



## BOARD MEETING RECAP

Prior to the Board of Education meeting, members met for a public Board workshop to receive presentations on enrollment projections and an update from district bond counsel.

Robert Schwarz of RSP Associates shared details of an enrollment analysis of the Shawnee Mission School District. The analysis provided a current overview, as well as short and long-term outlooks on enrollment in the district and current and predicted demographic considerations. Superintendent Mike Fulton said the analysis provides a helpful look at trends and tendencies in order to help with long-range planning and for making decisions related to future bond issues.

David Arteberry, of Stifel, provided details about potential bond issue scenarios the board could consider. These scenarios were discussed further in the regular board meeting during Superintendent Mike Fulton's [Strategic Plan update](#).



Superintendent Mike Fulton started his Superintendent Report by stating that combatting institutional racism requires courage and voice. [Referencing his previous statement](#), he encouraged everyone in our community to take time to listen. It will be critical, he said, to learn and grow collectively to support every student and everyone in our community.

Dr. Fulton pointed out a few of the action items being implemented as a result of the strategic plan to address systemic racism. This includes providing diversity, equity, and inclusion training to all staff and work to recruit a diverse work force.

“Let’s have a heart for students and what is best for them,” Fulton said. “As adults, let’s think about how we can make a difference in their individual worlds and collectively for each and every child so they grow up in a world of opportunity.”



## SMSD UPDATE

**Preparing for 2020-2021** There continue to be a lot of questions related to plans for school in the fall in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. District staff are considering and planning for a number of scenarios that are possible.

As plans continues, staff members have been listening and gathering feedback from students, families, and staff. Many participated in a recent Thoughtexchange asking what the greatest needs and concerns are as we head into the next school year.

“These responses are a tremendous help and we thank everyone for their time and perspective,” Fulton said.

Shawnee Mission does not currently have guidance or recommendations that would indicate that one learning scenario is more likely than another, and the district has not yet finalized plans for any of them. As district staff members prepare, they are working with federal, state, and/or county health authorities, and are working in partnership with neighboring school districts to determine how to ensure learning continues.

Today, the Shawnee Mission School District announced athletic fields and playgrounds are open. All who use playgrounds and fields are expected to continue to follow social distancing guidelines (six feet or more between individuals who do not live in the same house), and to use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol after playground use. (Parents and caregivers are asked to closely monitor the behavior of their children, in order to ensure that social-distancing guidelines are followed).

Conditioning for high school athletes will begin on Monday, June 15, 2020, a change from the previously-announced July 6, 2020 date. All participants will be expected to follow social distancing guidelines as well. Rentals of SMSD facilities remain suspended through August 2020. District staff

members will continue to monitor and follow guidelines from public health officials and do everything within their power to lessen the transmission of COVID-19 and keep our community safe.



**Summer Training** Many educators across the school district have been engaged in training already this summer. Just last week a group of educators joined in Impact Institute, which focused on a variety of topics related to literacy, including but not limited to core literacy instruction, literacy for diverse learners, and literacy for learners with dyslexia.

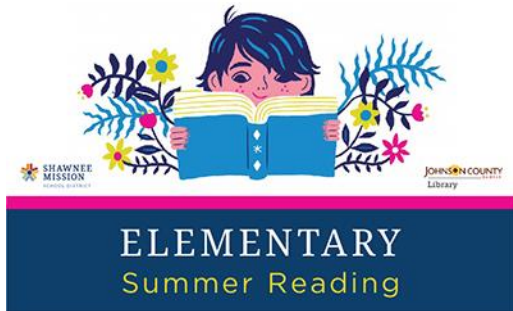
A group of educators also dedicated time last week to take part in Deep Equity training. Individuals who attended this phase of training have been engaged to help implement further Deep Equity training in each of their schools across the district. As mentioned, this is one of the goals outlined in the Strategic Plan developed by our community. We thank everyone for dedicating their time and for the gifts and skills they will bring back to their work with students.



