



## BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 11, 2019. During the meeting, Superintendent Mike Fulton shared information with the Board and the public about district news, programs, and recognitions:

**Citizenship Recognition** Before the start of the regular Board meeting, the Shawnee Mission School District formally recognized honorees from across the district in the 2018-19 PTA Citizenship program. The students wrote essays and poems interpreting the theme “My Motivation.” This year, nearly 800 entries were submitted to the program. A list of the honorees recognized at the meeting will be posted on the Shawnee Mission website this week.

**Reorganization Information** Two district leaders announced their respective retirements after the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Ed Streich, chief of student services, and John Douglass, executive director of emergency services, announced their decision to retire, effective June 30, 2020. As system leaders concerned with the long-term success of the district, they decided to announce their decision now, in order to provide the Board and administration with maximum flexibility in planning for the future. This is especially important at a time when the district is working to address a \$1 million reduction in Title I funding, in addition to addressing this year’s budget, which includes planned deficit spending. Title I is a federally funded program that provides monetary support to schools with high numbers and percentages of families identified as having a low income. Additional information on both Title I and the budget deficit will be presented at the next Board meeting.

**Diversity and Inclusion Discussion** Dr. Fulton spoke to the Board about the need to proactively address a process for strengthening staff and district capacity related to diversity and inclusion. He spoke about efforts that are currently underway, which include:

- Research being completed on developing a sustainable comprehensive training model for all staff that will begin next year.
- The addition of an in-house counsel (attorney), in a way that won’t cost the district any additional money, who will as part of their job responsibilities provide training and support for diversity efforts.
- Through reorganization, add a coordinator to support staff training in diversity and inclusion, working under Dr. John McKinney, director of student and family services.

During public comment, several community members shared their thoughts related to diversity and inclusion in the district. Dr. Fulton noted that the district is taking important first steps in supporting all learners in their academic and social-emotional success.



**Women in Technology Honorees** Three students from Shawnee Mission high schools have been recognized with National Center for Women and Information Technology Kansas Affiliate Awards for Aspirations in Computing. Alice Lovell and Hannah Poe, students at Shawnee Mission South, were named honorable mention recipients and Lauren

Dowdell, a Shawnee Mission West student, was named an award-winner. Honorees are acknowledged for their outstanding aptitude and interest in technology and computing, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.



### **Coach Honored with Lifetime Sportswoman Award**

Bernadette Wagner, Shawnee Mission gymnastics coach, was honored at the 2019 Win for KC Women's Sports Award Celebration. Wagner began coaching in Shawnee Mission in 1973. She retired in 2004, but returned in 2006 to serve as assistant coach for her former student, Jennie Terflinger, the head coach of gymnastics for Shawnee Mission South and Shawnee Mission East High School. Wagner was presented with the UMB Lifetime Sportswoman award.



**SMSD Kindness Week** Recently, students and staff worked together to celebrate and focus on creating a culture of kindness during SMSD Kindness Week. While acts of kindness are carried out across the district every day, this week places extra focus on creating and practicing a culture of kindness that can continue throughout the year. Here at the Center for Academic

Achievement, we were able to see students from 27 Shawnee Mission schools conclude the week by putting together resources for people in need. They put together buckets and cold-weather clothing items that will be donated to extend kindness to people throughout our community.



**50 States 50 Books Presented to Pawnee** Fifth-graders in Abbey Kobylinski's class at Pawnee Elementary School were the recipients of 50 books, a gift of the 50 States 50 Books project. The non-profit organization works to send a box of culturally diverse books and stories to one school or organization in each state. The Pawnee fifth-graders are

planning on sharing their new collection of books with first-grade students, who they mentor every Friday.

**Shawnee Mission All-Star** At the Feb. 11 meeting, the Board of Education recognized the newest Shawnee Mission All-Stars. Chris Garrett, head custodian at Indian Hills Middle School, and Dr. Dustin Springer, instructional coach at Merriam Park, were recognized for their contributions to the Shawnee Mission School District. If you would like to suggest a nominee to become a Shawnee Mission All-Star, [click here to fill out a nomination form](#).

**Food Services Update** Nancy Coughenour, director of food services, provided a report on participation in the after-school snack/meal program and negative food services balances. The Board of Education approved a revision to [Board Policy EE: Food Service Management in October of 2018](#). The policy, in part, eliminated an alternate meal for students whose families are delinquent in student meal accounts. All students are served a regular lunch. The food service department continues to monitor the impact of this policy, which will be reviewed by the Board of Education no later than April 30, 2019. To view the presentation:

<http://www.boarddocs.com/ks/smsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=B8QJZM4FA081>

#### **Overview of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Program**

**Evaluation** Drew Lane, executive director of information and communication technology, provided the Board an update about the district ICT department, including an executive summary, context, goals, evaluation process, results, conclusions, and recommendations for the department. To view the presentation, visit this website: <http://www.boarddocs.com/ks/smsd/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=B8QJZM4FA081>

**Scholastic Journalism Week Proclamation** The Shawnee Mission Board of Education proclaimed that February 18 through February 24, 2019 is Scholastic Journalism week and congratulated journalists and their advisors for their continued work in journalism education. [Click here to read](#) the full proclamation.

**New Director of Special Education Named** The Board of Education approved the appointment of Sherry Dumolien to the role of Director of Special Education in the 2019-20 school year. Dumolien has worked in special education for the past 17 years, including several years in the Shawnee Mission School District. She begins her work as director on July 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](#).