with which to take care of this area.

I might point out that our school board has had in effect for a number of years this policy: whenever a school was closed transportation was provided by bus for the school area and as many children in nearby areas were accommodated as the bus could include. That has applied uniformly to white and colored children. The main difference is that only four colored schools have been closed under this condition and many more white schools have been closed. Many of the persons of this County claimed that this was discrimination against them in the case of closing their school. We have a number of areas ^{where} both white and colored children are rather far from school. The school board has adopted a provision that it will assist financially with the transportation in these areas but that it should be necessary for the parents to arrange for the transportation. We are making these payments by way of assistance in several areas to both white and colored patrons.

I believe that it is safe for me to assure you that the school board of Loudoun has every desire to improve the conditions for the education of the colored children of this County.

I note in your letter some reference as to what was being considered for a school at our meeting at Aldie. This school burned during the summer and the school board has decided not to rebuild it. They had under consideration facilities in an area where there were formerly five two-room schools, three one-room schools and an accredited high school.