

2018-2019 Draws To A Close

Just like that, the school year is over. With each and every year, it seems as time passes by with greater speed. As some students complete a milestone, other students will make arrangements to enjoy their summer, and soon to be students will anxiously await their first school year.

As we close this year, I would like to take the time to recognize our senior class and wish them well in all of their future endeavors. This group of seniors was a very enjoyable group that showed great growth, development, and leadership throughout their educational careers. Members of the Class of 2019 will enter the workforce, military, and will attend colleges in Nebraska, Texas, California, and Washington. This group has great ingredients and intangibles to be extremely successful in life. As they graduate from high school, it is my hope that they are proud to call Central City home.

With the close of this school year, a couple of long-time staff members will retire from the District. Sally Bankson will officially retire from Central City Public Schools at the conclusion of this school year. She has positively impacted thousands of students throughout her career. I am blessed to be able to say that I have also had a child that has had the opportunity to be taught by Mrs. Bankson. Mrs. Bankson has always brought great joy and compassion to the students within and outside of her classroom. Les Jensen has retired from his position as Transportation Director. Throughout his career, Les Jensen has taken on many roles. Mr. Jensen has been an exceptionally hard-working employee that spent thousands of hours at work doing all kinds of different tasks. These two will be greatly missed, and we wish them nothing but the best as they move into a new segment of their lives.

As one school year and chapter closes, we can look to the future with great excitement. A few new staff members will be joining the Bison Family and will be filling the hallways with their excitement and energy. A new pre-school section will be added to the District in 2019-2020. This new section will serve four-year olds and will provide all day services four days a week. This program greatly helps with childcare needs of our community and has been provided by various grants. This program is also being conducted through a partnership with the Child Development Center to provide enhanced services. In addition to pre-school, the District has expanded our Career Education offerings by adding additional opportunities in the agriculture sciences and industrial technology fields. A new staff member will help provide those opportunities along with providing community outreach, a careers course, and ensuring that job-shadowing and internships are developed to enhance a student's education while providing a benefit to local and regional businesses.

Over the past few years, the District has looked at different ways to improve efficiency and take additional ownership in the success of our students. With the 2019-2020 school year, the District will dramatically decrease our contractual services to other locations. Students will be kept in the District to receive all Special Education services and other services. This will provide a more localized education, an ownership approach, and substantial cost savings to the District. Dollars will stay in Central City by employing our own staff.

This summer will be extremely busy as we prepare for the next school year. Construction will get underway within the next few days. Construction will initially occur at the elementary, as offices are renovated to provide an additional preschool. The Special Education area with the high school will also be renovated to remove the need to transport students to Columbus. The District, along with CMBA and Boyd Jones Construction, will be working very diligently over the next few weeks completing construction documents, schedules, and obtaining sub-contractors towards additional renovations and additions that will take place this summer and into the next school year. Additional details will be provided as decisions are made. Many of these decisions will be focused on efficiency and minimizing disruptions to the school day as the 2019-2020 school year begins. As this project draws to a close over the next eighteen plus months, a final product will provide enhanced educational experiences and safety to the students at Central City Public Schools. It is projects like this that support prosperity and growth within a community. Have a great summer, and it is truly a great day to be a Bison!