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MEMO TO: Lincoln Parish School Board Members  
FROM:  Danny Bell, Superintendent  
DATE: April 10, 2013  
SUBJECT: Transfer of Dubach High School 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students, Relocation of Hico Elementary Students and Closure of Hico Elementary School

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### Background

The Louisiana Department of Education continues to make changes and require many more varied courses before high school students can graduate. Dubach High School (DHS) currently has an enrollment of approximately 85 in grades 9 through 12 and an instructional faculty of 13. As a result, it has become increasingly difficult to adequately offer the courses necessary for graduation; therefore, I am proposing to bus the 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders to Ruston High School beginning in August 2013.

In addition, the principal and coordinating teacher at Hico Elementary have recently submitted letters indicating their intent to retire at the end of the 12-13 school year. Because of their plans to retire, the proposal to transfer the DHS students to Ruston, and since the facilities at DHS are newer and in better shape than those at Hico Elementary School and in a more centralized location, I am also proposing to move kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grades from Hico Elementary School to Dubach High School beginning in August 2013. The new name of the school would be Dubach School. The final part of my proposal is the closure of Hico Elementary School at the end of the 12-13 school year.

These were extremely difficult decisions for me to make; however, it became easier knowing the high school students will have many more curricular and extracurricular choices at Ruston High School, and I honestly believe that these changes will be in the best interest of all of the students from the Hico/Dubach locale. I feel that the area can sustain a vibrant kindergarten - 8<sup>th</sup> grade program.

None of the board-hired personnel at either of the schools will be terminated or laid off; instead they will be assigned to a location/school that the administration believes is the best fit for their certification and experience and according to the needs of the children and school system.

A public meeting was held at Dubach High School on Tuesday, April 9, 2013, and those gathered were presented with the facts and the proposal by central office administrators and administrators from both high schools. Although all of those present were not in agreement, the majority seemed to understand the reasoning and was in favor of the changes.

### Recommendation

That the Board grant permission to transfer the 9<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders from Dubach High School to Ruston High School beginning in August 2013, move the kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Hico Elementary School to what had been Dubach High School with the new name of Dubach School beginning in August 2013, and close Hico Elementary School at the end of the 12-13 school year.

### Contact Person

Danny Bell