

TO THE PUBLIC OF JEFFERSON DISTRICT:

The School Board of Jefferson District, in regular session at Leesburg, on April 26, 1918, voted to eliminate all high school work in the schools at Hillsboro, Waterford and Round Hill and to conduct them as elementary schools only during the session 1918-19. It offers the following explanation of this action:

"The district was in debt over \$3,000 to the treasurer by overdrafts at the 1917 settlement. This indebtedness will be increased to not less than \$4,000 this year. If the schools were run on the same basis for the session 1918-19 as heretofore the indebtedness would be increased to about \$6,000. This is a debt for current operating expenses and does not include the bonded indebtedness of the district. The county treasurer has been kind enough to permit overdrafts in the past, but refuses to permit them hereafter, because the district seems to be unable to decrease the already existing overdraft. It is not lawful for a district board to borrow money for current operating expenses. There will be available next year about \$10,000 for school purposes, while the estimate of expenditures presented to the board of supervisors at their recent meeting, was 16,500. It is therefore absolutely necessary for the board to either plan for a five-months' term on the present basis or to eliminate all high school work, if an eight-months' term is to be provided for.

The board assumes responsibility for the wisdom of its choice of the two alternatives, but does not assume responsibility for lack of funds. School expenses of the district have increased about 50% between the sessions 1915-16 and 1918-19, but the tax rate has not increased and the assessed valuation of real property has not increased. The board of supervisors can lawfully appropriate money for schools out of the County Fund, was asked to do this for session 1918-19, and refused by a vote of 4 to 2. The Supervisor of Jefferson District voted against the appropriation.

If the necessary funds are made available from any source the board will very cheerfully conduct as much high school work as possible."

May 8, 1918.

Jefferson District School Board:

O. L. Williams, Chairman,  
L. C. James, Clerk,  
A. L. McGavack.