



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission Board of Education held an annual organizational meeting on Monday, June 22 2020. At its meeting, the Board approved the following appointments and consent items:

Organizational Appointments:

Treasurer: Rick Atha, deputy superintendent

Deputy Treasurer: Russell Knapp, chief financial officer

Clerk: Terry Wintering, executive assistant to the superintendent

In the consent agenda, the following appointments were approved:

- All building principals were named as attendance officers.
- Any board members were appointed as hearing officers. The president is authorized to designate a certain member, or members, if a given appeal is filed.
- The president and vice president of the board were named as signatories for all contracts and agreements approved by the board of education.
- **Dr. Doug Sumner**, associate superintendent of human resources, was named Kansas Public Employees Retirement System agent for the SMSD. Sumner was also named plan administrator for the district's 403B/457 Deferred Compensation Program for the 2020-2021 school year. The director of certified personnel is the alternate signer for all KPERs documents.
- **David A. Smith**, chief communications officer, was named freedom of information officer.
- **Dr. Michelle Hubbard**, associate superintendent of leadership and learning, was appointed as the authorized representative for approved federal programs.
- **Dr. Rick Atha**, deputy superintendent, was named as hearing official for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast programs.
- **Chris Mesko**, financial analyst, was appointed as bond compliance officer.

Also in approved in the consent agenda:

- The Kansas City Star was named the official district newspaper.
- Banks of record were approved.
- Activity and petty cash funds were approved.

Board Calendar The 2020-21 Board of Education Calendar was approved. Meetings will be held twice in most months. [The calendar can be found here](#). The calendar includes an addition of workshops, in which the board would hear informational reports such as Strategic Plan updates, and program evaluations. Consent items may also be included on a Workshop agenda. Regular board meetings will be held the last meeting of every month. In months where one meeting is scheduled, it will be a regular meeting.

The board also approved the following committee appointments:

Kansas Association of School Boards Board of Directors: **Laura Guy**

Nominating Committee: **Sara Goodburn**

Legislative Committee: **Dr. Mary Sinclair**

Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA Board Representative: **Jamie Borgman**

The Board then convened into its regular meeting. Superintendent Dr. Mike Futon shared the following details in his superintendent report:



SMSD UPDATE

2020-2021 Update District teams are busy working on plans for the 2020-2021 school year. Shawnee Mission educators and staff have learned a lot in the past few months about how Shawnee Mission can provide education effectively in a remote learning environment as well as in the classroom. Regardless of the instructional setting next year, the district must be prepared to serve each and every student well.

ThoughtExchange and surveys were conducted to gather feedback from staff, parents, and students and that feedback is being used to inform planning.

There are some aspects about next school year that are certain:

Shawnee Mission will continue to prioritize student, staff, and community health and safety. Plans will be ready in order to hold school in-person, with virtual options available. But, plans might need to change based on guidance from health professionals.

Knowing there were frustrations with the Virtual Private Network (VPN) which is used to ensure student safety online, the Board approved a cloud-based solution, to be ready when school begins in August. Shawnee Mission has also purchased Canvas, a learning management system, to provide a more streamlined and connected learning experience.

Shawnee Mission also will have clear expectations in the next school year, including grades, attendance, and regular connections between teachers and students.

Teachers, administrators, and staff are designing what next year will look like, with options for different scenarios. Shawnee Mission expects to hear guidance from the Kansas State Department of Education on July 10 and Shawnee Mission will release a detailed plan soon after that.



Strategic Plan Update

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton shared an update on the Strategic Plan, specifically, how the district continues to work to improve efforts related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, which are integral parts of our community's Strategic Plan. They are there because this community recognizes their critical importance in achieving our strategic plan goals. The district's starting point in this work is the training of all staff in a program called Deep

Equity. This past year was year one of a three-year initial training process.

“Some might wonder why this takes three years, but the reason is right there in the name: ‘Deep Equity,’” Fulton said. “The work we need to do as a system to change centuries of thoughts and actions around these issues cannot be done in a 90-minute training session. It is deep work, and it has to be done right.”

Professional development is of course on-going and informed by research and data as they relate to achieving our three objectives. All the work that engages in around equity and inclusion must be fully integrated into and supportive of our strategic plan. Having dialogue around issues of diversity, including race, and inclusion is challenging. When dialogue fails to translate into improvements in the academic readiness and development of life skills for every student, then the dialogue is insufficient to meet the goals our community has set. Toward that end, Shawnee Mission is planning next year for an increased focus during board meetings on reviewing data and research that benchmark where we are as a community on key equity indicators, and a more robust system for progress monitoring.

