Welcome to the 2024-25 school year, the 150th anniversary year of CSDB! As I reflect on the end of the 2023-24 school year and we begin 2024-2025, I am reminded of the positive energy on campus as we closed out the school year.   The end of the year activities which included the 5K, 150th celebration, student awards, student performances, Deaf and Blind town halls, end of year employee recognition, and the CSDB Alumni Association 150th celebration, there was so much positive energy on campus. I hope everyone returns with the same amount of energy and enthusiasm as we continue our quest to provide programs and services of excellence in the State of Colorado.

 I want to thank everyone who attended the Town Halls in June. It was so exciting seeing so many of our community members come together. I have received applications for the Statewide Advisory Committees and will be announcing those in the beginning of August. I am eager to kick of the Statewide Advisory Committees, as well as host additional Town Halls next year.

 Our theme for this school year is “Bulldogs United Together.” As we move forward in the development of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan, it is critical that we become allies and champions for all the students and families across the State of Colorado.  I will continue to strive to ensure that CSDB provides the best programs and services for our students, families, and communities throughout the State of Colorado. To achieve this, it is important for us to have clearly defined goals. At the end of the year, I developed the goals for the 2024-25 school year and they are as follows:

1. Oversee the completion of the 2020-2025 Strategic Plan and lead the development of the new Strategic Plan.

1. Engage in the accreditation process through Conference of Educational Administrators of Schools and Programs for the Deaf (CEASD) and Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER) to evaluate our programs and services as we aim to meet high standards.

1. To be highly visible throughout the school community, with parents and alumni, and to unify the campus and school community by listening, learning, rebuilding trust and creating stability.

1. Address staff shortages by attracting and retaining high-quality individuals to work with our children,  ensuring staff feel respected, safe, and acknowledged.

1. Increase awareness of CSDB programs and services throughout the State of Colorado and increase enrollment.

 While many staff were off for the summer, the facilities team has been working hard all summer fixing and beautifying the campus. Contractors mobilized for summer construction projects including adding an elevator to the gymnasium, installing security cameras, reseeding many grassy areas, doing maintenance on the Argo roof and several parking lots, adding the new ADA playground, relocating the Children’s Village and more! Great work, team!

 The first day for new staff at CSDB will be Thursday, August 1, 2024, and returning staff meet August 5, for a week of professional development. I am looking forward to kicking off the school year with everyone!