



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting on Monday, Feb. 25, 2019. During the meeting, Superintendent Mike Fulton shared information with the Board and the public about district news, programs, and recognitions:

Snow Day Information There have been several questions recently about whether or not the Shawnee Mission School District will need to adjust the school calendar for students due to the number of snow days the district has had this school year. SMSD built four snow make-up days into the calendar, and per the audit guide for the Kansas State Department of Education, “The numbers of hours that may be forgiven are equal to the number of hours designated to be snow make-up days.” In other words, for every snow day that the district schedules, the state will forgive an equal number of days. Since the district built in four snow days, up to eight snow days can be used without having to adjust the calendar. Thus far, seven days have been used due to inclement weather; therefore, one additional day is available to use without having to add days of school to the calendar. As of Feb. 25, there is still potential that a change in the calendar could still be needed, especially if there are any more inclement weather days. If a change is made, the announcement would be shared broadly in our district and with school communities.

Update on Title I The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD), responding to a decrease in Title I* funding, will be reducing the number of Title I elementary schools from 13 to eight. This reduction will result in a savings of \$407,000. (Any impacted staff at those schools will have other positions in the district, and no staff cuts are anticipated).

Even with that change, the district needs to cover the costs of both social workers and instructional coaches at the schools that will no longer be Title I schools, using the general operating fund. The following cost savings have been identified, allowing the district to make the changes in a cost-neutral way:

Elimination, through retirement, of an Associate Superintendent position.

Reduction in administrative costs for Early Childhood through the reorganization of administrative positions.

Additional savings through reallocation, reorganization and attrition.

Combined, the changes have allowed the district to meet the target of saving \$680,000. In addition, the district is able to pay for the addition of a Coordinator of Diversity position through these savings.

In the 2020-2021 school year, the district will experience additional administrative cost savings with the reduction of two current cabinet level positions through retirement, which will be effective at the end of next school year. Finally, the district is hiring in-house legal counsel, which will provide internal efficiencies and be cost neutral to the operating budget.

* 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.



Strategic Planning Update Superintendent Mike Fulton provided an update on the district's strategic planning process. The [steering committee](#) recently met for two and a half days to determine a draft mission statement, beliefs, strategies, objectives, and parameters for the district strategic planning process. [Click here to view the draft](#) document developed by the Steering Committee. This draft

framework will be used as a guide as the strategic planning process continues, but will remain unofficial until it is brought to the Board of Education for approval in June of 2019. The next step in the process will be the creation and work of action teams. These teams will work on the identified strategies to establish action plans as well as costs associated with the plans. [Click here for more information](#) on Strategic Planning.



Academic Decathlon Champions Shawnee Mission South students earned the state championship title at the state Academic Decathlon competition. This marks the twenty-first Academic Decathlon state championship for Shawnee Mission South in the last 23 years. The team is now invited to advance to national competition in Minnesota in April.



Culinary Arts Honors A team of five students in the Shawnee Mission School District's Culinary Arts and Hospitality Signature Program earned second-place honors at the Wylie Hospitality and Culinary Academy (WHCA) High School Culinary Cup Challenge. They received a silver medal as one of 14 participating teams and all Shawnee Mission competitors received a \$500 scholarship to

Johnson County Community College (JCCC).



National Merit Finalists The National Merit Program announced that 12 Shawnee Mission School District students are National Merit Finalists. These students took the 2017 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), which serves as an initial screen for 1.6 million program entrants each year. The students have an opportunity to advance in the competition for National Merit Scholarship awards.

Shawnee Mission All-Star At the Feb. 25 meeting, the Board of Education recognized the newest Shawnee Mission All-Stars. Laura Newcomb, Pre-kindergarten teacher at Roesland Elementary School, and Brenda Davis, facilities coordinator for the district, were recognized for their outstanding 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](#).

Communication Department Program Evaluation David Smith, Chief Communication Officer, provided the board an update of the district Communication Department. The department program evaluation is available [on this page](#).

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](#).