TO: Board of Education

FROM: Jason Smidt – Director of Technology

RE: Technology Administrative Report

DATE: 12/4/2023

As we close the book on 2023 and head into 2024, the Brookings School District Technology Staff continues to support the great staff and students at the Brookings School District. So far this school year has been off to a great start! As I walk through the buildings and see our students utilizing the technology they have, I just want to thank the staff we have for integrating technology into their curriculum so creatively and efficiently. Teachers using interactive whiteboards, students presenting from their devices, and collaboration across the board are just a few of the great things happening in our district through the use of technology. Here are a few of the things we are working on right now.

1. BSD Foundation Website – I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone about the Brookings School District Foundation Website. This is the place for all the information regarding our foundation. Our director is Kyleigh Cramer and if you have any questions about how to donate to the BSD foundation, please go to the website. What a great way to give back to the Bobcats and help out the students of the Brookings School District.   The site is located at https://brookingsbobcatfoundation.org/ and can be found by visiting https://brookings.k12.sd.us

2. Winter Break – The Brookings Technology Department will also be doing some upgrades, backups, and other maintenance over the two-week winter break. This is a great time for us to be able to get some things done that require our staff and students to be off the network.

3. E-Rate – We are currently in the thick of the E-Rate season. We are working closely with our E-Rate representative and the various vendors that we may be working with. The E-Rate program is very intensive and takes a lot of time and effort but is well worth it. Ove the last few years, we have saved up to 60% of our networking and infrastructure costs. We have purchased switches, access points, as well as controllers for our WiFi.

This program has saved us so much money and we will continue to utilize this federal money. The FCC's E-Rate program provides discounts for telecommunications, Internet access, and internal connections to eligible schools and libraries.