

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING RECAP

School Board Members:

Mellissa Heermann - President
Keli Books - Vice-President
Van Fishback
Wesley Tschetter
Debra DeBates



Superintendent:

Dr. Klint Willert

Director of Business Services:

Brian Lueders

September 13, 2021

Electronic School Board

Find the link on the Brookings School District homepage or click [HERE](#) for agendas, school board packets, minutes, and policies. On the calendar in the upper right corner, any date highlighted in yellow indicates there is an agenda and board packet ready for viewing. Just click on the date to open up the information. Use the search engine link on the right side to search agendas, minutes, and policies.

Watch the School Board Meeting

Click [HERE](#) to watch a recording of the School Board Meeting from September 13th.

COMMUNICATION ITEMS:

Comments from the Audience

- Jason Bowes – Mr. Bowes discussed and promoted upcoming Bobcat Backers events.
- Bradley Walker, Heather Ortez, Alan Koeck, and Jeanette Gibbons – expressed their concerns and opinions about the Bobcat Tracks Plan and potential phase changes.
- Bunny Christie – Urged board members to reconsider their vote on approving the modifications to the Bobcat Tracks Plan and asked the board to return to utilizing the Bobcat Tracks Plan from the 2020-2021 school year.

BEST Award

Alexa Kapp, MMS Music Teacher – Last Spring, Mrs. Kapp took on the challenge to do something awesome for one of her students battling cancer. She organized the 7th and 8th grade choir to sing a song and create an inspirational video to help a young girl during an unimaginable time in her life.

Presentation by Chad Adamson – SEARCH Survey Information

Chad Adamson, MMS Counselor, presented the SEARCH Survey results and gave an update on the work of the survey efforts.

Comments from the Board

- **Performance Oversight Committee** – Deb is caught up on going through bank statements.
- **Facilities and Construction Committee** – Committee met in mid-August; trying to accelerate the efforts relative to Medary and Hillcrest in terms of assessing what we have to do. Architecture Incorporated is working on the data for us; we have some preliminary data and everything is on track. Steve Jastram with Architecture Incorporated is joining us tonight and will be giving us an update later on this evening during our Facility Plan Progress Update. We also had a meeting on the 8th of September with BATA relative to the shared transportation facility.

●**Policy and Governance Committee** – Committee met August 31st and are meeting again this Friday. We have some policies that we'll be reviewing this evening; we're in the process of going through all of the policies and bringing them up-to-date with the help of the Associated School Boards Policy Services.

●**Human Rights Ad Hoc Committee** – None.

●**Negotiations Ad Hoc Committee** – None.

●**School Finance Ad Hoc Committee** – Our focus is what our capital outlay funds are; we have a budget for this year in terms of our general funds budget but we need to look at the capital outlay budget relative to the Hillcrest and Medary project. By November we need to have a plan of what our financial resources are and what estimates would be relative to improving these facilities.

●**Intergovernmental Relations Ad Hoc Committee** – None.

●**Mental Health Coalition** – Deb attended two meetings; the first was the Brookings Mental Health Coalition where there was a presentation from Brookings Teen Care. Brookings Teen Care is a group of middle school and high school students who are looking for ways that they can help with students that are depressed or students that need to get more engaged. Deb also attended the Brookings County Resiliency Group meeting; Brookings received the designation as a resilient community and are now focusing on how to maintain and sustain that and also what we can do to improve. So a lot of time was spent talking about A.C.E.S. (Adverse Childhood Experiences) and how that impacts our youth. We want to get more people trained in A.C.E.S. so we're looking at how we can get other groups trained.

●**General Board Member Communications** – Deb - we have received a lot of email correspondence; we are listening to what people have to say even if we aren't able to respond to everyone.

Administrative Reports by Superintendent, Dr. Clint Willert

●**Superintendent** – Staff Input Survey on COVID-19 Plans – The district office is going through the final edits on an all staff survey on COVID-19 plans/Bobcat Tracks Plan. The survey will be sent out to staff by the end of the day tomorrow. ESSER - School districts across the state are beginning to receive the review and feedback on the board approved ESSER and Back-to-School plans. There are some things that we need to address in our plan (things that are federally driven requirements). We are uncertain if the changes that need to be made will require another approval by the board or not.

