

DOLORES COUNTY SCHOOLS RE-2(J)

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March 9, 2018

Dear Rico Residents,

During the March 7, 2018 regular meeting of the Board of Education of Dolores County School Re-2J, the attached resolution was unanimously approved. The Rico Elementary School will close at the end of the 2017-18 school year and will not be open in in the Fall of 2018. This was a very difficult decision for our Board of Education and was made after many months of thoughtful consideration and years of trying to keep the school open.

Unfortunately, it is not in the best financial interest of the district to keep the school open. With very low enrollment and operational costs increasing, it was an inevitable decision. We also felt the ability to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of the students has been compromised and they would be better served attending school in either the Dolores or Telluride School District. Most of the students who live in Rico attend school in Telluride. Telluride has agreed to accept all students from Rico. We will also work to provide transportation for students, but at this time we cannot guarantee this will be available this fall.

With the fact that almost all students attend Telluride Schools, we have been in contact with the Mike Gass, Superintendent of Telluride Schools, about the possibility of Telluride School District annexing the Rico attendance area. In order for this annexation to happen, it will require approval by voters from both school districts. Our plan is to have the annexation on the November 2018 ballot. During the next few months we will work with our attorney and the Colorado Department of Education to meet all the requirements for this question to be on the November 2018 ballot. As we move forward with this plan we will hold periodic community meetings to keep the Rico community updated on the process and to answer any question about the process.

If you have any questions, please free to contact me at 970 677-2296 or bhankins@dc2j.org

Sincerely,

Bruce Hankins, Superintendent