TO: Board of Education

FROM: Jason Smidt – Director of Technology

RE: Technology Administrative Report

DATE: 4/5/2024

As we move into the month of April, the Brookings Technology Department continues to support the students and staff of the Brookings School District. This includes providing support for audio/visual, computer, multimedia, voice, video, and web based applications. It seems like each school year is going faster and faster all the time. We also promote and facilitate the effective integration of technology. Our ticket site is always available for staff to contact us with any technology issues they run into.   We also have been prepping for our summer work. Our summers are a very busy time to get things in order for the following school year.

1. **Testing** – Testing time of year is coming upon us. The technology department as well as our teachers will begin preparations for the state testing that will be coming up soon. We also continue to support our NWEA testing which happens throughout the year. Our Smarter Balanced testing for grades 3-8 and 11 will occur during this month. Most of the testing at our various schools will start in the middle of April.   We will be remotely installing the testing browsers on all our student devices across our district. This is a very efficient way of making sure we have the latest version of the testing software installed on all our devices.

2. **Gaggle** – I would like to take this opportunity to explain a little bit about a program called Gaggle that we have been using in the district for the past few years. Gaggle is a K-12 online safety management software. This program enables us to monitor student activity on school provided devices for concerning content. With the mental health of our students being such an important part of education, Gaggle helps us to help students. We know that the state of mental health of students across the nation is of concern. Gaggle screens our student's interaction on their school accounts in live time and reports back to us. Some of the items that are sent to us include suicide/self-harm, violence towards others, drugs/alcohol, as well as other inappropriate content. Gaggle helps us prevent, anticipate, guide, and support our student and possible student

situations. We currently use Gaggle at BHS and MMS which are the schools that we send devices home with our students.

3. **Preparing for summer** – This is also the time of year that we will be prepping for our summer work. Our summers are the time when we really can get a lot of work done and we prep all our devices for the upcoming year. This summer will be an especially busy one with a lot of projects on our plates.   Here are just a few of our summer projects

    a. Install new and existing equipment into the two new schools
    b. Clear out the old HC and Medary schools of any equipment we can reuse.
    c. Re-imaging all K-3 student laptops
    d. Distributing new teacher laptops to some staff
    e. Sending back our MMS lease devices
    f. Receiving 850 new lease laptops for MMS and imaging them for use
    g. Installing a few new Promethean boards at various schools
    h. Creating and cleaning up our user accounts

Those are just a few of our big summer projects.