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BHSD Voices - Professional Development Updates

(Nov. 15, 2018)

Hello, this is Sean Gallagher — Superintendent of Brookings-Harbor School District here to talk to you about some of the work we are doing to maintain a highly trained and professional team of teachers and staff in our local schools.

If you are the parent or guardian of one of our students, then you are well aware that our schools have early release days about twice per month on Tuesday afternoons. While students are dismissed, these are not free days for both certified and classified staff. These afternoons are used for intensive training, collaboration and planning time focused on the success of our students.

This year all staff are receiving training on a wide variety of topics throughout the year -- such as CPR and First Aid training, use of technology in the classroom, and best practices to work with special education students. This year's overall theme for professional development is trauma-informed practices.

This includes training in Adverse Childhood Experiences (or ACEs) with the understanding of the landmark ACE study and neuroscience research regarding how toxic stress and trauma impacts our students. Other sessions have included building resilience capacity

within the schools and district, Growth Mindset & Social Emotional Learning with upcoming training on Collaborative Problem Solving.

These types of professional development opportunities are helping our district create a trauma-informed organization that can support all kids in our community, with the intention of providing all staff with the knowledge, resources and tools to provide supports that ensures ALL students can succeed here in Brookings-Harbor School District. Thank you for your support of our ongoing professional development.