**Project Finish Enrollment Open** We wanted to share a reminder that enrollment is open throughout the summer for Project Finish. This is a diploma completion program for adult residents who live in Kansas.

Candidates have access to the online program and coursework 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as long as they have access to the internet.

[Click here for more information.](#)



## Elementary Summer Reading

Shawnee Mission librarians have collaborated with the Johnson County Public library and created a website of library resources for elementary students to continue in summer reading. In response to current circumstances, Johnson County librarians used their

creativity and found safe ways to promote and encourage summer reading. Last week they launched a summer reading program, providing access to e-books, virtual learning, and online summer programs. [Click here for more information.](#)



**Animation honorees** This spring, a group of Shawnee Mission students were honored for their excellence in imagination and animation.

They received recognition through the eImagine Media Festival, a competition which draws students from across the Kansas City metropolitan area. Submissions are evaluated by individuals that work in a corresponding industry or higher education. The following students earned recognition in the final round:

In 3D Animation:

- First Place: Lauren Peterson from the Shawnee Mission Animation Signature Program
- Second Place: Will Swan, Shawnee Mission Animation Signature Program

In the Music Video Category:

Second Place, Brogan Thomas, Shawnee Mission West

For Public Service Announcement:

Second Place, Brogan Thomas, Shawnee Mission West

and in the Short Film category

Third Place, was awarded to Ashleigh Neyman, Shawnee Mission West



### **Jobs for America's Graduates**

**recognition** A group of Shawnee Mission North students were honored this spring for their strong college and career preparation.

These students claimed medals and trophies in the Jobs for America's

Graduates-Kansas (JAG-K) Career Development Conference.

Students competed in events demonstrating skill in public speaking, math, employability, community service, and project-based learning.

State winners include:

- Emili Quezada and Aliyah Marshall, third place, in the service project category.
- Isabelle Dominguez and Alex Mireles, who earned sixth place for their poster project.

The team also had [several regional honorees](#) who received trophies and medals this year. Congratulations to these students and their instructors, Amanda Polking and Michael Giarla.

**Strategic Plan Update** Superintendent Mike Fulton provided an informational update on study and research conducted during the 2019-20 school year on selected strategies and action steps in the Shawnee Mission School District's strategic plan.

Dr. Fulton then presented several recommendations for consideration, requiring no voting action by the Board tonight. **These recommendations offer a pathway for the district to increase secondary certified staff in order to decrease workload for secondary teachers and ensure this change can be funded sustainably for the long term.** (In other words, moving high school and middle school teachers from teaching six periods per day to five periods).

The recommendations included:

- A community survey to be conducted in June and July to inform future board consideration of two possible scenarios for potential bond issues to be placed on the ballot in November 2020 or January 2021. A November date would require the Board to consider a bond resolution, which includes a bond statement, at the July 27 Board of Education meeting.
- Consideration of adopting a policy to maintain a minimum operating fund balance of one month of expenses or 8.3 percent, whichever is greater. (Insufficient fund balances place the district at risk of not being able to make payroll in the event of a delay or unplanned reduction of state payments or county allotments).
- Consideration of adopting a policy for a hard cap of 25 percent expenditures for custodial/maintenance salaries paid out of capital outlay. (Exceeding 25 percent capital outlay for custodial or maintenance salaries puts the district in jeopardy of not having sufficient funds of meeting capital needs.) **This cap assumes the district will use bonds to fund future planned facility needs, including elementary school rebuilds.**

[Click here](#) to view the June 8 meeting presentation materials and supplementary materials.

**Board Policy Readings** The Board of Education held a second reading and approved the following policies:

[New Board Policy GAPB: Duty to Report Criminal Offenses](#)

[New Board Policy CGI: Administrator Evaluation](#)

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 workshop and regular meeting [can be found here](#). Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here](#).