



Brookings School District

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

Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent

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TO: Board of Education

FROM: Dr. Klint Willert, Superintendent

DATE: July 18, 2021

RE: School Board Report

July means the district enters a new fiscal year. As we turn to the fiscal year 2022, we can reflect on much over the course of FY 2021. Navigating a global pandemic amidst during the course of the year as we still managed and lead the regular work of a school year has been a significant undertaking. The district leadership team has been meeting already over the course of the summer to plan for next school year as we still live in the shadow of the pandemic. In this report, I will highlight a few items and plan to speak to the Bobcat Tracks plan and the ESSER financial plan during the board meeting. As always, if there are questions, please feel free to contact me at your convenience.

- 1. COVID-19 Plans 2.0** – Last July, the district team developed and presented the Bobcat Tracks plan. The plan provided the framework for our district to operate in face to face instruction. In reflection, I believe our plan was successful as we were able to provide instruction to a significant majority of our learners in a face to face instructional environment. As part of state and federal requirements going forward, school districts are required to have a new plan drafted, presented, and commented on by the public before we move the plan to adoption and implementation. At the board meeting I will highlight the revisions to the Bobcat Tracks plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The plan will represent the work of the district administrative team as we worked collaboratively to develop a plan for review and comment. The plan begins with the premise we will provide instruction and services including student activities in a face to face environment. I will provide greater details at the board meeting.
- 2. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Funding** – School districts across the country and South Dakota have received special allocations of federal funding. The funding is designed to support school district needs amidst the pandemic. A requirement of the funding is a public communication of the proposed allocation of the funding and allow for public comment on the proposed allocation of the funding. The district administrative team members worked together to develop an action plan of resource allocation targeting such things as mental health, social-emotional needs of students, as well as interventions for student behaviors. The proposed resource allocations are included in the board packet. Many of the proposed items are short-term positions or one-time resource allocations. I envision the board will

act on the spending plan and the feedback at either a special board meeting or the regular August meeting. The plan needs to be submitted to the state no later than August 20, 2021.

3. **Workforce Development** – I recently met with Andrew Sloss, the Chief Economic Development Director/CEO of the Brookings Economic Development Corporation (BEDC). We discussed ongoing opportunities to collaborate and work together on different projects and programs to increase awareness and involvement related to workforce opportunities in the Brookings community and region. I look forward to ongoing positive interactions and collaboration with BEDC.
4. **Ball Field Sod** – As you may have noticed, the football field by the high school is a little bare at this time. The district started a process to improve the field quality and safety for students. The process included a plan to add soil to appropriately crown the field and follow the crowning process with new sod. However, due to the limited water supply this summer, the process to move forward with the sod has been delayed. Recently, the district learned we could possibly sod the field as early as July 27. However, we do have concerns about the ability to appropriately water the field and the possible implications within the community. I would like feedback from the board on this matter as we look to sod the field.
5. **Collaboration with Boys and Girls Club and Children’s Museum** – I am excited to report I have received positive feedback about the involvement of Brookings students in the Power Up summer school program. The program is being hosted at the South Dakota Children’s Museum this year. It is great to hear from parents, students, and partners that this is going very well.
6. **Reimagining Education Colloquium** – The Brookings School District was selected to participate in the state Reimagining Education Colloquium. The colloquium opportunity was a result of the federal grant received by South Dakota through the collaboration of the South Dakota Department of Education, South Dakota State University, and the Brookings School District. The focus of the work is centered on customized and competency based learning. The district will have 6 teams (one from each district campus) attend the event on July 28, 29, and 30. My hope is for our teams to further solidify the customized learning pathway within the district and continue to grow both knowledge and capacity within our schools around the fundamentals of customized and personalized learning.
7. **Congratulations to Wendy Otheim and Randy Soma** – I wanted to express my appreciation as well as congratulations to Ms. Otheim and Mr. Soma. Ms. Otheim has accepted a position as the Director of Special Education at Brandon Valley and Mr. Soma has accepted the position of Associate Executive Director with the South Dakota High School Activities Association. I want to thank them for their contributions to the students, staff, and community of Brookings as we all wish them the very best on their next endeavors.
8. **Thanks to Dr. DeGroot for Service** – Finally, I wanted to share my thanks and appreciation for Dr. DeGroot as he served the Brookings community for the last 36 months as a member of the Brookings School Board. School board service can be challenging. I believe it was particularly challenging as the district leadership and

governance teams worked together to navigate the pandemic. Again thank-you Roger for your dedication and commitment to the students, staff, and communities of the Brookings School District.

In closing, I am excited to start the 2021-2022 school year. I believe it is going to be a wonderful school year as we start to shed some of the uncertainty of the pandemic and focus on excellence in teaching and learning as we support the educational as well as social-emotional needs of our learners.