



Brookings School District

Working Together...Educating with Excellence...Inspiring Learners for Life

Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent

2130 8th Street South • Brookings, SD 57006 • Phone 605-696-4700 • Fax 605-696-4704

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent

DATE: May 6, 2023

RE: May School Board Report

Hello MAY! Hello SPRING! It seems as if it has been in the works for a long time, but we are finally seeing (and feeling) the spring season. It is an exciting season – one of renewal and change. It is also a very busy season for our outstanding team of educators – completing the year end tasks, saying goodbye to a new class of graduates, and bidding farewell to colleagues who may be retiring, leaving for new opportunities, or pursuing other passions. As I write my May report, I want to thank all of the parents, taxpayers, staff, and students for the support we have enjoyed this school year. Here are a few things of note.

1. **Resilient Communities** – The Brookings School District was and continues to be a leader and champion for the Brookings Resilient Community work. Several of our senior leaders have joined me over the last few years to support this work and serve as community connections for the work in being named a Resilient Community. This week, May 10, there is an event occurring in Brookings where guest speaker, Billy Sutton, will present. It should prove to be an excellent event supporting the work of the community. The work also reflects the efforts we have made in the district over the last few years as we have increased counseling staff across the district, added a social worker, and increased support in the buildings for youth mental health. In 2018-19, the district committed \$648,100 to counseling services salary and benefits. With the use of federal COVID relief funding, we have increased our commitment to counselors in the district to \$951,853. This is an increase of approximately 47% in support for counseling in the Brookings School District in four years. Additionally, the district added an employee assistance program (EAP) to provide support for staff. Our work in supporting Brookings as a Resilient Community has been focused on helping both our children and adults alike.





Overcoming Adversity Together

May 10, 2023

10:00am - 12:00pm:
Hear from Billie Sutton
followed up with a
panel of local experts

12:00pm - 1:00pm:
Networking Lunch
*Lunch provided by
START-SD

You can also register by
calling
605-357-1392



2. **Project SEARCH Graduation** – Project SEARCH is a transitional program the Brookings School District implemented several years ago to assist learners transitioning to different career paths. The Project SEARCH class of 2023 will celebrate their graduation ceremony on Tuesday, May 9 at 6:30 pm at the Oscar Larson Performing Arts Center in the Founders Recital Hall. Congratulations graduates!
3. **High School Graduation** – The Brookings High School Graduation Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 28 at 2:00 pm at the Swiftel Center. We are all excited for the class of 2023 as they complete their academic career at Brookings High School and start to venture out into post-secondary pursuits, the workforce, or military service. All our best to the graduating class of 2023!
4. **Legislative Outcomes and Negotiations Success** – As we know, one of the greatest accomplishments this legislative session was finalizing the new funding to K-12 at 7%. The 7% increase in state aid also set the target for the average teacher salary at \$59,659.25. The Brookings School District was able to work collaboratively with the Brookings Education Association to settle a negotiated agreement at 7.2% for salary in the recently ratified agreement. The district has worked very hard over the last several years to make unprecedented improvements in compensation throughout the district in order to attract and retain the best employees we possibly can.
5. **Year in Review** – I am excited to attach the document I shared earlier with the board regarding the progress made this school year as well as the previous 7 years of my work in the district.
6. **Social Studies Standards** – The State Board of Education has approved to move forward with the proposed social studies standards. The district received a letter from Secretary of Education, Dr. Joe Graves, stating the English Language

Arts (ELA) Standard adoption process will be impacted by the adoption of the social studies standards as the state looks to find ways to ensure all of the social studies standards are met. I have attached this document for the board to review.

7. **Groundbreaking Ceremony** – There has been some discussion about scheduling a groundbreaking ceremony at each of the school sites a bit later this spring when there is less mud and conditions are more favorable. Watch for details to come as this event is planned for the community.
8. **New Superintendent** – I want to personally extend my congratulations to Dr. Summer Schultz as the new superintendent for Brookings. Dr. Schultz and I have been colleagues for many years, dating back to when she was a classroom teacher while I served as the superintendent of schools in Marshall, MN. I wish her the best as she leads the Brookings School District forward.
9. **Brookings Education Association (BEA) End of Year Celebration** – The BEA celebration of our staff occurred on Wednesday, May 3. It was a beautiful evening to celebrate and recognize the contributions of so many who add to the Brookings School District team.
10. **Teacher Appreciation Week** – May 8-12 is National Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a time to reflect on the many contributions of our teachers and support staff for all they do to make the Brookings School District a great place to be. Join me in celebrating all of our educational professionals as we celebrate Teacher (and Staff) Appreciation Week in the Brookings School District.

