



# Brookings School District

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

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Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent

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TO: Board of Education  
FROM: Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent  
DATE: August 4, 2021  
RE: School Board Report

## Superintendent School Board Report August 4, 2021

As we turn the calendar to August, we set our sights squarely on the start of the school year. It is an exciting time as we see different activities and athletic teams practicing. Teachers are starting to frequent the schools more and building secretarial and administrative staff are tending to the final preparations for the new school year. In this report I am sharing a few items of interest for the board. If there are questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to help.

**1. Facilities Plans with Architecture Incorporated** – The district administration is eagerly anticipating the findings from the feasibility study underway by Architecture Incorporated. As a reminder, there are several items Architecture Incorporated committed to deliver to the board by August 31. Here is the items noted in the existing contract with Architecture Incorporated that are to be delivered by months end. I am not aware of any scheduled public meetings to share concepts of attendance boundaries or discuss future needs of the district. I am hopeful those meetings will occur so we have the information necessary to make informed decisions regarding the Medary and Hillcrest Schools.

### **Scope/Intent and Extent of Service:**

*Architecture Incorporated shall provide professional Architectural/Engineering and Educational Consulting services for a preliminary Feasibility Study and Building Assessment to include the following:*

- 1. Assist the district in determining facility needs by conducting, analyzing, and projecting enrollment and demographic data to include the cities of Brookings, Aurora, and the surrounding rural areas served by the Brookings School District. This item shall include giving recommendations for District boundaries to better reflect the needed sizes for both Medary and Hillcrest.*
- 2. Conduct meetings with stakeholders to identify the current and future needs of the district to include assessment at educational adequacy and programming such as mass customized learning, potential early childhood education, and other related district educational needs (i.e. ELL, Special Education, etc.).*

3. *Conduct an analysis that will assist the district with the development of a strategic plan for both schools and provide financial planning options for facility renovations, expansions, and/or replacement of both facilities.*
4. *Conceptualize and present facility deferred maintenance needs including life expectancy of current infrastructure and related options and timelines to address deferred maintenance items.*
5. *Conceptualize options based on the comprehensive facility plan and present at public meetings to assist the district with facility decision making.*
6. *Professional services will include the feasibility study, building assessment, the development of initial schematic design concept options (to include concept site plans and floor plans), and preparation of a Statement of Probable Construction Cost.*
7. *Upon completion of the Feasibility Study and Building Analysis, the Client shall select a construction delivery method. The Architect shall prepare an agreement using the appropriate AIA Contract Document based on the selected procurement method for the remaining phases of the project(s).*

*The Feasibility Study and Building Assessment shall be completed by August 31, 2021.*

2. **Custodial Negotiations** – Brian and I completed the negotiations with the custodial group. The discussion was positive. One of the key elements from the negotiations was a shared commitment to conduct a compensation study for the group. We will need to gather data from the various employers in the community to assess if our compensation is competitive for the related responsibilities and duties of a custodian. The proposed negotiated agreement is included in the board packet for board action.
3. **Watering Agreement** – We have completed the watering agreement with Brookings Municipal Utilities (BMU) for the new sod on the field at the high school. The agreement provide the district with up to 1 million gallons of water per week for up to three weeks. At any time, BMU can vacate this agreement if needed for fire safety or other needs within the community. The district is excited about the field improvements for the safety of all that use the field and the space.
4. **COVID Watch** – I am closely monitoring the ongoing progression of the Delta variant of COVID. I know many are watching as well to see if the district might be impacted in a way that would require a change in our plan. At this time, we remain committed to start school at Phase I with masks optional/voluntary. However, if needed, we can make the shift from Phase I to Phase II. The district plan is available on the district website for anyone to view and reference regarding our start to the school year.
5. **Connect with the New Dean** – I was excited to have the opportunity to meet the new Dean of Education for SDSU over lunch. I believe Dr. Barnes will embrace the collaborative partnerships we have established between the University and the School District. I am looking forward to working with him for the needs of education in the community and state.
6. **Reimagine Education Models (REM) Colloquium** – The Brookings School District had 5 of 6 schools selected for the first cohort of schools in the Reimagining Education Models Colloquium. The first meeting of the colloquium occurred July 28-30. The focus of the effort is to consider how the existing education model can be reimagined based on the experiences and observation of Covid on the education system. The 5 schools included are Dakota Prairie, Medary, Hillcrest, Camelot, and the middle school. The teams from the schools represented teachers as well as school administrators. Additionally, parent representatives and a school board representative are part of the Brookings colloquium team. Several meetings are scheduled throughout the year. The efforts will provide schools opportunities to reimagine how we can best integrate best practices focused on “...competency-based, knowledge-rich, and whole-child instructional approaches” and instructional frameworks in the schools to best meet the needs of

learners. The Brookings High School will be included in the colloquium in 2022. Here is a link to learn more: <https://doe.sd.gov/grants/documents/REM-SDschools.pdf>

- 7. ESSER Funding** – The district administrative team met with Brookings Education Association leadership to unpack and review the feedback related to the proposal for the use of ESSER II and ESSER III funding. The result of our conversation was some clarifications on the allocations and limitations of the funding. Further, input on ESSER was gathered at the REM meeting from staff. Those data points, along with the feedback from historical survey data, the district strategic plan, and anecdotal observations over the last several months have provided the basis for the recommendation on the use of ESSER fund allocations. Overall, the primary goal of the funding is to provide direct academic as well as social-emotional and mental health supports and interventions to students. Further, funds are designated to engage families in the community that may have become disengaged during the pandemic. Ultimately, the district plan needs board approval for the administration to submit the plan to the South Dakota Department of Education before August 20. Delays in approving the plan will result in delays to fill positions created with the funding including academic interventionists, mental health counselors, a school psychologist and curriculum support for staff and learners grades PK-5.
- 8. National Night Out** – I was excited to be invited to sit in the dunk tank for National Night Out. A few school administrators joined other community members in the dunk tank fundraiser. Here are a few pictures of the evening. Since I was asked to sit in the tank as the superintendent, I thought it was only appropriate to wear a shirt and tie to match the swimming attire. Thanks to Dr. von Fischer and Mr. Foster for being willing participants and school district representatives as well.

