



Brookfield Public Schools STATE of the DISTRICT Spring 2023



Dear Brookfield Community,

As we enter the final months of the 2022-2023 school year, I write to share the State of the District. This annual community update is framed into three specific sections; *Where We Were*, *Where We Are* and *Where We Are Going*. The purpose of this document is to provide a succinct overview of the Brookfield Public Schools. The collaboration of the Board of Education, faculty, staff, parents and families and community members have been instrumental in achieving the accomplishments outlined below.



I am so proud of the collaborative efforts of educators, students, parents and the greater Brookfield community to reset this school year after two years of global disruption. Our students are back and striving toward the dispositions articulated in our *Portrait of a Graduate*. We aim to inspire excellence in education by building upon the successes of tradition, coherence, and fiscal responsibility, while launching into a future filled with unlimited promise as we prepare our students for life, learning, and work beyond school.



Thank you to everyone for your continued commitment and support!

Please take the time to watch this video, if you have not done so already, as it provides [highlights of the current state of the Brookfield Public Schools](#).

Sincerely,

Dr. John W. Barile
Superintendent

WHERE WE WERE.....

To begin this school year, we committed to resetting and relaunching. Our incredible learning community has not stopped building upon critical curriculum development & instructional alignment work leading to enhanced student learning experiences. This is due in large part to our families and Board of Education support, along with our dedicated faculty who implements our standards-aligned curriculum PreK-12.

We have utilized our Federal ARP/ESSER funding to continue our long-standing goal for job-embedded **professional learning** in the form of instructional coaches and a technology integration specialist. We are also addressing **mental health and learning recovery** through our investment in social workers, tutors and summer school.



The **Connecticut Center for School Safety & Crisis Preparation** has partnered with BPS to enhance our school crisis plans and security response protocols. This work was conducted in collaboration with our local police and fire departments, BOE Security Task Force, as well as the Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS).

Our Technology Department has been developing the capacity of faculty to integrate digital tools into curriculum and instruction. We also have improved internet capacity in all of the schools by doubling bandwidth to provide for the increased device usage and reliability of service. New presentation stations at BHS and WMS have been installed. As we prepare for the move to Candlewood Lake Elementary School (CLES) soon, every classroom in the district will be equipped with a presentation station to enhance interactive instruction and student engagement. Personal device access for all students has been expanded so that the availability of one-to-one technology is now also at the ready for our youngest learners.



WHERE WE ARE.....



As we continue to expand access to digital learning tools and improve school safety, it is important to note that this year we collaborated with Sandy Hook Promise to initiate a 24-7 anonymous threat reporting system. The [Say Something app](#) went live at the end of March at both WMS and BHS.

Furthermore, the district is now protected with multi factor authentication protocols and new cybersecurity insurance. These efforts have increased network reliability and safety by implementing proactive measures for users and our organizational platforms.

We continue to enhance school security throughout the district. Both Brookfield High School and Whisconier Middle School have had School Resource Officers (SRO's) for many years. Last summer, Brookfield citizens voted to support a plan where School Resource Officers were assigned to both Huckleberry Hill and Center School. In addition to our School Resource Officers, the community voted in support of hiring a Security Monitor at each school to support school safety in a variety of ways, including interior and exterior perimeter monitoring and visitor admission. We also added an Armed School Security Officer in the evenings to cover the many after school and evening activities scheduled at Brookfield High School (click this link for the security video: <https://app.peersuma.com/embed?id=29>)





Across the district students are developing and applying dispositions articulated in the Portrait of the Graduate.

This year we have also invested in the following:

- Implemented new courses at Brookfield High School in STEM and Humanities
- District wide bilingual teacher to support Spanish speakers
- Increased art and music time at Center School
- New para educators to support kindergarten classrooms for our young students
- Math interventionist at Huckleberry Hill
- Increased time over the summer for secretaries to support and engage with families
- New extracurricular opportunities

To address students' post pandemic needs, which include academic recovery and mental health concerns, we are providing intervention support. Utilizing ARP/ESSER funding we continue to institute targeted investments aligned with student needs; instructional coaches, summer school, social workers, and tutors. BHS also partnered with Connecticut Institute For Communities, Inc. (CIFIC) to provide private mental health support for students and their families. Finally, we added two Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA's) mid-year, in support of our most vulnerable learners.



