



# BOARD MEETING RECAP

**Reopening Update** Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton began the Wednesday, Sept. 9 2020 special Board of Education meeting with an update on reopening plans. He shared that emails were sent to elementary staff and elementary families this afternoon, outlining the next steps for transitioning to in-person learning for students in Pre-Kindergarten through sixth grade. The email to families of students in Pre-K through sixth grade outlines a timeline for students in these grade levels (whose families have selected an in-person learning model) to transition to the hybrid and eventually the in-person learning model.

In the same email to elementary families, Dr. Fulton said district staff recognizes moving to hybrid while in the red gating zone reflects a change from a choice parents made earlier this year regarding their students' learning models. As a result, elementary parents are being asked to consider if they want to change their child's learning model. This selection will be effective for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. Families who do not intend to change do not need to complete the form. Those who do intend to change are asked to complete a form, which was included in the email.

**Activities and Athletics** Dr. Fulton shared guidance from Dr. Sanmi Areola, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) director, received earlier today, which stated:

"I understand the importance of extracurricular activities in the school setting. I am ok with SMSD proceeding with sports and extracurricular activities. There are currently several teams playing in the community and business are open.

No matter the sport that is played – high risk, medium, or low risks- please ensure that the appropriate safety precautions to minimize risks. Steps that include cohorting to minimize the number of contacts, preventive random sampling, limiting spectator attendance to immediate family members, and monitoring symptoms are key steps that can help reduce risks.

Treating athletic teams as cohorts is especially important so they are not a source of introduction of the virus into schools. They should know that not following the rules may affect their opportunity to play."

Richard Kramer, director of athletics and activities, shared guidance and protocols for the Shawnee Mission School District that outline precautions to minimize risk. He noted to the

Board that students and coaches practiced and followed these protocols in the summer, during the time JCDHE guidelines allowed for participation. The time to practice and implement COVID-19 mitigating measures earlier this year, he said, will allow participants to resume participation and effectively implement mitigation measures.

Dr. Areola also stated that JCDHE would be updating gating criteria soon. In light of this guidance, Board of Education members authorized Dr. Fulton to immediately resume extracurricular activities and athletics in a manner consistent with guidelines issued by JCDHE, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas State High School Activities Association, the Sunflower League, and school administration designated to address COVID-19. The Board of Education approved the authorization, following a 5-2 vote.

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](#).