



## BOARD MEETING RECAP

Students from Pawnee Elementary who are members of their school's student government opened the board meeting and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Four board members were sworn into office for the first meeting of January 2020, Jamie Borgman (new), Sara Goodburn, Jessica Hembree (new), and Brad Stratton. Heather Ousely was unanimously voted to serve as board president and Mary Sinclair was unanimously voted to serve as board vice president.

The Superintendent's Report included the following information:



On Wednesday, January 22, the Shawnee Mission School District will be celebrating 50 Years as a unified school district with our Friends & Food event from 5- 8 p.m. at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA). There will be food created by alumni chefs for each of the different decades like the TV Dinner station featuring lobster mac and cheese, Swedish meatballs and their take on green bean casserole. There will be student performances throughout the night, and everyone is invited to join us for this milestone event. You may purchase tickets [here](#).



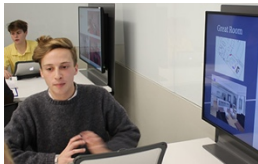
Tonight, it was an honor to recognize our PTA Reflection Award winners – their artwork, literature, and photography is on display in the lobby at the CAA. The Shawnee Mission Area Council (SMAC PTA) hosted this annual Reflections Art Contest. The contest recognizes and honors students from across the district for their imagination, creativity, and interpretation of this year's theme, "Look Within." Congratulations to all the honorees. You may see a list of the award winners [here](#).



Blake Fingalsen, kindergarten teacher at Benninghoven, was named an elementary Horizon Award winner by the State of Kansas. The Kansas Horizon Award program identifies and recognizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state and is specifically for exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. Blake is the Region Four elementary award winner. See the video [here](#).



Live student broadcasts of Shawnee Mission Basketball games will begin this Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup>. The communications videographers work with students to produce all aspects of a live broadcast of the girls and boys varsity games. Basketball games will be broadcast on January 17, February 14 and 28.



Students in Advanced Concepts in our Engineering Signature Program showcased their design projects in a trade show format at the conclusion of the fall semester. This culminating activity featured student projects produced using design software which they have become proficient in and received certification. Examples of some of the projects included a functioning prosthetic finger designed in Fusion 360, a renovation of a house using REVIT, and a standard vise for everyday use designed using Inventor.



A team of four Shawnee Mission seniors competed in a Virtual Reality (VR) Hackathon before winter break. VRoKCs sponsors the three-day event each semester for high school students. Last semester's problem was focused on improving athletes' hand-eye coordination. Our team placed third. Eleven teams competed including, one remotely from Kentucky and another one from Germany, and the district team plans to compete again this semester.



Becky Tate was recognized as the Yearbook Advisor of the Year by the Journalism Education Association. This national award was presented by last year's winner, from Pleasant Grove High School in Texarkana, Texas. Tate, a SM North graduate, has been teaching at SM North for 30 years. Her SM high school colleagues attended the announcement.



The school district hosted an SMSD Aquatic Center Dedication Ceremony with partners Johnson County Park & Recreation District and the City of Lenexa in December. Currently our high school Boys Swim and Dive season is underway at the Aquatic Center.



Shawnee Mission All-Stars were recognized at the January 13 Board of Education Meeting. Doug Von Mosch, Tech & Field Support Supervisor in the Information and Communication Technologies department was November's honoree. [Click here](#) to see a video about Von Mosch.

Mallory Mansour, first grade teacher at Broken Arrow Elementary School, was December's honoree. [Click here](#) to see a video about Mansour.

Amy Higginbotham, Paraprofessional for SM South who works with students in the Broadmoor Bistro was also an honored All-Star for December. [Click here](#) to see a video about Higginbotham.

### **Public Comments**

Several 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.

### **Advanced Placement & International Baccalaureate**

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, Assistant Superintendent for Leadership and Learning, and Dr. Dan Grumman, Director of Assessment and Research, presented an overview of the district's advanced placement and International Baccalaureate programs. You may view the presentation [here](#).