“We know we are not where we should be, and we will use a continuous improvement mindset to improve,” Fulton said. “To support that effort, I will be establishing an Equity Advisory Committee, who will engage dialogue around key data related to the strategic plan.”

Bond Issue

As was reported to the Board at their last meeting, Dr. Fulton restated that Shawnee Mission has \$750 million in identified facilities needs. It will take three separate bond issues, over a period of 18 years, to address all of these needs. Two of those bond issues (at a minimum) will involve a tax increase. **(It is important to note that, even after the third bond issue, Shawnee Mission’s mill levy rate will still be the lowest in the county.)** In the coming weeks, Shawnee Mission will be conducting a community survey, to determine thinking about a potential bond issue. The Board expects to make a decision about when to hold a bond election at the Board meeting in July.

Graduation 2020



Graduation Update

We are looking forward to celebrating the Shawnee Mission graduating class of 2020 in the coming weeks. Shawnee Mission is in the process of planning to host in-person graduation ceremonies to take place in July. The district continues to follow guidance for large public gatherings from the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and will be prepared to adjust plans to move to a virtual graduation, if necessary. Ceremonies have been scheduled for the five comprehensive high schools, along with Arrowhead and Horizons. Preliminary information has been shared with graduates and their families regarding plans and protocol. [Click here for a schedule](#) and for details about plans and protocols.



Startland Covid19 Pitch Competition

Honorees Several Shawnee Mission students recently earned top honors in the STARTLAND pitch competition, hosted by CommunityAmerica Credit Union. In this innovation competition, students identified ways to address challenges caused by COVID-19.

Yutong Yi, Shawnee Mission East High School junior, was a member of the high school first-place team, presenting HexaChat, an idea for a safe mental health forum for youth seeking counsel from volunteer, qualified professionals.

Kennedy Kaufman, Shawnee Mission East High School senior, and Reid Venable, Shawnee Mission South High School senior, were members of the runner-up high school team that presented Fit Nest, an idea for an app that allows high school athletic teams to continue connecting and training through team fitness competitions.

In addition to cash prizes, winners were expected to earn an opportunity to implement their pitch plans through Kansas City business mentors.

SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT

Scholar-Athletes



THE KANSAS CITY STAR.

2020 KCStar Scholar Athletes

The Kansas City Star announced their top 2020 scholar athletes. In the 37th year of recognizing the best of the best in Kansas City-area young athletes, the Star honored the following Shawnee Mission School District seniors:

Brooklyn Beck, Shawnee Mission East, has a 4.6 GPA and earned four varsity letters in gymnastics, three in track and field and two in cross country, qualifying for state in cross country in 2019.

Harden Boldt, Shawnee Mission North, has a 4.7 GPA and earned three varsity letters in swimming/diving, two in cross country, and one in track and field. He will be attending the Naval Academy.

Ty Lindenman, Shawnee Mission Northwest, has a 4.21 GPA and earned three varsity letters in football and basketball and two in baseball. He plans to attend Illinois University.

Tyler Wissell, Shawnee Mission South, has a 3.53 GPA and earned three varsity letters in football, two in basketball and tennis and team captain in all three sports.

Ashlyn Henrie, Shawnee Mission West, has a 4.70 GPA and earned four varsity letters in soccer and basketball and was captain of the soccer and basketball teams.

[Click here for a complete list of nominees.](#)

Revised Calendar Dr. Michelle Hubbard, associate superintendent for leadership and learning, and Dr. Darren Dennis, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment presented a proposed calendar revision moving the student start date for the 2020-2021 school year from Aug. 12 to Aug. 17.

The recommendation was made in order to provide staff with additional professional development prior to school starting. The additional time was also proposed to ensure successful implementation for the school reopening plan.

The Board approved the revised calendar. The proposal and draft revised calendar [can be viewed here](#).

Lightspeed Content Filter The Board approved the purchase of Lightspeed, a content filtering platform, which is a cloud-based solution to replace the use of the Virtual Private Network (VPN). Drew Lane, executive director of information and communication technologies, shared details about the features of Lightspeed in addition to content filtering which includes classroom access management, cyber harm protection, parent portal, and app analytics, in addition to the platform's suite of protection. [Click here for more information](#).

Revised Policies: Rachel England, district general counsel, provided an overview of recommended revisions to the district's non-discrimination policy as the Board of Education held a first reading. The recommended policy consolidates multiple student and staff non-discrimination policies into one comprehensive policy: [Revised Board Policy AC: Non-Discrimination](#).

The Board also held a first reading of multiple policies recommended for deletion in their current policy format because the contents had been moved into policy AC.

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](#).