



BOARD MEETING RECAP



Roesland Pledge Roesland Elementary students started the Board of Education meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance and sharing their Roesland school pledge. Michelle Pittman, instructional coach, introduced the students who were being recognized for having made outstanding gains toward their personal learning goals in the areas of speech and language, communication, academics, and behavior.



Site Council Meetings No two schools in the Shawnee Mission School district are alike, but they are all working toward the same objective. That objective is that each student has a personalized learning plan that will prepare them for college and careers, with the interpersonal skills they need for life success. Each unique school community is in the process of creating and customizing its own strategies to achieve this shared objective. On February 19 the district welcomed parents, staff, principals, and students to a districtwide meeting of school Site Councils to engage in the work of customizing school plans. Attendees reviewed data, monitored progress on school goals, reviewed school improvement plans, and provided recommendations. The input from the site council members is invaluable. Communities that grow together to ensure the success of every learner are what make excellent public schools.



KMEA Music Educator Steve Adams, band teacher at SM South, is the Kansas Music Educator of the Year, as named by the Kansas Music Educators Association. Adams, who has served as band director at Shawnee Mission South for 34 years, is recognized for mentoring teachers and students and fostering a love of music. He will be formally recognized this week by colleagues from across the state at the KMEA In-Service Workshop in Wichita.



Perfect ACT Score Jesse DeBok, a junior at Shawnee Mission Northwest, earned a perfect score on the ACT exam. DeBok is exploring higher education opportunities and is interested in possibly pursuing a future in engineering, physics, or computer science. Less than one-tenth of one

percent of all ACT test-takers earn a perfect composite score on the ACT exam. We congratulate Jesse on this accomplishment!



Heart of the Arts Award The Shawnee Mission North High School Marching Band and director Chad Reed have been presented with a Kansas State High School Activities Association Heart of the Arts Award. They are being recognized for the various ways they give back to the community

through their musical talents. They perform at local nursing homes and elementary schools and mentor younger band students. They are also recognized for an act of kindness they performed for a neighbor. The marching band, at their neighbor's request, traveled to her house and performed "Happy Birthday" as she turned 85-years-old last fall.



Pre-K Enrollment Enrollment for Pre-Kindergarten students began in our district last week. We are proud to offer a Pre-K program for children who are 4-years-old on or before August 31, 2020 and are living in the district. Pre-K classes are being offered at various schools

across the district in the 2020-2021 school year, and enrollment is being accepted on a walk-in basis. [Click here for more information about Pre-K and the enrollment process.](#)



Live Basketball Shawnee Mission students are presenting live broadcasts of Shawnee Mission high school basketball games. This Friday, February 28, 2020, they will present games between Shawnee Mission North and Shawnee Mission East. The girls game begins at approximately 5:30 p.m. and the boys game begins at approximately 7:00 p.m. Links to the broadcasts will be shared on the [district website](#) and on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).



Public Schools Week This week, we join schools and supporters across the country in commemorating National Public Schools Week. As the Shawnee Mission School District, we represent the third largest school district in Kansas with more than 27,000 students and 3,400 staff members. America's public schools educate nine out of 10 students in the United States – more than 50 million children – to prepare them for future endeavors. Public Education is one of the most important and beneficial resources we can provide for our children, our community, and our future. We are proud to join this celebration of our students and the many school professionals who work to help our students achieve their greatest potential.

All Star Robert Lee, custodian at Trailwood Elementary School, was recognized as a Shawnee Mission All Star. [Click here to see a video about Lee.](#)

Staffing Incentive Programs Doug Sumner, associate superintendent of human resources, Lachelle Sigg, director of human resources, Michael Schumacher, director of secondary human resources, and Sherry Dumolien, director of special education, shared information about the implementation of the district's grow your own Special Education recruiting initiative. [Click here to learn more about the initiative](#) designed to enrich the special education applicant pool.

Darren Dennis, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, and Kim Barney, assistant director of curriculum and instruction, shared information about an initiative that would provide teachers with tuition to complete an endorsement in English for Speakers of Other Languages. [Click here for more information about the program.](#)

Food Service Update Nancy Coughenour, director of food services, provided an update on the food service program and on unpaid lunch balances. [Click here for a link to the presentation.](#) A link is available on the [food service website](#) for those interested in donating to fund school meals for Shawnee Mission students.

Approval of Administrative Contracts The Board of Education approved contract extensions for administrators. This action item did not include a recommendation for administrative salaries. That recommendation is expected to be included in the March 23 Board of Education agenda. Superintendent Mike Fulton said the recommendation will include a 1 percent salary increase for all district administrators, except cabinet members, including Superintendent Fulton, who will be held at last year's salary rate.