WHERE WE ARE GOING.....

**On March 1st the Board of Education unanimously approved the
NEW 2023-2028 STRATEGIC PLAN**

The Strategic Plan will help prepare the district for the future, guide district actions, provide district stability, serve as a common framework to provide and support district alignment in curriculum, instruction, and assessment as we fulfill the development of the District's **Portrait of a Graduate**, on our way for each member of the school community to *Create Their Tomorrow*.

Specifically, the Strategic Plan helps create a roadmap to **define the Brookfield C's or Portrait of the Graduate**: what it looks like to display *Critical & Creative thinking*, how *Collaboration* is measured, in what ways *Communication* can be demonstrated, and what are the possibilities for positive *Change*. This plan of action will strengthen our foundation for academic achievement, student support, professional development and accountability.



Following the Board's recent approval of the Strategic Plan, next steps include beginning to define each disposition of the Portrait of the Graduate, engage in both staff and family communication, and initiate the development of the District Implementation Plan and School Improvement Plans.



It is important to emphasize that this is the beginning of a five year plan. Please take the time to view the [Strategic Plan, Slide Deck presentation, and the actual video of the presentation to the Board.](#)

While we have much to celebrate, learning recovery remains a top priority. As we approach the end of this year and plan for next year, we continue to anticipate increases in referrals of children in need of both academic and social/emotional support.

As you may know, the District has embarked on a comprehensive **Special Education Program Review**. Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) reviewed and analyzed District Resources, Organizational Processes & Structures, Student Learning and Outcomes, and Communication & Collaboration. We look forward to receiving the report from CREC, along with recommendations to foster continuous program improvement at the June BOE meeting.

BHS Athletics has engaged in an athletic program review. Parents and student-athletes have the opportunity to provide feedback during this study. We look forward to enhancing our high school athletic program by developing our implementation plan.



The BHS Boy's Locker Room Renovation project is well underway. Demolition is complete and the renovation work has begun. This project has been a long time in planning. We anticipate that the work will be completed by the time the fall athletic season begins in mid-August.

The **BHS Track & Front Athletic Field Replacement project** will be brought to the voters on May 16th at referendum. Should there be a favorable vote for this community project, we anticipate work beginning in late June with completion in early fall.

The transition to Candlewood Lake Elementary School will be a central focus of the District's work this coming summer. All PreK-5 students & staff will move to CLES to begin the 23-24 school year!! The new mascot for CLES is the Cubs. Be on the lookout for new spirit wear. Importantly, Whisconier Middle School will be "right sized" for Grades 6-8 as a significant part of the transition plan as Grade 5 children will no longer be educated at WMS. Both CLES and WMS will be establishing brand new school cultures.

Parent and student tours will be scheduled once the final certificate of occupancy is approved. It is important to emphasize that we also look forward to arranging tours of the new school for the public shortly thereafter and throughout the 2023-2024 school year. Please visit the CLES webpage for more information. <https://newschoolproject.brookfieldps.org/>



School Start Times: It is very important to emphasize that in the coming school year, incorporated with the school transition plan, we will implement **PreK-12 Healthy (New) School Start Times**. The Board of Education approved this plan for new school start times in June 2020.

WE WILL TRANSITION TO A TWO TIER BUS STRUCTURE WITH SCHOOL START TIMES AS FOLLOWS:

- **BHS & WMS: 8:00am - 2:45pm** (high school and middle school will ride different buses)
- **CLES: 8:50am - 3:35pm**

The **first day of school (FULL DAY)** for the 2023-2024 school year will be after Labor Day, Tuesday, September 5, 2023.