



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 22, 2019. During the meeting, Superintendent Mike Fulton shared information with the Board and the public about district news, programs, and recognitions:

Strategic Plan Update Dr. Fulton shared that the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation will provide an \$80,000 grant to the Shawnee Mission School District for the purpose of supporting the [district's strategic plan objectives](#). The district will be partnering with the foundation and area schools from across the Kansas City metropolitan area to work on issues, particularly those related to college and career readiness.

Digital Learning Task Force and Technology Discussion Dr. Fulton thanked the Digital Learning Task Force members for their participation on the Task Force, and spoke about the completion of their work. The full Digital Learning Task Force report is available [here](#).

Five members of the community spoke to the Board of Education during public comment about the work of the task force, sharing concerns about the process, about the recommendations contained in the final report, and expressed concern that their specific recommendations were not included.

Dr. Fulton thanked them for their input, noting that the district would take the task force recommendation into consideration as it works to enhance the use of technology as a tool to support achieving the three objectives of the Strategic Plan, while working to avoid negative impacts associated with online access and excessive screen time. Dr. Fulton stated this is an important part of our continuous improvement process and that the report is a helpful step forward in this work.



NSPA Awards The Shawnee Mission School District Communication Department was recently recognized by the National School Public Relations Association (NSPA). They are among a select group of winners from across the country, recognized for being leaders in school

communication. The department received Golden Achievement recognition for “The Journey Begins,” a Foundation Fall Breakfast video, the new www.smsd.org website, communication efforts to welcome a new superintendent, and communications designed to help strengthen sustainability in the district. The team also earned an honorable mention for excellence in writing for an article in Inside magazine about personalized learning.

50th Anniversary As we celebrate 50 years as a unified school district, we want to share some history and unique facts about our district at our board meetings. Here is a first note about our history:

In January 1969, the Kansas Legislature passed Senate Bill Number 58 “providing for the establishment of one unified school district to include all of the territory of any rural high school district in which there are located at least two cities of the first class.”

As a result of Bill #58, effective July 1, 1969, the 12 elementary school districts and the Shawnee Mission High School District were unified into the present Shawnee Mission School District #512. As USD 512, we are the final unified school district in Kansas.

School Buildings/Offices Reopen This Week The excitement for the 2019-2020 school year is building. This week, school offices will reopen across the district. We are thrilled to welcome back administrative assistants. Principals also return to work this week. Later this week, administrators will be attending training sessions and meetings to get ready to welcome teachers and students back to school buildings. Very soon we will welcome new teachers and returning teachers. We are so glad to get ready for the start of an excellent school year.

Board Policy JHCA: The Board held a continuation of the first reading of the revised board policy JHCA: Student Publications. Superintendent Fulton mentioned that board members had heard and received multiple

public comments regarding the initial first reading of the proposed policy change and that community input, particularly input from Shawnee Mission School District student journalists, was helpful. The [updated policy can be read here](#). Board of Education members plan to hold a second reading, with any final revisions, at the August 12 Board of Education meeting.

Revised Calendars The Board of Education approved calendar revisions for the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years. The primary changes were made to address a shortage in hours for high school seniors and a scheduling conflict.

[Click here to review the updated calendar for 2019-2020](#)

[Click here to review the updated calendar for 2020-2021](#)

The Shawnee Mission School District is committed to providing robust opportunities that challenge learners to achieve their full potential. This is exemplified in work taking place across the district this month. Here are a few examples of how the district is supporting the academic success of students this summer:



Jump Start to Learning This month, members of the class of 2032, incoming Kindergartners, are participating in Jump Start to Learning. This three-week summer program allows them to practice literacy, numeracy, and the skills of being a student, before the first day of school. Since the start of the program in 2014, hundreds of Shawnee Mission students have gained early preparation for Kindergarten. This program is provided with funding from Title I (a federal program which targets funding to educationally disadvantaged or at-risk students) and generous grant funding from the Hall Family Foundation and the [Shawnee Mission Education Foundation](#).



ELLevate This month, we also have 140 students who are English Language Learners strengthening their skills in the ELLevate summer program. This program provides elementary students an opportunity to practice language, reading, writing, and math skills with Shawnee Mission educators. Students also have had several opportunities to attend field trips and hear from guest speakers who have visited their

classroom. This program is provided with generous support from the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation.



Acceleration Program The Isabel Helmuth Summer Acceleration Program also has been providing an opportunity for elementary students to practice their math and reading skills. This year, the program is taking place at ApacheIS and Crestview elementary schools. A goal of the program is to provide fun and hands-on learning opportunities. At ApacheIS, for example, fifth- and sixth-graders were asked if they could create a scale model of the Kansas City Streetcar route and program a robot to simulate the stops. They shared the results of their work at a recent learning showcase last week. The program is funded in full by the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation through the generosity of the family of the late Isabel Helmuth, a lifelong educator who believed in the power of education for young learners.

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](#).