



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Board of Education met on July 23, 2018. During the meeting, Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton shared information with the Board and the public about the following district programs and recognitions:



ELLevate is a summer program designed to elevate the language skills of elementary students who are English language learners. The program is being held during July for students from six of the district's elementary schools that have the highest number of ELL students. Students with the greatest language needs from the other elementary schools were invited to participate in an eight-week ELL summer program. Approximately 50 students enrolled, and they meet to learn with two certified teachers and three ELL aides.



Lenexa Hills Elementary School is nearing completion and will be ready to welcome students in August. It brings the number of elementary schools in our district to 34. Students will come from Sunflower and Broken Arrow elementary schools. The school held a casual open house recently to allow families the opportunity to see the building before it is completely finished.



Shelby Rebeck, our coordinator for Health Services, was named School Nurse Administrator of the Year by the Kansas School Nurse Organization. Her nomination letter, written by one of our nurses, describes Shelby as someone who exhibits everything you envision a nursing leader to be. Among her many accomplishments is her work to establish a partnership with Health Care Partnership Clinic, which led to a student health clinic in Merriam Park Elementary School.



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Jump Start to Learning is being held during July to provide additional support to kindergarteners who are identified in a screening process during Kindergarten Round-up as needing a boost to prepare for kindergarten, along with other families who are interested. When the program began in 2014, it served 46 students at two schools; this summer, the program is serving 370 students at 20 elementary schools.

The Board also took the following actions:

Administrative Reorganization

Dr. Mike Fulton, superintendent, reported to the Board of Education on an administrative reorganization. The reorganization put most cabinet members into one of three groups: Leadership and Learning, Organizational Support, and Human Resources. Each group will be led by an Associate Superintendent. The plan is cost neutral, and all team members currently on the cabinet will remain on the cabinet.

The change brings with it the appointment of Dr. Christy Ziegler as Assistant Superintendent of Personalized Learning/Interim Director of Special Education. The current Special Education Director (Jackie Chatman) will become Assistant Director, and retire from SMSD at the end of the 2018-19 school year. A nationwide search will be conducted for a new Special Education Director in late fall. We anticipate that even with the hiring of a new Director, Dr. Ziegler will remain over Special Education as part of her learning team responsibilities. This approach is consistent with what was publicly communicated to patrons in May. Also placed in the learning Group is Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, whose job title was modified to Assistant Superintendent of Early Childhood and Strategic Engagement.

Another important change is creating a Student Services department. Ed Streich will be Chief of Student Services with John McKinney and Richard Kramer reporting to him. The Student Services department, is under the supervision of Dr. Rick Atha, Associate Superintendent of Organizational Support. Dr. Atha will also work closely with both the human resources and learning groups

Approval of a Revised Board Policy BCAC: School Board Meetings

The Board approved the following revision to its policy on School Board Meetings:

All meetings of the board shall be either regular or special meetings. Regular meetings of the board shall be held at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Monday of each month, except as otherwise determined and announced. When scheduled, a board work session will be held prior to the school board meeting for board discussion and clarification of district issues.

Special meetings of the board may be called at any time by the president or upon the request of three or more members. Unless waived by the board, written notice of the time and place of any special meeting and the purpose for which it is called shall be given at least 2 days in advance of the meeting to board members, the news media and other persons requesting notice. No business other than that stated in the notice shall be transacted at a special meeting.

All meetings of the board shall be open to the public; except when a formal motion is made, seconded, and adopted, the board may recess any meeting to a specified time for a closed or executive session.



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Approval of Legal Firms

The Board of Education approved the use of firms for legal counsel. Approval is necessary in order to allow firms to address ongoing litigation; however, it does not require the use of any particular firm for new business. Additions to and deletions from the list can be made at any time with Board approval. The Board and administrative team will begin in the very near future to explore options for legal services including the viability of in-house counsel and conducting an RFP process.

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