



BOARD MEETING RECAP

We are halfway through this final quarter of the year, one that looks incredibly different than any of us could have imagined. Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton took a moment to talk about where we are, several weeks into Continuous Learning, stating that our staff has done a remarkable job in adapting to this new reality. The district has been gathering feedback through Thoughtexchange from students, parents, and staff. Through this feedback, Dr. Fulton noted, the district already knows that responders have placed a high value on having regular interactions with one another.

Dr. Fulton said he encourages all in our community to check in on and take care of one another right now, and to continue to have patience. The pandemic has created a seismic event we are going through as a community, nation, and world. “Everyone deserves a measure of grace as we work to get better,” Fulton said.



Continuous Learning Update Superintendent Mike Fulton presented an [update on Continuous Learning](#) and the opportunity it provides to support district learning objectives, focus on priority standards, and to base learning on student needs, where students self-guide based on feedback. The

update also included a presentation by Dr. John McKinney, director of student and family services, who shared information about the use of the Panorama Education Platform to address social-emotional learning (SEL) and goals related to SEL in the 2020-21 school year. Dr. Tyrone Bates, coordinator of diversity, equity, and inclusion, provided details about the progress of Corwin Deep Equity training for staff professional development.



US News and World Report Rankings All comprehensive Shawnee Mission High Schools have been included on this year's list of Best High Schools published by U.S. News & World Report. Shawnee Mission East, Shawnee Mission North, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission South, and Shawnee Mission West are all

ranked among the top schools in Kansas and the nation. Shawnee Mission East, Shawnee Mission South, and Shawnee Mission Northwest were ranked among the top 25 in Kansas, with Shawnee Mission East named as the highest ranked non-selective school in the state. "We continue our work to build upon this success to create an even better future for each of our students," Fulton said.



Graduation Details Certainly, one of the biggest and most important questions to arise in light of school closure is how the Shawnee Mission School District will recognize the Class of 2020. These deserving students received letters last week from their principals, outlining graduation plans created in light of stay-at-

home orders. Principals gathered feedback from students, parents, and staff leadership groups regarding graduation. Using feedback from the community and guidance from the Governor's office, SMSD has developed two plans for graduation. It is very important to note that any final decision about gatherings large enough to schedule in-person graduations will be made based on guidance from federal, state, and local authorities. In-person graduations are tentatively scheduled for July. Dates are posted on the [district website](#). Virtual ceremonies are also being created to honor graduates.



PERFECT
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Perfect ACT Score Emmett Liljegen, a junior at Shawnee Mission East High School, earned a perfect composite score on the ACT exam. Liljegen is engaged in orchestra, theater, SHARE, and teaches sign language in American Sign Language Club. After high school, Liljegen would like to study biochemistry or neuroscience and

then attend medical school. Less than one-tenth of one percent of all test takers earn a perfect composite score on the ACT exam. Congratulations to Emmett!



KTOY Nominees Shawnee Mission's Kansas Teacher of the Year nominees are Crystal Brower, Kindergarten teacher at Shawanoe Elementary School, and Natalie Johnson-Berry, English Language Arts teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School. Students, teachers, parents, and community members first nominated

teachers for consideration. Each school in the district was given the opportunity to nominate a candidate to apply for consideration. A committee of Shawnee Mission educators selected the district nominees. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) asks each school district in the state to nominate one elementary and one secondary classroom teacher for the Kansas Teacher of the Year Program.

ENROLL IN KINDERGARTEN



Virtual Kindergarten Enrollment/Pre-K Enrollment Instead of meeting in person, parents of 2020-2021 Kindergarten-eligible students (Age 5 on or before August 31, 2020) are asked to complete an [initial Kindergarten Enrollment Form](#). This information will establish a student count and assist with preparations for the

upcoming school year. [Enrollment is also taking place on-line for Pre-Kindergarten](#), which is for students who are age 4 on or before Aug. 31.

We encourage our community to share this information with anyone who has children at these age levels. We look forward to welcoming these students to the SMSD.



R&D Forum May 2020 is the 58th year of the [Research and Development \(R&D\) Forum](#). To honor the innovative spirit that first fueled the R&D Forum, and keeping in mind the new continuous-learning-from-home model, the district is launching a virtual R&D Forum. As in past years, students and families are invited to engage in activities that support Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (**STEAM**) activities.

This year, the district is calling on the SMSD community to share and showcase any STEAM related activities students are creating at home by posting on Twitter under the hashtag #SMSDRandD. Sincere appreciation goes to the Regnier Family for 58 years of generous support for the Shawnee Mission School District R&D Forum.



School Lunch Hero Day May 1 is School Lunch Hero Day. When school is open, food service workers serve more than 2.9 million meals during the school year. They have played a tremendous role in serving SMSD children while buildings are closed, through the [Pickup and Go Meal program](#).

Through last week, they have served 91,628 meals. “We are in such an incredible time for the nation and I am proud of our food service employees who are willing to step up and prepare these meals for families,” Nancy Coughenour, director of food services noted. “It truly shows the wonderful giving hearts of food service employees who come to work each day with a smile and a loving heart for all children.”

Public Comment For the April 27 Board meeting, Board members suspended Board Policy BCBI: Public Participation. The district has been unable to find a mechanism to allow public comment with the software currently being used for virtual meetings during the COVID-19 school building shutdown. Staff will continue to work to come up with a solution, and Board members expressed their commitment to implementing a solution that would allow public comment at Board meetings to resume.

Community members are welcome to continue communications with the Board and district administration through email.

Board Policy Readings The Board of Education approved the following revised policy: [JA: Goals and Objectives, which relates to student policies.](#)

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](#).