

June 12, 2023

Chair John Bell

The Board of Visitors at the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind

Dear Chair Mr. Bell,

On behalf of the Blue Ridge Deaf Senior Citizens, this is to let you know of our concern over the disheartening news in regard to the current superintendent and her lack of professional performance with respect toward the VSDB colleagues, the students and the alumni. We were once before employed as teachers, residential counselors, and administrators at the VSDB, but now are retirees.

Our dear school was founded in the mid 1800s to provide a basic education for the deaf and the blind. At that time, the Virginia legislature had understood why it was so important for the deaf to receive a formal education since they did not have an easy and/or readily available means to their communicative needs. For several years, therefore, the school has been wholly responsible for its uniquely tailored program which has successfully helped as many deaf students as possible. Needless to say, those administrators in the past had continued to have done a superb job even with a minimum amount of discord. In addition, they had worked so hard with enthusiasm to recruit a lot of deaf students. Those, in turn, felt blessed for being able to participate successfully in their program that proved to be more appealing and viable to the general population.

As mentioned above, we feel so honored to be part of the exciting history of the VSDB, but now regret to inform you with shame, that we are very much disappointed with the current Superintendent and her lackluster performance. Our consensus is that the current situation of her own making is beyond repair. This obviously calls for a strong need for a better replacement, which will need to enable the school achieve its mission with more ease and trust. That replacement has to be a better suited and highly motivated Superintendent who will believe strongly in the VSDB and be willing to work hard, expand the school enrollment and practice at all times competence. To get along with different people at all levels with genuine respect is another expectation. This deciding factor for sure will help make a HUGE difference for the whole VSDB.

Please consider this delicate matter with care. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Donna W. Lambert
Pro Temp Secretary
The Blue Ridge Deaf Senior Citizens