



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission Board of Education met for a Board Workshop on Monday, October 12, 2020. The workshop included a Strategic Plan Update and a Reopening Update .

Strategic Plan Update Superintendent Fulton, provided an update on the district Strategic Plan, with focus on a Bond issue proposal.

[Click here to view the presentation and supplemental materials.](#)

Dr. Rick Atha, deputy superintendent, introduced several individuals who were on hand to provide information to the Board including:

- Russell Knapp, Chief Financial Officer
- Bob Robinson, Executive Director of Facilities
- David Arteberry, financial advisor from Stifel Nicolaus
- Gina Riekof, bond counsel from Gilmore Bell, to provide details on the election process
- Ken DeSieghardt, president of Patron Insight, who conducted the 2020 community telephone survey

Superintendent Fulton provided a review of details originally presented to the Board in June, including information about community input and the studying and planning process that informed bond options developed for consideration.

The options for Board members to consider include:

- [Option A](#)
- [Option B](#)
- [Option C](#)

In addition to facility improvements included in the options, and with recommended guardrails in place, all potential bond scenarios being

considered would allow a pathway to address secondary teacher workload. This pathway would allow the district to hire additional secondary certified staff in order to decrease secondary teacher workload in a way that can be funded sustainably for the long term.

In July, a scientific survey was conducted by Patron Insight. The survey included interviews among 500 individuals across all district feeder patterns. The results of this survey were shared at an August Board of Education meeting. In June, the Board of Education was presented with two options for consideration in June (Option A and Option B) for possible Bond issues. A third option, Option C, was presented to the Board tonight, as a result of the community feedback.

Presenters noted that the Shawnee Mission School District currently has the lowest mill levy of all school districts in Johnson County and, based on estimates through 2032-2033, would continue to have a comparatively low rate.

Dr. Fulton presented a recommendation to the Board to consider placing a bond referendum on the ballot on January 26, 2021. The Board will consider a bond resolution by Oct. 26, 2020 if they are to move forward with placing a bond on the ballot in January.

Reopening Update

Guidance Update Elizabeth Holzschuh, director of epidemiology for the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, joined the meeting to discuss county health guidance. She provided information on the creation of school gating criteria, and shared commonalities found in criteria developed by the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Kansas State Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment.

Holzschuh also provided in-depth information on the county's previous method for calculating percent positive, the new method, and compared both to the KDHE method. She provided details about how the percent positive rate can provide information about what the pandemic looks like in terms of the number of cases, and also about testing capacity.

She also highlighted the launch of the JCDHE's new dashboard. The county's school reopening dashboard [can be viewed here](#).

Elementary and Secondary Reopening Update

Dr. Fulton provided a brief update on the **elementary** transition plan for students enrolled in In-Person Learning, which is as follows:

Sept. 14, 2020 Parents selected a learning model for the remainder of the year which is their preferred mode, with a defined process for requesting a change at semester ([see FAQ](#))

Sept. 15-25 2020 Students were placed into sections with teachers both in-person and remote only

Sept. 28, 2020 District worked with staff who had to transition

Oct. 5, 2020 New student schedules began: Hybrid PreK-2, Remote 3-6

Oct. 12, 2020 Hybrid grades preK-6

Oct. 19, 2020 All students grades PreK-2, Hybrid 3-6

Oct. 26, 2020 All students grades PreK-6

Dr. Fulton also provided a brief update on the **secondary** plan to transition to Hybrid Learning for students enrolled in In-Person Learning:

Oct. 26, 2020 All students grades 7-12 begin Hybrid so long as orange or yellow with modifying variables in place for in-class instruction.

- Students are divided into two cohorts by last name
- Monday and Tuesday
 - Last names starting A - Lamb attend in person
 - Last names starting Lamc - Z work remotely via Canvas/Webex
 - Teachers are strongly encouraged to offer an opportunity for remote students to view classroom instruction remotely via Webex
- Wednesday and Thursday
 - Last names starting Lamc - Z attend in person

- Last names starting A - Lamb work remotely via Canvas/Webex
 - Teachers are strongly encouraged to offer an opportunity for remote students to view classroom instruction remotely via Webex
- All students attend all classes remotely via Webex for live instruction on Friday

To see middle and high school hybrid schedules, [click here](#).

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](#).