



BOARD MEETING RECAP

Bond Resolution Approved This January, the Shawnee Mission community will be asked to make a decision regarding a \$264.2 million bond proposal. A series of [proposed projects](#) have been identified in order to make lasting facility improvements with the goal of benefitting every student, while providing a pathway to reduce teacher workload. On October 26, 2020, the Board of Education unanimously approved a resolution, identified as Option C, to be included on a January 26 mail ballot election.

The bond is being put forth with the goal that the Shawnee Mission School District will continue to be ranked among the finest school districts in the nation, employing exceptional educators who work in state of the art facilities where learners achieve their full potential.



The proposed bond addresses a series of the district's most immediate facility needs, including:

- Specific elementary school rebuilds
- Renovations for the Early Childhood

Center

- Technology and security upgrades for all buildings
- A Career Technology Center remodel
- A variety of HVAC, lighting, Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA), asphalt, and roofing improvements for specific schools and buildings



- Middle and High school remodels and furniture replacements
- Athletic area upgrades and replacements



- A plan to hire additional secondary certified staff in order to decrease workload for secondary teachers, in order to allow them to serve students well, ensuring the change can be funded sustainably for the long term.

Prior to the Board approval, Superintendent Mike Fulton provided another overview of bond information to the Board, including details about how the bond is designed to help our community live out the mission to provide a bridge to unlimited opportunities for students, and help staff with the support they need.

The presentation, which summarizes information delivered to the Board previously, [can be reviewed here](#).

It includes details about the types of district funds and recommended policy guardrails to support bond goals, a look at the study and planning process, a review of what needs a bond would help address, an overview on how a potential bond would impact tax rates, and a review of a bond communication plan.

The proposed bond maintains a lower mill levy rate than Johnson County peers, and should it pass, would result in an \$8 annual increase per \$100,000 of home value.



Transition to Hybrid Learning Today marked the first day of hybrid learning for middle and high school students in the Shawnee Mission School District. Students in group A attended in person today, and students in group B will attend later this week. In addition, the district now has all students from Pre-K through 6 learning in-person. Shawnee Mission staff members are so glad to see our in-person and remote learning students as they continue to learn and connect with their teachers each school day. There are numerous creative ways students and staff are continuing to learn and get to know one another, no matter the setting. Here are just a few examples of the ways students are learning:

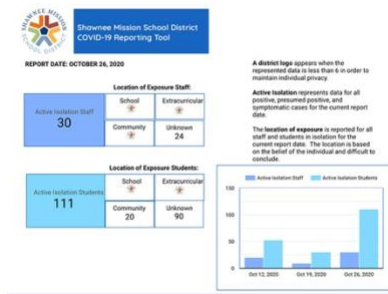
Ashley Brown's remote learning kindergarten students held a pumpkin-themed day where they drew pumpkins, wrote stories, and conducted experiments to learn whether pumpkins float or sink.

Krissondra Rydzal's remote learning classroom has been working on sentence structure and journal writing, and used at-home materials to engineer apple trappers to pick apples.

There are also an increasing number of virtual field trips and guest speakers using technology to virtually visit classrooms. Today, a lot of high school students and middle school students received tours of their school and took time to learn new protocols to follow while onsite.

Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton thanked everyone for their work to connect and dedicate time to building relationships every day, and for the support of the district's on-going mission to provide robust learning opportunities for each student in our district.

Data Dashboard



Data Dashboard Tomorrow morning, SMSD will be launching a COVID-19 data dashboard, available to the public via the district website. The purpose of the reporting tool is to share data publicly and help inform the community of the extent of positive cases

resulting in isolation and quarantine currently impacting the Shawnee Mission School District.

Dr. Fulton expressed appreciation for the support and guidance from public health partners in the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment. The data reported on the website will follow the guidance from the county regarding data privacy. In the event of instances where our weekly reports share fewer than 6 cases in a data set, the data will not be reported, in order to protect individual confidentiality. In these cases, a logo will appear denoting a number too small to report.

The data dashboard will provide a high-level picture of active cases in the district learning community. Data will be reported based on a weekly snapshot of active positive cases in isolation, as well as exposures in quarantine. The data is broken out by student and staff numbers, and also shares the identified location of exposures based on community, school, extracurricular, or unknown location.