REM 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 had 5 teams (one from each district campus except the high school) attend the event on July 28, 29, and 30. The high school has been selected to participate in the colloquium beginning next year. From the July events, the teams arrived at consensus on a need to support personalization and competency-based approaches throughout the entire district. Watch for more work from this effort to be shared in the months to come as our district teams continue on the journey. October 12th School Board Meeting - Dr. Willert proposed finding an alternative date for the October 12th board meeting so that he can attend the Teacher of the Year Banquet in Mitchell to support our very own, Stephanie Ballard. Mrs. Ballard is currently the Teacher of the Year for Region 1 and is now up for State Teacher of the Year.

●**BHS** – BEDC & BSD CTE - Over the summer the Brookings Economic Development Director, Andrew Sloss, reached out to begin a conversation related to workplace safety. Initially, we discussed manufacturers' needs for their potential employees to be more aware of "Lock-Out Tag-Out" procedures. However, in a later meeting with multiple manufacturers and industry representatives, we opened the scope a bit wider to include general safety as our topic. Since then, Abby Page, BHS Career and Technical Education Coordinator, and Paul met with CTE teachers to share their safety curriculum and approaches to its instruction. Depending on the career pathways covered by the courses, teachers use different safety curricula to better understand and practice industry standards.

2021-22 Staffing Challenges – Staffing continues to be a challenge; it is extremely difficult. We are not only short on staff but short on substitutes. It is not unique to Brookings, this is a universal issue across the state and country right now.

● **MMS** – Back-to-School Days – MMS had a 99% turnout rate at their Back-to-School days. NEA Foundation Honors Teachers – We are proud to announce that Lisa Weier has been selected as one of forty-five public school educators from across the country to receive the prestigious California Casualty Awards for Teaching Excellence. The educators will also be honored at the NEA Foundation Salute to Excellence in Education Gala on February 11, 2022.

● **Camelot** – Tribute to Fallen Learner - A tribute to our fallen learner, Molu Zarpeleh was placed in our gymnasium to end the school year. Molu's favorite location at Camelot was the gym, expressing himself in games and life.

● **Dakota Prairie** – PBIS - The district adopted PBIS which stands for positive behavior interventions and supports. It is an approach schools use to promote school safety and good behavior. Committees were trained over the summer in order to come back and share what they learned. The elementary schools aligned expectations for all of the common areas. We did this to help learners and families as they move through our buildings. To introduce PBIS to our learners the staff made videos for each common area. First they recorded themselves breaking all of the expectations and then modeled all of the same behaviors in a safe and positive way. The learners have enjoyed watching these videos almost as much as the teachers did making them!

● **Hillcrest** – Back-to-School Days – Hillcrest had a 99.3% turnout rate at their Back-to-School days. Parents were asked to complete a parent satisfaction survey of their experience during the Back-to-School days and of the 190 responses 99.5% of parents were satisfied.

● **Medary** – Back to School Days: We received some very positive feedback from our families during their 60-minute sessions during Back-to-School days. Medary currently has an enrollment of 325 students. Of those students, only 10 were absent from their scheduled time. We received feedback from 73 respondents with 76% being very satisfied and 24% satisfied with their experience here at Medary during those 2 days.

● **Curriculum** – New Home School Legislation - The new homeschool legislation went into effect on July 1, 2021. Families that choose to provide alternative instruction (homeschool) are asked to register with the state. Key changes include:

- Families no longer need to submit the public school exemption form annually. Families will only need to register once using the registration site on the DOE's website. A paper copy can be filed with the home district if necessary. If the status of the student changes, families need to update their information online. If the family does not have access to the online tool, they can notify the home district of any status changes.
- Families are no longer required to test students in grades 4, 8, and 11.

2020-21 Report Card – The DOE has release the 2020-21 report card to districts to review. We have until September 9th to file an appeal. The public report card will not available until after October 14th.

● **Special Services** – Professional Development – This summer we offered various professional development options for our special education teachers as well as our teaching assistants and behavior technicians. Trainings included the Sondag System, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, BoysTown, Professional Crisis Management, as well as PBIS and REM training.

● **Activities** – Bobcats Homecoming week is September 20th-24th, and the theme is "It's Harvest Time." Many of the annual activities, such as coronation and burning of the B, will take place again this year, but new to the activities is a downtown Bobcats Homecoming Parade. The parade will take place on Friday, September 24 at 3:00 PM, and the route runs south on 5th Ave, west on Front St, and north on Main Ave.

