



BOARD MEETING RECAP



Reopening Reflecting on an afternoon listening session with community members, Superintendent Mike Fulton spoke about the challenges we face as a community to return to school and keep students, staff, families, and members of our community safe.

"I'm glad people came and spoke and they are heard and what they said is understood," Fulton said. "We'll do the very best we can to navigate this complex situation and we'll do that in ways that are safe for adults, students, and their families."

He shared that the district is working toward the goal of students having an opportunity for in-person learning as conditions allow. But, that can only be done within the parameter of being safe and following guidance informed by science. The path the district will follow is taking incremental steps forward that allow the district to build capacity for safe and sustainable learning.

Principals and staff are fine-tuning plans this week for remote and hybrid learning. Elementary schools will review and finalize plans for remote and hybrid learning, including an adjustment for sixth-graders following secondary gating criteria. The community will be updated on Friday on a plan for safely transitioning from remote to hybrid as conditions allow.

[Multiple administrators provided updates on the reopening process. You can view their presentation here.](#)

Superintendent Fulton began the presentation by emphasizing the importance of focusing on the district's mission and objective that every student have a personalized learning plan that prepares them for college and careers with the interpersonal skills they need for life success.

Learning Models and Staffing After sharing a reminder about the three SMSD [Learning Models](#), Superintendent Fulton introduced Dr. Michael Schumacher, interim associate superintendent of human resources, to provide an update on staffing within those learning models. In order to align staffing, Human Resources worked to answer two primary questions 1) What is best for students and 2) What is the best decision for the group of staff members we are working with?

Dr. Schumacher said that secondary staffing will follow a school-within-a-school staffing model staffing and most secondary staff will teach both In-Person (as conditions allow) and Remote classes. Through this approach, there has been "little or no" change for secondary staffing. At the

elementary level, the district requires 178 elementary staff members for remote learning, 479 are needed for in-person. Conversations have been held with teachers and Dr. Schumacher said the district has met most preferences with teachers at the elementary level.

Learning Expectations Dr. Darren Dennis, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment shared details about how focus on priority standards, proficiency scales, and Professional Learning Communities will support curriculum delivery. He shared that in either learning model the district is committed to live instruction each day, that there will be opportunities for small groups and independent practice during instructional time, and that Canvas will be used to post learning activities, assignments, and feedback. Testing windows have also been established and guidance is being developed to support remote assessment for students in grades 3-9. Teachers will also provide ongoing feedback on student performance.

Special Education Sherry Dumolien, special education director, provided an overview of Special Education plans and service delivery. A key point of emphasis is that special education services will continue no matter the Learning Model. Determinations will be made regarding individual student needs and specific services that are determined necessary. Staff and families will be working to implement each Individualized Education Plan (IEP) to the fullest extent possible. If any changes are made, parents will be actively involved and staff began working with families to determine plans last week.

Technology Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services, and Drew Lane, executive director of information and communication technologies shared a plan to provide hotspots to families who need them in the district. Later in the meeting, Board of Education members approved the purchase of 500 hotspots. A plan for application and distribution will be put in place in the coming days.

Learning Support/Care Options Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood learning and sustainability, provided an update on the district's Learning Support/Care option for SMSD employees. Currently there are 162 students enrolled and 14 sites and overwhelmingly team members have expressed gratitude for the option.

Activities and Athletics Richard Kramer, director of athletics and activities, shared that the Kansas State High School Activities Association approved an alternative fall season opportunity for schools unable to complete a traditional fall season. The proposal is subject to final approval and will be considered at a Board of Directors meeting at 3 p.m. on Friday. This announcement was released by the KSHSAA during the Shawnee Mission Board meeting.

Health Update Shelby Rebeck, director of health services, shared that the county gating zone remains in the red and provided a local update on test results. Based on common questions she receives, Rebeck emphasized the importance of listening to public health experts as we navigate a public health crisis and how teachers and staff will be working through plans to build safe mitigation measures into their day. She also asked community members to consider the role personal responsibility plays in community health, asking how well they are doing in their work to get county numbers down.

Staff Return Tomorrow is a significant day in the reopening process as teachers report for pre-service. Many of our classified staff members will return on August 31. They will begin their work in pre-service in buildings, using mitigation measures. Everyone will be working on meeting the academic needs of each of our students, regardless of the learning model.

“We are very excited about all of our staff coming in tomorrow,” Dr. Fulton said. “Our education professionals are committed to doing a great job. Everybody wants to see students back in school. Like me they also want to stay safe doing so.”



Remote Learning.

SMSD Connect Dr. Laura Brogdon will serve as principal for the district’s Remote Learning program which is called SMSD Connect. A new website for SMSD Connect will be live this week. As this launches, administrators and educators will be answering more questions about



Broadmoor Farm Renovations Learning opportunities have been growing for Shawnee Mission students. This spring, a farm expansion project was completed, with support from the 2015 bond issue and several generous donors. The project included a greenhouse and tractor barn. The district Culinary Arts and Hospitality program students, led by Bob Brassard and chef instructors, oversee the farm. It serves as a resource for the Broadmoor Bistro, our student-run, farm-to-table restaurant. This farm will serve as a classroom and eventually will serve as a field trip site for students. Several Signature Programs for students at the CAA will also utilize the site for projects. This summer,

Biotechnology instructor Kenneth Lee spent time testing soil with two students in order to help optimize growing. Culinary arts students and their chef instructors are looking forward to providing hands-on, visual learning experiences for the entire community.



Pickup and Go Grand Total The SMSD community stepped up throughout the spring and summer to ensure that students would receive breakfast and lunch through free Pickup and Go Meals. Numerous volunteers and staff dedicated time throughout the spring and summer to make sure essential needs were met. These efforts were led by Nancy Coughenour, director of food services, and the team in food service who served a grand total of 303,290 meals to students.



Census 2020 Dr. Fulton also wanted to mention that the deadline approaches for filling out the 2020 Census. The census will provide resources for children in our community for the next 10 years, so we encourage everyone in our community to complete the 2020 census. Individuals can fill out the census over the phone, using a paper form, or by filling it out online. Census takers have been visiting households in our county. For more details about how to fill out the census in Johnson County, visit countmeinjo.org.

Administrative Salary Board members approved administrative salaries for the 2020-2021 school year. All administrators will receive a 1.4 percent base raise except for those otherwise notified. This is in consistent with the 1.4 percent raise for certified staff.

Board Policy Approvals

The Board of Education held a first and final reading and approved the following policies:

[Revised Board Policy AC](#): Prohibition and Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation

[Revised Board Policy CF](#): Board-Superintendent Relations

[Revised Board Policy HAE](#): Board Negotiating Representatives

The Board held a First Reading of the following policy:

[Revised Board Policy GAAD](#): Child Abuse

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](#).