



Brookings School District

Empowering all learners to embrace and be inspired to realize their potential

Heather Asmussen, Director of Special Services

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To: Board of Education

From: Heather Asmussen, Director of Special Services

Re: Administrative Report for April 2024

Date: April 3, 2024

1. Collaboration with SDSU in the areas of Autism Spectrum Disorder Services and Literacy Instruction

Keena Melville from Keen Education through a collaboration with SDSU visited the Brookings School District the last week in March. Due to snow days and the late start, Keena was only able to observe and meet with some of the staff in the district, primarily at Dakota Prairie. Keena's focus and area of expertise is interventions and strategies to serve learners with autism spectrum disorder and to improve literacy skills. While in Brookings, she was able to meet with some of the administrators and school board members as well as school psychologists, behavior specialists and teachers. Keena observed learners with a wide spectrum of strengths and needs in the area of autism and literacy. District leadership will continue to meet with Keena and consider a variety of professional development opportunities in both areas.

2. Extended School Year and Next Year

Planning is underway to meet the needs of all learners for next year. We are excited for the opportunity to add preschool to our early childhood and determine the best way to serve our learners and meet all of their needs. Many of our learners qualify for extended school year for special education. At this time, we are looking for staff who are interested in working 4 hours per day for 6 weeks this summer to serve our learners. Rearrangement of staff and resources is currently being analyzed to ensure our department has the right people in the right positions to be as efficient and effective with all our students as possible.