

Board of Education

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Laurel Special District
Public Schools

Laurel, Delaware

Charles H. Helm, M. A.
Superintendent and Secretary

JUL 10 1934

July 9, 1934

Dr. H. V. Holloway
Dover, Delaware

Dear Dr. Holloway:

After returning to Laurel following our conversation about an addition to our Colored School I double-checked on tax records and find that Laurel Special School District has levied tax on colored property holders and a poll tax. I hope this information will help to justify an addition to our Colored School building similar to that obtained by Dover wherein that district met the requirements of the law by a property and poll tax on colored citizens.

A tax has been raised since 1921 from colored taxpayers each year that it was raised from white taxpayers for the purpose of paying the interest on bonded indebtedness to the extent of 5% of the assessed valuation, the indebtedness consisting of interest and certain years payment of \$2,000 into a sinking fund for the retirement of bonds according to the terms of the issues. You will recall that I stated that our Board at different times has gone on record endorsing a colored school addition agreeing to support any efforts of the State Board of Education in trying to relieve the crowded conditions existing in certain districts of the state.

The Laurel Colored School has grown during the past six years from an approximate enrollment of 150 pupils to 230 net enrollment. These pupils have been crowded into four rooms and Principal's room built in 1921 with the aid of Mr. P.S. DuPont. May 4, 1934 and August 4, 1933 as well as in the previous school years 1932 and 1931 the Laurel Board endorsed an addition of at least one room and two if possible for better housing conditions at the Laurel Colored School. The Board has been aware of the increase in enrollment in all schools in the state and desire to consider the problems of increased building demands. Also, it realized that legislative action never initiated a colored school building program and for these reasons did not present their case vigorously until white needs had been reasonably provided for and public opinion would be amenable to a colored school building program. Mr. Shilling is aware of our colored school problem through his visits to the school and I have discussed the matter with him but never have found any way for relieving the situation.