



## BOARD MEETING RECAP

**Budget Hearing and Approval** The Board of Education meeting on Aug. 10, 2020 began with a Budget Hearing. Later in the meeting, Board of Education members approved the 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$482,828,428. [Click here for more information about the budget.](#)



### Reopening Plan 2020

Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton provided an update on officially starting the school year and welcoming students back to learning.

Since the last Board of Education meeting, families have made their Learning Model selections for their children. Teachers have also indicated their preferences for teaching within the Learning Models. Throughout this week, district staff will be working on aligning staffing based on need and staff preference forms.

Parents, staff, and community members are encouraged to contact their home school or [askthedistrict@smsd.org](mailto:askthedistrict@smsd.org) with additional questions. The [Reopening FAQ page](#) will also continue to be updated as information becomes available.

[\*\*Multiple administrators provided an update on the reopening process.\*\*](#)

**Health and Safety** Shelby Rebeck, director of health services, provided an update on temperature checks, masks, isolation and quarantine guidelines from the Johnson County

Department of Health and Environment, details about gating criteria, and provided a preview of a safe school reopening website that will provide details about current school reopening phases in Johnson County.

Rebeck shared the following with Board members:

- Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) guidance states that temperature checks can be taken any time prior to entering the building for the first time each day.
- KSDE guidance states there is no requirement to document student temperatures.
- Given this guidance, SMSD will be having staff and parents check temperatures and other indicators, prior to coming to school. Guidance will be provided, and the district is investigating the possibility of providing staff and families with thermometers.
- Executive Order 20-59 requires all students, faculty, staff, vendors, and visitors to cover their nose and mouth with a mask/face covering, with eight specifically outlined exceptions.

Further information will be provided to staff and families regarding these and other health and safety measures in the coming days.

**Learning Model Update** Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, and Dr. Michael Schumacher, interim assistant superintendent of human resources, shared an update on the results of student attendance preferences and staff preferences made for Learning Models in the first semester of this year. In the coming days, leaders will be working to communicate with staff and align positions within the Learning Models.

**Learning Support/Care Options** Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood learning and sustainability, presented a first-semester pilot plan to provide care and learning support for Shawnee Mission School District employees' children who are enrolled in district schools, for when the district is in either the hybrid or remote learning phases. Later in the meeting, [the Board approved the Learning Support/Care Options Program for Children of Shawnee Mission School District Employees enrolled in the Shawnee Mission School District, Grades Pre-K-6.](#)

**Athletics and Activities** Richard Kramer, director of athletics and activities, and Bill Thomas, performing arts coordinator, shared details about measures the Shawnee Mission School District will take for involvement in sports and performing arts activities. They shared that the district will follow guidance outlined by the National Federation of High School Sports (NFHS). Extra-curricular activities will follow the SMSD gating criteria. High risk activities may only take place under green gating criteria. Lower and moderate risk activities may take place under the yellow or green gating criteria. The athletics and activities guidance can be [viewed on page 17 of this presentation.](#)

**Air Quality and Ventilation** Bob Robinson, executive director of facilities, provided an update on air quality and ventilation steps that will be taken in SMSD schools. Each step is being taken in consultation with Children's Mercy Hospital and HVAC providers, Robinson said. Later in the meeting, Board of Education members [approved the purchase of MERV-11 Air Filters to be installed throughout the district.](#) They also approved the purchase of [HEPAFORCE 1100 Negative Air Machines/HEPA 500 Air Scrubbers](#) to be used in select locations

While there is uncertainty, Shawnee Mission's objective remains the same: that each student will have a personalized learning plan

that will prepare them for college and careers, with the interpersonal skills they need for life success.

Superintendent Fulton thanked everyone who is dedicating their creativity, energy, compassion, and unrelenting care for students each day in order to make sure school resumes and learning continues safely.

**Bond Recommendation** Ken DeSieghardt, founder/principal of Patron Insight, Inc., presented a report to the Board of Education on the [2020 Community Telephone Survey](#). The phone survey, which included 500 participants who live within district boundaries, ask questions designed to determine their thoughts about the district's current performance and ideas for a potential bond ballot issue.

Following the presentation, Superintendent Fulton shared his recommendation to the Board to consider a possible January bond election as opposed to a November election. Dr. Fulton said he plans to present specific recommendations for the Board to consider and review at the Board's September 14 workshop.



**New Teacher Academy** The Shawnee Mission community was thrilled to welcome some of the newest members to the Shawnee Mission team last week. New educators and those returning to the district gathered in socially

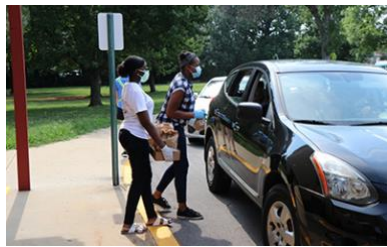
distanced groups at schools where they attended the New Teacher Academy. The three-day academy included time with mentors, tours of new work environments, opportunities to meet new colleagues, as well as professional development about

curriculum, instructional resources, and best practices. We are so glad to welcome them to our team, which is working to ensure the success of Shawnee Mission students.



**Agriculture Award** The Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom has honored Heather Brown, Belinder Elementary School second-grade teacher, for excellence in teaching. She is one of four

educators honored in the state for the exemplary way they have integrated agriculture into the classroom. Brown is recognized for incorporating vocabulary, reading, writing, math, and science into tower garden lessons. (Tower gardens are gardens which grow vertically, allowing a lot of plants to be grown in a small space.) At the conclusion of these lessons about their tower garden, students enjoyed a salad party.



**Community Support for Pickup and Go Meals** Through tremendous community efforts, Pickup and Go Meals continue to serve as a nourishing and enriching experience for our students.

This summer, a number of community volunteers have stepped up to enrich the experience for our students. Partners at the Johnson County Library have donated books to students at the meal sites. Students from Shawnee Mission North's Coalition of Racial Equality (CORE) group provided snacks to families. Musicians from the Kansas City Symphony and Shawnee Mission Northwest students, alumni, and music teachers have been performing for students and families as they pick up their meals. And of course, the food service department, safety and security department, administrators, nurses, social workers, paraprofessionals, teachers, librarians and numerous volunteers have been making sure our students have the meals they need. We are so proud of these community efforts and thank everyone

who has contributed their time and talents for the benefit of Shawnee Mission students.

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