Delay of Technology Purchase Superintendent Fulton announced that the district is delaying a purchase to refresh iPad technology in the district for one year. Originally, the item had been on the Feb. 24 Board of Education agenda, but was removed prior to the meeting. The proposed refresh provided iPads for elementary students and Pre-K through 12th grade teachers. Any delay has to be for a year because even a month's delay means the learning devices will not be available for students and teachers at the start of next school year.

Superintendent Fulton shared a statement regarding the decision to delay the purchase:

“Elementary students and K-12 teachers will continue to use iPads next year. The iPad is a resource that serves important purposes, including but not limited to:

- supporting teachers in instruction
- supporting students in mastering priority standards that lead to college/career readiness

- providing timely assessment feedback that supports learning and goal-setting,
- assisting portfolio development, and
- aiding in communication.

We will take time next year to collect data and build understanding of our instructional practices with digital devices. No tool, digital or otherwise, is the sole cause of success or failure in student learning. How a teacher and teams of teachers use learning tools to support individual learners is the key to improved student learning outcomes. The Board will receive an update next year in the form of a program evaluation prior to receiving a recommendation from me for refreshing iPad devices.

Last year, the district formed a Digital Learning Task Force that conducted a study. That study was made public and [can be found on our website](#). Practices addressed in that study and implemented this year include:

District Framework and Expectation Development

- Developed Big 3 Framework (balance, purpose, communication) to communicate and educate staff and community about the focus and purpose of technology use. Provided administrators with guidelines and recommendations

- **App Committee:**

- Aligned parent permission forms with Children’s Online Privacy Protection (COPPA) to ensure safe and ethical use of student accounts
- Re-examined current apps and usage

2. Digital Citizenship

- Recommendation for Digital Citizenship Curriculum
- Promoted “Digital Citizenship Week” with teachers to actively integrate Digital Citizenship Lessons into their day-to-day curriculum

3. Parent Resources

- Contracted METC Speaker for parent presentation
- [Parent resources were added to the district website](#) (They can be found by clicking on the “Learn More” tab).
- [App Review Process and Content/App Button was added to the District Website](#)

4. Professional Development

- Created a staff “hub” of resources and Professional Development options. (Tech Tool Resource, videos, quick reference guides)
- On-site professional development
- “[Teach with Tech](#)” Twitter account was developed for professional development and promoting SMSD expectations with technology in school
- Promoted National Coding Week and advertised professional development and resources for teachers to integrate coding into their lessons
- Promoted Digital Learning Week and advertised using the Staff Website resources for Classroom Technology Tools that support the Big 3
- Arranged for 40 staff members to attend the Kansas City Public Television Technology Conference

A sample of additional goals for next year:

1. Digital Learning Curriculum available for teachers
2. Ensure students receive instruction on digital citizenship (integrate and streamline curriculum in content areas)
3. Tech Tips in Ten Minutes (videos for how to use the technology)
4. Continue “Tech Thursday” Professional Development Opportunities
5. Increase digital learning coach presence in buildings for administration and staff
6. Increase online professional development resources for teachers

The changes made this year are part of a continuous improvement process designed to help every child achieve our three objectives. As evidence of our ongoing commitment to continuous improvement, the curriculum and instruction department was approached in mid-January with a request from administrative representatives from the secondary schools that the district consider blocking streaming media sites such as Netflix on district devices. They indicated growing frustration among the staff and parents about the amount of time students were spending watching streaming media. As a result of that review the following changes will take place next year.

- Beginning in August 2020, the district will block the category of streaming media on all student devices on Mondays through Fridays

during school hours, roughly 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This would not affect teacher devices.

- The district will work with teachers to develop a list of approved sites for audio and video-streaming. These streaming sites, to include approved academic sites, would be vetted and allowed during school hours.

At the end of the day, all our learning tools are intended to support high quality instruction that leads to every student developing a personal learning plan that prepares them to be college and career ready and having the interpersonal skills they need for life success. The funds allocated for iPads directly support elementary students and K-12 teachers in learning and it is important we continue to commit these resources accordingly.”

**Transfer Window
Opens at
8 a.m. on
March 1, 2020**



Transfer Application Reminder

The Shawnee Mission School District will accept transfer applications beginning at 8 a.m. March 1, 2020, through 5 p.m.

April 30, 2020. [Click here](#)

[for](#) Transfer Procedure information. Links for electronically

submitting applications will become

available at 8 a.m. on March 1, 2020 on the Transfer Procedure information 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](#).