



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting on Thursday, January 31, 2019. During the meeting, Superintendent Mike Fulton shared information with the board and the public about district news, programs, and recognitions:

A report was presented to the Shawnee Mission Board of Education regarding shortfalls in Title I funding in the amount of \$1.095 million. The district has seen a significant decline in the Title I funding it has received from the State of Kansas over the past few years. In previous years, the district has been able to use fund balances from previous years in order to maintain Title I services at schools for the past three years. However, those fund balances will be depleted by June 30, 2019.

The following steps will be taken in order to address the funding loss and build balances once again:

- Funding for social workers will be moved to the general fund in the amount of \$480,000
- The number of Title I elementary schools will decrease from 13 to 8, and certain instruction positions (reading specialist, math specialist, innovation specialist) will be moved to the general fund in the amount of \$208,000.
- Reduce administrative positions via attrition and reorganization in in the amount of \$407,000. Dr. Fulton will provide a report to the board on **Feb. 11** detailing the plan for attrition and reorganization. [Click here to view slides from the presentation.](#)



Hocker Grove Teacher Named Finalist in National Contest

Patti Winkler, Hocker Grove Middle School social studies teacher, was one of 20 finalists in a nationwide “Help Write Their Life Stories” contest. Winkler was nominated by a former student who shared that Winkler made history matter to her students through reading. The honor included a \$250 grant for books and reading materials.



Shawnee Mission Hosts Johnson County Spelling Bee This past weekend, Shawnee Mission had the honor of hosting the Johnson County Spelling Bee. The event brought together 75 of the top spellers from across the county. Eight students advanced to the championship round, including Ishya Bhavsar from Briarwood Elementary School and Theodore Ohly from Trailridge

Middle School in Shawnee Mission. We were pleased to host this academic competition in cooperation with our partners from Johnson County school districts.



Shawnee Mission West Honorable Mention Evan McNeley-Phelps, a junior at Shawnee Mission West High School received an honorable mention for his entry in the nationwide Student Television Challenge contest. Evan produced a minute-long public service announcement about the importance of ending plastic pollution. McNeley-Phelps's

broadcast teacher is Kelly Gill.



Battle of the Books Competition Readers from all Shawnee Mission middle schools recently gathered to compete in the annual Battle of the Books competition. These students were presented with trivia questions based on books they read from the 2018-19 William Allen White Children's Book Award Master List. A team of Hocker Grove students earned first place and a team of Indian Hills Middle School students

earned second place.

Strategic Plan Update In early February, the district will host a Strategic Planning Awareness kickoff for PTA, site council, building leadership team and steering committee members. The district has also begun the process of gathering information from members of the community through some initial surveys sent to students, parents, and staff members. More opportunities for providing feedback in the Strategic Planning process will be provided as the process continues. For more information about the Strategic Plan [click here](#).

Kenny Southwick Announces Retirement Dr. Kenny Southwick, deputy superintendent, announced he will retire from the Shawnee Mission School District at the conclusion of the 2018-19 school year. He will retire after more than 5 years of service in the Shawnee Mission School District, where he served as deputy and interim superintendent. He has dedicated more than 43 years of service to education, including 22 years in Belton, Missouri where he served as superintendent for 12 years.

"I want to begin by thanking Dr. Southwick for his work on behalf of the students, families, and community of the Shawnee Mission School District," Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton said. "The district has benefitted greatly from his work both as deputy superintendent and interim superintendent, and his efforts to ensure all students graduate success-ready. I want to express my deep appreciation to Dr. Southwick for his service to this community, and congratulate him as he announces his retirement."

Dr. Southwick's retirement will be effective on July 4, 2019.

"Shawnee Mission is a great school district and that comes from the perspective of more than 43 years of work in education," Southwick said. "The entire Shawnee Mission

community should be proud of their school district and seek to support it in any way possible. It was my intention to come here to make a difference and I hope I have done that.”

Community Diploma Program The Board of Education approved implementation of a Community Diploma Completion program. Joe Gilhaus, director of secondary education, and Paul Colwell, principal at Horizons High School, provided details to the Board about the program, which will be called SMSD Project Finish. The program is designed to help Shawnee Mission School District community members complete their high school diploma through a program that provides a flexible schedule, comprehensive platform, and rigorous curriculum. The program will be offered at Horizons High School through an on-line platform.

Construction Services for Shawnee Mission West The Board of Education approved construction services at Shawnee Mission West High School, which will provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) modifications and improvements and make necessary upgrades to the building. For more information about the action item approved by the board, [click here](#).

Jump Start Report Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, assistant superintendent of early childhood and strategic engagement, and Dr. Dan Gruman, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment provided a report to the board about Jump Start. Jump Start is a summer program that provides incoming kindergarten students with the skills to begin their school year with confidence. They shared information about the programs’ success, growth, and plans for the future. The reports will be available [on this page](#) on Feb. 1.

This publication, provided after each Shawnee Mission Board of Education meeting, provides a recap of some actions taken by the Shawnee Mission Board of Education and information about activities happening in the school district. An archive video of the meeting [can be found here](#). Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here](#).