



BOARD MEETING RECAP



Celebrating 50 Years - This week's SMSD Story Corps video features Dr. Robert Simari, a Shawnee Mission West graduate, and Executive Vice Chancellor for the University of Kansas Medical Center. [Click here to view the SMSD Story Corps stories.](#)



Hocker Grove Middle School Students Participate in Career Day
To support the district's college and career readiness strategic plan objective, business partners led mini workshops for students at Hocker Grove Middle School. Students had the opportunity to see and learn first-hand about a variety of professions including public service, software engineering, and physician assistants.



Mill Creek Elementary Hosted a Community Connection Fair
Kindergartners and first graders attended sessions with the Kansas City Zoo and a local artist. Second through sixth grade students were encouraged to review the list of over 50 presenters with their parents, in preparation to attend three career sessions of their choice, which included a meteorologist, veterinarian, and wildlife biologist.



Families are invited to participate in health insurance Open Enrollment through December 15. The Kansas Assistance Network helps families complete health insurance and social services applications, and provides education about health insurance and how to obtain health care. They help families apply for Marketplace insurance and Medicaid, as well as connect with services in the community. [Click here](#) for more information..



Brookwood Elementary Team is a Top 20 Battle of the Brains Finalist - The team *Good Vibrations* exhibit will show the impact that sound and music have on our daily lives. The team of fifth graders are from Brookwood, Brookridge, Diemer, Oak Park-Carpenter, Rosehill, and Trailwood. Their coach is Polly Krapes, Brookwood's Enhanced Learning Educator.



Corinth Elementary, a National Blue Ribbon School - Congratulations to the Corinth School community for being named a National Blue Ribbon School. The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program is a U.S. Department of Education award program that recognizes exemplary public and non-public schools on a yearly basis. Corinth is one of six schools honored in Kansas.



Laura Moore, Prairie Elementary Sixth Grade Teacher is being recognized with the regional Teaching Environmental Stewardship Award by the Kansas City Environmental Education Network. This award is given each year to a teacher who provides exceptional environmental education to their students.



Christine Martinez, Special Education Case Manager at Nieman Elementary School, has been nominated as a 2019-2020 LifeChanger of the Year. This nomination celebrates those who are making a significant difference in the lives of students by exemplifying excellence, positive influence, and leadership.



Annette Gonzalez, Athletic Director at SM North, was recognized as a Certified Athletic Administrator by the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. To earn this distinction, Annette has demonstrated the highest level of knowledge and expertise in the field of interscholastic athletic administration. She is one of an elite group of interscholastic athletic administrators nationwide to attain this level of professionalism.



Fall Interview Night - The Human Resources Department along with school and district administrators welcomed 184 candidates to our annual fall interview

night. This is the highest number of candidates in the five-year history of the event. The district is excited about the turn-out and looks forward to welcoming successful candidates for the 2020-2021 school year.



Girls Living STEM Award - Ashly Eddy, Shawnee Mission East senior, is one of four students from the Kansas City metro who recently received national recognition for her passion for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), winning the Girls Living STEM Award from the National STEM Learning Ecosystem.

Eddy will be recognized by the Mid-America Regional Council during the Annual Workforce and Education Summit on December 4, at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center.



Information Central - A new addition to our website, was launched last week. This is a place where our patrons can find breaking news, up-to-date information about strategic planning and negotiations, and answers to questions about current hot topics. This new site is a part of our on-going commitment to accurate and timely information about the work of the district. [Click here](#) to visit the website.

Monday, Nov. 25, the Board of Education voted to increase its contribution to health insurance premiums for all staff by \$45 per month. The National Education Association – Shawnee Mission (NEA-SM), along with representatives for school psychologists and Parents as Teachers, have accepted that offer.

This agreement matches the Board’s plan to provide that same increase for classified staff and administrators, in order to help offset increased health insurance premiums, which go into effect on January 1, 2020.



Kansas Teacher of the Year - Colleagues, family, district administrators and Board of Education members travelled to Wichita this past weekend to celebrate Shawnee Mission's two nominees, North High School teacher Natalie Johnson-Berry, and Corinth Elementary School teacher Melissa Molteni, who was one of eight finalists for Kansas Teacher of the Year! Melissa and Natalie represent the best of who we are as a district, and we are proud of all they do on behalf of our students.



Shawnee Mission All-Stars were recognized at the November 25 Board of Education Meeting. Andy Gibbs was this month's honoree. [Click here](#) to see a video about Gibbs.

Finance and Facilities Committee

Brad Stratton announced the application process to serve on this committee will be live on the website in the near future.

Legislative Platform

Stuart Little, lobbyist, provided a Legislative update. Medical marijuana, Medicaid expansion and Tobacco 21 are some of the topics that were covered. You may view his update [here](#).

David A. Smith, legislative liaison, shared the legislative platform for the school district. You may view it [here](#).

Public Comments

A number of community members, students, and educators spoke to the Board of Education about the issues of reducing class sizes, reducing the number of classes taught by secondary teachers and increasing compensation for teachers.