We hope the data picture over time will engage our community in helping to follow mitigating measures so that our schools may continue to serve students in hybrid, until community numbers fall to a level where we can return to in-person learning.

Leigh Rysko
Shawnee Mission South High School
2020 Kansas World
Language Teacher of The Year



State World Language Honor

Leigh Rysko, Shawnee Mission South Spanish teacher, is the 2020 Kansas World Language Association Teacher of the Year. The KSWLA executive council noted they are proud of Rysko's hard work

and dedication to students, and praised Rysko's work to build life-long lovers and learners of world languages. Congratulations to Leigh Rysko and Shawnee Mission South.

Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Affiliate



Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Affiliate

The Shawnee Mission Parents as Teacher (PAT) program has earned a Blue Ribbon Affiliate designation from the national Parents as Teachers organization. It came as the result of a year-long process to

demonstrate the organization meets quality standards. "Your designation is the result of dedicated teamwork, strategic planning, and passionate service by the Shawnee Mission organization," national center staff wrote. Families from birth to age 3 who live in the SMSD are able to enroll in this national program that connects families with trained educators. Enrollment is open now. PAT continues to hold socially-distanced group activities and provide virtual home visits to support families. [Click here to enroll or find out more.](#)



Horizon Nominees Two Shawnee Mission educators were selected to represent the Shawnee Mission School District as Horizon Award nominees. The Horizon Award is a state-wide recognition that honors

exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that

distinguishes them as outstanding. Abby Cater, a fourth-grade teacher at Apache IS, is the district's nominee at the elementary level. Susan Specht, a health and physical education teacher at Shawnee Mission Northwest, is the district's Kansas Horizon Award nominee at the secondary level.



District-wide Quarterly Art Show A new quarterly art show has launched virtually to highlight the work of student artists and art teachers from across the entire district.

Abby Howe, visual arts coordinator, introduced the virtual art show to the Board.

“This show provides wonderful opportunity to recognize the effort and achievement of students and teachers,” Howe shared.

The show features students from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade across the district. It is currently on display digitally at the Center for Academic Achievement and [can also be viewed here](#).



Scholarship Shawnee Mission There is incredible news to share on behalf of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. This month, the Foundation delivered scholarship offers to seniors from each of

the comprehensive five high schools and Horizons High School, kicking off their annual Scholarship Shawnee Mission program. The program allows parents to opt in to share student data with participating colleges and universities, so that students can receive scholarship offers before they have even applied to those colleges. As Kim Hinkle, executive director of the Foundation, notes: Much like athletes are recruited by colleges, Scholarship Shawnee Mission makes sure students who excel academically are actively recruited by colleges. Seniors received letters outlining scholarship offers, and multiple seniors received surprise

visits at their home this year. Many students have expressed that this program has opened doors they did not know were possible.

Scholarship Shawnee Mission offered \$1.77 billion to Shawnee Mission seniors this year. We congratulate those students, and we thank participating colleges and especially the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for the opportunities they provide to students.



Fall Breakfast We also want to be sure all in our community know they are invited to be an audience member for the world premiere of the blockbuster movie coming to a screen near you. **SMSD Strong: The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Annual Fall Breakfast** will open at 7:30 a.m. on November 3. This is a virtual celebration of the annual fundraising event.

Even though it debuts on election day, and a link to watch this film will be first available at 7:30 a.m., viewers can also watch the movie on-demand at any point after that. This movie will feature stories about students, staff, and community members who contribute their strengths to the success of our district. Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton will share an update on the vision for the district during the movie. The trailer for this film was shared during the Board Meeting.

[Click here to see the trailer.](#)

The Fall Breakfast is a benefit, and proceeds will support multiple programs for students and staff across the district, including Scholarship Shawnee Mission, Leadership Shawnee Mission, Excellence in Education teacher grants, and the Shawnee Mission Cares Fund.

Registration information [can be found here](#).

Board Policy Readings The Board of Education held a first reading of the following policies:

[Board Policy DFE: Investment Revenue](#)

[Board Policy JQKA: Foreign Exchange Students](#)

Nominate a Shawnee Mission All-Star Anyone wanting to nominate a Shawnee Mission School District employee, certified and/or classified, to be considered for the Shawnee Mission All-Star award can do so by [clicking 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 workshop and regular meeting [can be found here](#). Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here](#).