Edwin Washington Project **White Petition**

Date	Town or School	Cross Ref	Key word(s)	Topic
May 11, 1926 Letter #1 May 16, 1926 Response May 20, 1926 Letter #2	Lincoln HS		Lincoln HS; rebuild; location	Letters from Mr. West A. Pearson requesting rebuilding of Lincoln HS at its original site.

Letter #1

Text

Mr. O. L. Emerick,
Purcellville, Va.
Dear Mr. Emerick:__

A Supervisor who lived in this section some years ago refused to vote for a bridge for the reason that he was unwilling to place himself in a position to be charged with putting personal interest or benefit before the general need of his district as a whole.

He lived within a short distance of the proposed bridge. I might also add that he did not change his attitude toward this particular bridge during his tenure of office and died a few years since leaving a most enviable record, both as a county officer and as a broad-minded citizen.

Mr. Emerick, your action in withholding approval of the County School Board's decision to rebuild Lincoln High School, is open to question as to whether you have not permitted local and personal interest to control your opinion in this instance, rather than the needs and desires of the district and county as a whole.

We have your written and spoken admission that you would approve the site selected by the board. Personally, I feel that your town and community have as much to gain-if you could but realize it-as we and the other out-lying communities have by maintaining this high school at this IDEAL location, where the environment is better, in my opinion, than we could find in any other community in the county.

Then too, there is the moral responsibility involved, which no official or supporter of another location, can shun, that this building was build with private funds, subscribed by individuals and friends of Lincoln community, for a high school at a specific place, Lincoln and not Purcellville, or any other place, but at Lincoln.

And altho(sic) presented to the county as a gift and perhaps without legal strings tied to it, nevertheless, this moral issue will ever arise, is it right? I ask you Mr. Emerick, as man to man, is it right? Is it right to use this money in erecting a school building at any other place than where the donors specified?

Many of them have passed into the great beyond and left no spokesman to express their wishes at this time. Can You? Can I? Can any one lightly assume the moral responsibility of using their money in erecting a school building at any other place?

Surely, if Mr. Gilead school patrons and tax-payers must pay in taxes whatever debt is incurred in replacing this building, the will of the majority should rule under a democratic form of government such as ours.

So, we ask you to approve the site selected by the unanimous decision of the Loudoun County School Board, Mr. Emerick, and let's have a high school building completed in time for the beginning of the session next Fall.

To delay may mean disaster to both patrons and Superintendent.

Very truly yours,
/s/ West A Pearson,
Philomont, Va May 11, 1926.

Response

Text

May 15, 1926

Mr. West A. Pearson;
Philomont, Virginia.

My dear Mr. Pearson:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 11 which I have read carefully.

Very sincerely yours,

Division Superintendent

OLE-RME

Letter #2

Philomont, Va. May, 20, 1926

Mr. O. L. Emerick,
Purcellville, VA.

My dear Mr. Emerick,

On April, 10th., the School Board met at Purcellville, to hear petitioners with reference to re-building the Lincoln High School.
After hearing the arguments of the patrons and tax-payers of both Lincoln and Purcellville, the board voted unanimously to re-build the school at Lincoln, on the old site.
More than thirty days have now passed and nothing has been done in the way of re-building.
In your letter to members of the School Board and others, you state that, had no appeal been taken, it was your intention to approve the action of the board, but as an appeal had been filed, you now disapprove the action of the board and call upon that board to meet and select a new site.
It seems to me Mr. Emerick, that even though you did disapprove of re-building at Lincoln, you would not attempt under any circumstances to change the action of the School Board, especially as it cast a unanimous vote for the Lincoln site.
If the board had been divided, or if at least one member had voted against re-building at Lincoln, there might be some excuse for your action in not approving the site.
I understand that the petitioners for an appeal were principally from Jefferson Dist., Why should Jefferson Dist., tell Mr. Gilead Dist., where to build its High School?
It seems only reasonable that, if the Lincoln High School is to be done away with, that the people of this dist., should be so advised and given a chance to select a new site.
While I realize that the school located at Purcellville, would be an asset to the town just as it would to any other town or community, at the same time, if it were made known that it was to be moved, other sections would no doubt bid for it as well as Purcellville.

I have been told by one of the leading citizens of Purcellville, that it was their intention to locate the building on the Love property, which would mean that the new location would be not much more than one mile from the present site.

With the valuable property at Lincoln, do you think it wise to sacrifice this property in order to move the building a distance of one mile?
The Lincoln High School, has certainly been a success, decidedly the most successful one in Loudoun County, Then why think of moving it to some other place?
The children from Purcellville, have a good hard road all the way a distance of about two miles. They have a $1000 bus with a paid driver to transport them to the school house door, all expenses being paid out of the dist., school fund. While the children from other parts of the dist., have to travel over all kind of roads a distance of six, eight or ten miles and furnish their own transportation.
Let the school be re-build at Lincoln, where it rightfully belongs and let the work of re-building be started in order to have the building ready by Sept., 1st,

You will recall the criticism directed at you a few years ago by a citizen of Middleburg, for not installing a furnace during the vacation period and which necessitated closing the school a part of the next term while this work was being done.

Don't let this happen with building the Lincoln High School.

Yours very truly

/s/ W. R. Faulkner