

Mr. James

GENTLEMEN OF THE LOUDOUN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

At a recent meeting in Purcellville, a motion was made and carried that the Chairman of that Meeting select a Committee of five to collect and present some facts that might be of value in the proper location of the High School to replace the recently burned High School at Lincoln.

We, the undersigned Committee, wish to submit herewith certain facts and data.

In presenting these facts to you, Gentlemen, it is not our purpose to influence you, but rather to give to you the benefit of such facts as will enable you to wisely consider this matter of the location for we fully realize that you are entrusted by the people of Loudoun County with one of the most important services at the hands of people in the County, That of the proper administration of the Loudoun County School System in such a manner that the greatest number of pupils may be given the advantages of our schools in the most economical and efficient way.

We desire to state that with the facts before you, we know that you will make such a decision that in the years to come the entire community influenced by your decision will realize that yours was the wise decision and that the trust placed by the people in you was right and placed wisely, then you will not in years to come be subject to criticism of having failed to locate the school where it would ^{over} in a period of years serve the greatest number of pupils with the least expense to the tax payer of getting the pupils to the school because the school was not centrally located.

Seventeen years ago the question of location for the

Mt. Gilead School came up and it might be truthfully said that ~~it~~ it was the custom for the highest bidder to select the site, and in accordance with this custom and with a total disregard for the future, the High School was located at Lincoln, and in addition to this the matter of the location was to a large extent settled by outsiders who were not only ^{not} patrons of the school, but were not residents of the District. Assuming, therefore, that you Gentlemen do not desire to make this same mistake again, that you have regard for the trust that is placed in you, and for your own judgment, we give you the following facts:

FIRST: Out of the 118 pupils of the High School this year, 88 of this number either start from or pass through Purcellville and turn at the Dr. Davis corner ^{at the East End of Purcellville} on their way to Lincoln and that Purcellville is as near ^{as} Lincoln to several of those living to the south of Purcellville.

The 118 pupils in the School are grouped as follows:

From the town of Purcellville	24	
Near Purcellville	17	
Boarding in Purcellville and riding on the bus	<u>3</u>	
Total		44
Hillsboro		11
Hamilton		24
Silcott Springs		2
Philomont		8
North Fork		3
In Lincoln		9
Near Lincoln (Total from Lincoln 21)		12
Mountville		1
Round Hill		1
Bluemont		1
Upperville		1
Woodburn		<u>1</u>
Total		118

It will, therefore, be seen that of the 118 pupils, 44, or more than one-third, are from the town and immediate vicinity of

Purcellville and are from the territory sending pupils to the Graded School at Purcellville. In the future this section promises perhaps an even larger percentage of the total High School attendance; this may best be shown by the increased size of the Purcellville Graded School which has grown from 119 enrollment in 1919 to 173 in 1926.

SECOND: The future High School pupils are to be found from the following schools as follows:

	<u>School Enrollment</u>	<u>Possible High School Pupils</u>
Hillsboro (2 yr. High School)	82	42
Wheatland ($\frac{1}{2}$ to Waterford)	36	18
Hamilton	97	97
Silcott Springs	38	38
Woodburn ($\frac{1}{2}$ to Leesburg)	21	11
Philomont	33	33
Lincoln	79	79
Purcellville	173	173
	Total	491

From the total of 491 pupils in the feeder schools to the High School, Purcellville furnishes 173 which is over 37% of the total. The above estimate of the possible pupils from Wheatland and Woodburn are liberal because at this time these schools furnish only one pupil each to the High School.

We call attention to the growing necessity of the increased cost to the District for bus transportation from Purcellville as there are now 35 pupils riding in a 24 seat capacity bus, it being clearly evident by this that additional bus service is needed.

We present the attached Road Map of the Communities sending pupils to the school, this map showing the State Highway from Hamilton west, the macadam roads from Hillsboro to Purcellville, Telegraph Springs to Purcellville, Lincoln to Purcellville and a sand gravel road from Philomont by way of Silcott Springs to Purcellville, this road having just been opened for bids for immediate construction.

We would correct an erroneous impression in the mind of the public regarding the source of the money which was used in building the High School at Lincoln. The public has been under the impression that the \$13,940 which the Lincoln High School Building and grounds cost had been contributed by the immediate Lincoln community, but the facts do not substantiate this impression which is borne out by the following figures:

There was received from persons getting their mail from Lincoln \$2912.82 and from persons getting their mail from Purcellville \$4438.82; however, among these getting their mail from Purcellville were several including W. T. Brown and A. W. Welsh who are as near or nearer Lincoln than to Purcellville which should be included in the Lincoln list. There was received from persons and firms elsewhere in the County and outside of the County \$6589.29, thus making a total of \$13,940. We realize that the people in the Lincoln community were largely interested in raising this money and we do not in any way wish to depreciate the splendid work that they have done in supporting the school, but desire to give them full credit. We call attention to the fact that a number of persons contributing money to the building of the school at Lincoln received credit on tuition for their children against those contributions which they made. These various credits, we are informed by the Mt. Gilead school trustee, W. T. Smith, amount to \$1350 or \$1400.

With these facts and figures before you, Gentlemen of this Board, we rest the decision to properly locate the new High School to serve the interested communities.

J. T. Hirst
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Carroll Paxson

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Respectfully submitted
H. M. Ball, Chairman
H. M. Ball, Chair.

F. H. James
F. H. James
I. A. Speer

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