● **Nutrition** – Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program - Camelot, Hillcrest, Medary, and Dakota Prairie have all been selected to participate in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the 2021-22 school year. Each week one fruit and one vegetable is offered to all students in each participating school. This is a federally funded program and has no direct cost to the students. This offering is scheduled to start on Tuesday, September 14 and will continue until the assigned funds are

exhausted for each site. Product Availability - There are national trends of having issues with product availability. Our district has experienced some shortages and likely may get worse as we get further into this school year. We will try to be as prepared as possible, in addition to being creative with our menu offerings! Menu changes may occur if needed, but we strive to keep last minute changes to a minimum. Product shortages are trending from various different areas such as manufacturing, to transportation, and everything in between. We continue to have good communication and a good working relationship with each of our vendors which makes our process of handling delivery shortages much smoother than what some schools throughout our state and nation are experiencing.

●**Technology** – Amplification Systems – Jason has been working on getting some feedback from our staff members who have had amplification systems installed. So far we have had very positive feedback. Jason will be putting out a survey to staff to see how much they use it and how well it works. We also have more staff interested in amplification systems. PaperCut - We are implementing a new print management software called PaperCut. This program works directly with our devices from Century Business Products. This program is going to streamline our backend of the printing process. It will be a much more efficient program. Our new copiers will be in at the beginning of September. Some of the hardware on these devices were behind schedule due to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

●**Transportation** – It's been an exciting beginning to the 2021-22 school year. We have been working hard to provide transportation to over 1000 learners daily! Our drivers are the best; they have shown great patience and care in making sure everyone is transported safely. This year we resumed our regular pre-covid transportation load that was previously accomplished by 11 buses and is currently being sustained by 9 buses. We started off the school year hopeful that we could manage the load; unfortunately, we had to make the tough decision to discontinue service to our in-town school to school transfer learners.

●**Business** - The 2020-21 annual report has been accepted by the state. The business office is now preparing for the upcoming audit on September 27th through the 29th. As part of the performance oversight committee Deb and Van will be asked to be at the audit closing conference, which should be on the last day of the audit. The audit report should be completed sometime in December.

Other Communications/Discussion Items

- 1st Reading of Revisions Being Made to Policy GCBE “Vacation/Holidays for Employees”
- 1st Reading of Revisions Being Made to Policy GBEC “Drug Free Workplace”
- 1st Reading of Revisions Being Made to Policy JFCH “Alcohol and Other Drug Use by Students”
- 1st Reading of Revisions Being Made to Policy JHCD “Administering Medicines to Students”
- 1st Reading of Revisions Being Made to Policy JHCDE “Administration of Medical Cannabis to Qualifying Learners”
- 1st Reading of New Policy JECBA “Foreign Exchange Students”
- Notification of Review of New Policy IGDK “Participation of Alternative Instruction Learners”
- Notification of Review of New Policy JEA “Compulsory Attendance Areas”
- Notification of Review of New Policy JEAA “Learners Alternative Instruction”
- Notification of Review of New Policy JECAA “Learners Enrolling from Alternative Instruction and Unaccredited Schools”
- Notification of Review of New Policy JEE “Learner Attendance”
- Notification of Review of New Policy JEG “Exemptions from School Attendance”
- Notification of Review of New Policy JED “Learner Absences and Excuses”

Other Updates

●**Facility Plan Progress Update** – Steve Jastram from Architecture Incorporated gave a brief update of what he intends to present at the September 27th School Board Meeting.

ACTION ITEMS:

Consent Agenda

- Approved Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Approved Financial Report
- Approved Bills
- Approved Personnel Report – click [HERE](#) for listing
- Approved the Open Enrollments
- Approved of 2021 Fall Activity Volunteers

Other Action Items:

- Approval of Donated Items
- Approval of the 2021-2022 Project Search Handbook
- Approval to Schedule a Special School Board Meeting to be held September 21, 2021
- Approval to allow the Brookings School District Foundation the option to facilitate the payroll function for a Foundation Executive Director through the Brookings School District payroll processes
- Selection of the 2021 Associated School Boards of South Dakota Delegate Certification
- Approval to authorize the Disposal of the Surplus Items by the Appropriate Means
- Approval to move from Phase I to Phase II of the Bobcat Tracks Back to the Classroom Plan

ADJOURNMENT