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will prepare them for college and careers, with the interpersonal skills they need for life success. The meeting agenda included several components that related directly back to the Strategic Plan including:

**Strategic Plan Update**– Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton provided an update on the district’s Strategic Plan. He shared a reminder that as Continuous Learning takes place, the district continues to work toward the objective that each student will have a personalized learning plan that will

- **A Budget Workshop**, presented by Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, who provided a review of self-supported funds, flow-through funds, bond debt funds, and capital outlay funds. [Click here to view the presentation](#). Community members with further questions about the budget are encouraged to email [askthedistrict@smsd.org](mailto:askthedistrict@smsd.org).
- **Approval of Xello Subscription Renewal** [Xello](#) is the district’s primary platform for individual plans of study. The platform takes middle and high school students through assessments which help them understand their unique skills, interests, and strengths and helps them explore and work toward college and career options.
- **[Renewal of Project Lead the Way \(PLTW\) participation](#)** This Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curriculum is used in all district grade levels and supports strategy 1:2 of the Strategic Plan (relevant learning experiences). Enrollment in PLTW is expected to increase by 13 percent next school year in the five comprehensive high schools.

**Public Comment** Board members suspended Board Policy BCBI: Public Participation for the May 11 meeting. Board President Heather Ousley shared a plan for Public Comment which would begin at the May 26 Board Meeting. During that time, those wanting to participate in public comment will be able to do so through a virtual station set up at the Center for Academic Achievement. Those wanting to participate at a virtual meeting will need to provide notice to the [Terry Wintering](#), clerk of the board, no later than 12 p.m. on the day of the meeting so staff can prepare for the number of individuals that will be participating.



**Teacher Appreciation** Our community recently celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week. Dr. Fulton shared that it was wonderful to see all of the works of art, pictures, social media posts, and expressions of thanks our community shared for Shawnee Mission educators and acknowledged the classroom

experience looks very different these days.

“I especially want to thank those who have stepped out of their comfort zones, and found new and creative ways to ensure learning continues,” Fulton noted. “This year, of course, has presented tremendous challenges, but we have shown our greatest strength in how we have persevered to do what is best for students.”

Fulton acknowledged two groups of educators in particular. One is our Kansas Teacher of the Year nominees. Each school had the opportunity this year to nominate a teacher for this program. While the district could not hold a ceremony for our KTOY nominees, it was important to acknowledge their outstanding work. [View a list of the honorees here.](#)

The district is also are deeply grateful for all retirees and service pin recipients. While it was not possible to honor retirees in person this year, the district wishes them a happy and healthy future as they begin a new chapter. “We can’t begin to calculate the thousands of students whose lives have been changed for the better because of our retirees,” Fulton added. “We and the entire Shawnee Mission community offer them our thanks and appreciation.” [View a list of the honorees here.](#)



**School Nurse Day** Dr. Fulton also took a moment to honor our school nurses, as School Nurse Day was held on May 6. Shawnee Mission School Nurses do so much throughout the school year, and this year they have gone above and beyond to support students in these extraordinary circumstances. They have helped to

answer thousands of calls to the county COVID-19 hotline, they have

helped serve meals at Pickup and Go sites, and they have continued to help families meet health needs while Continuous Learning has been underway. The Shawnee Mission community thanks school nurses for all they are doing for students and families.



**R&D Forum Success** While the event looked different than previous years, the 58th annual Research and Development Forum was a digital success. This annual celebration of science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (or STEAM) learning was held online. Students across our community shared STEAM projects

on Twitter using #SMSDRandD. There were numerous science projects, Rube Goldberg machines, works of art, and musical performances shared. Thanks to all students, families, and educators who dedicated their time and participated. The Shawnee Mission School District appreciates the Regnier family for their ongoing support of the R&D Forum.

**Recent Science Champions** Several Shawnee Mission students have received distinguished recognition for their scientific work. Here are a few highlights:



Jonas Rowland, a senior Biotechnology and Shawnee Mission Northwest High School student, earned a Grand Award at the Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair. He presented his cancer research and will advance to participate in the Intel International Science and Engineering

Fair. Shawnee Mission had numerous students honored at this metrowide competition. To read more about them, [click here](#).



[Four of the Five Finalists in the statewide BioGENEius challenge were Shawnee Mission students.](#) Elizabeth Falkner,

a Shawnee Mission East senior and Biotechnology student, is a 2020 Kansas BioGENEius Challenge Winner. Her research, related to bone cement, will advance to the International BioGENEius challenge.



Marianna Ward, a Shawnee Mission South senior and Biotechnology student, was named a finalist in the 17th annual Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma Regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. She presented research related to black fly microbiomes. While thousands of students enter their research in regional symposiums, only 230 high school students qualify for the national symposium.



**EPA Honor for Rising Star** Rising Star Elementary is being recognized by the Environmental Protection Agency as a recipient of the 2019 Food Recovery Challenge Regional Award. As part of the challenge, organizations pledge to improve their sustainable food management practices and report their results. From January to December 2018, Rising Star diverted 27,125 pounds of food from the landfill. This was an increase of 13,250 pounds over the previous year's total. All district buildings participate in waste mitigation practices and the community congratulates Rising Star for how they have demonstrated their outstanding efforts as a school community.

## Graduation 2020



**Commencement** Dr. Fulton acknowledged that this week was the previously scheduled time for commencement ceremonies, stating members of the Board share his deep regret they will not be watching seniors walk across the stage this week. [The district has made alternative plans for graduation ceremonies to celebrate seniors' many accomplishments.](#) It is not yet known when guidance will be provided regarding the possibility for large in-person gatherings in July, but the district will make a final decision on June 15, 2020. 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 the meantime, Shawnee Mission joins all in our community in extending our support and congratulations to Shawnee Mission seniors for all they have accomplished.

**Summer Program Information** Due to challenges related to school building closures, summer enrichment programs will not be offered this summer for students in grades K-8. Summer School programs will be offered virtually to all Shawnee Mission School District students who are either entering ninth grade or are currently in high school during the summer of 2020.

[Click here for information about eSchool](#)

[Click here for information about Summer Academy](#)

Of course, public health information surrounding the pandemic is subject to change on a daily and weekly basis. The district thanks everyone for their patience, understanding and flexibility during this time.

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](#).