



BOARD MEETING RECAP



SMAC PTA Reflections Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton began by congratulating an outstanding group of student artists in the Shawnee Mission School District. The Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA (SMAC PTA) has honored students who submitted

their work to this year's PTA Reflections program in a virtual ceremony.

Students created art in the categories of choreography, film, literature, music composition, photography, and visual arts, interpreting the theme "I Matter Because." SMAC PTA received 67 entries from students in elementary, middle, and high school from across the district. Students selected for Awards of Excellence will advance to compete in the state Reflections program. The student artwork can be viewed [on the SMAC PTA website by clicking here](#).



Coca-Cola Scholars The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation named five Shawnee Mission seniors 2021 Semifinalists. Out of 99,403 applicants, only 1.6 percent were selected to be semifinalists. These Shawnee Mission students are now

in consideration to be regional finalists. Shawnee Mission's honorees are Hananeel Morinville and Glory Obi from Shawnee Mission North, and Elena Peters, Samantha Thomas, and Ava Yun from Shawnee Mission East.



Community Partner Support Shawnee Mission is grateful to community partners and volunteers who support SMSD schools, especially this year. Wal-Mart at Roeland Park, with arrangements made by the Northeast Johnson County Chamber of Commerce, donated \$10,000 worth of school supplies. After the donation was made and accepted formally by the Board of Education in November, the Student Services team worked to distribute the needed school supplies via school social workers in schools across the district.



> UPDATE <

COVID-19 Update The Shawnee Mission School District and the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) have been working closely together throughout the pandemic, and will continue to collaborate on the next phase, which is vaccine distribution. JCDHE is following protocols for distribution to priority groups identified by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Centers for Disease Control. Shawnee Mission staff are in regular communication with the health department, and as soon as vaccines are available for SMSD staff and/or students, this information will be communicated. Keeping schools safe and functional has been and continues to be a focus of Shawnee Mission's pandemic response.

“It is important to recognize, however,” Dr. Fulton emphasized, “that while there is light at the end of this tunnel, we **MUST** maintain the mitigation efforts in place until at least the end of the school year.”

COVID-19 Dashboard

The [SMSD COVID Dashboard](#) was updated today. The next update will be on January 11, 2021. JCDHE has informed SMSD that it is planning revisions to its COVID case tracking mechanism for school districts. The district may see some changes second semester to the SMSD COVID dashboard, directly related to the JCDHE revisions. JCDHE is implementing these changes in order to make data reporting easier for all districts.

SMSD Nurses/COVID team schedule

Dr. Fulton shared that beginning on January 4, 2021, SMSD nurses/COVID team will work 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., matching the hours the health department is open. Working around the clock, including evenings and weekends as they have been doing, is not sustainable, he noted.

Testing Update

Federal funding for COVID-19 testing ends December 31, 2020. SMSD will resume testing when notified by JCDHE that the resources are available to do so, hopefully by mid-January. SMSD continues to work with MAWD Pathology and Clinical Reference Laboratory for on-site COVID testing of students and staff. SMSD has completed two weeks of testing Special Education staff at 19 program-based sites, and will resume this when testing is reinstated in January.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has partnered with Well Health for COVID-19 testing at Shawnee Mission North High School, Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., along with other Johnson County sites. This testing is not affiliated with SMSD other than they are using our site, but is an excellent testing resource for our community. [Click here for more information.](#)

Calendar Adjustment The Kansas Department of Education has informed school districts that it will accept waiver requests to

provide limited relief to school districts concerning meeting the required 1,116 hours of instruction this school year. SMSD staff will prepare a waiver request when the window opens in January, in order to be able to bring before the Board of Education a revised calendar which will shorten the end of the school year.



Mail-in Ballots Arrive in January Winter Break is almost upon us, but we want everyone to keep in mind that the mail-in vote on the SMSD bond proposal is right around the corner. Ballots are expected to

land in mailboxes soon after we return from winter break in early January.

[Click here to watch a video](#) to learn more about the mail-in voting process.

[Click here for more information about the 2021 bond proposal.](#)



Free PC Giveaway The district recently partnered with PCs for People, KC Digital Drive, and Johnson County Public Library to hold a mass computer distribution event earlier this month. The program also

received support from the Johnson County CARES fund. 160 families qualified to receive a free or reduced-cost PC at the most recent event held in Shawnee Mission. They are able to use the PC for their home to help support communication, connectivity, education, and employment opportunities.

The Internet Access Support Program, a program for those needing internet access, is open to those who live in the greater Kansas City region, including Johnson County residents. Families needing help paying for the internet are able to register

or apply for assistance while funds remain through December 31.
[Click here for more information.](#)

School Year Calendar Board members approved the district calendars for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years. These calendars reflect a more traditional timeline and meet all requirements from the State of Kansas and the local professional agreement. [Click here to view the calendars as drafted.](#)

Board Policy The Board of Education held a second reading and approved the following policy:
[Board Policy DBB: Minimum Operating Fund Balance and Use of Capital Outlay Fund for Salaries](#)

The Board of Education held a first reading of the following policy:
[Board Policy ACA: School Mascots](#)

Human Resources Update Dr. Michael Schumacher, interim associate superintendent of human resources, and several team members provided an update on staffing and recruiting efforts. The Board of Education also heard an update on the PriorityOne Health Center, the clinic which provides healthcare services to Shawnee Mission staff. [Click here to view the presentations.](#)



Winter Break- Dr. Fulton thanked everyone who shared well wishes with him as he announced his retirement. As Winter Break approaches, he acknowledged there is a lot about 2020 that has been tremendously difficult. “There are aspects I hope to remember – especially

moments when we did come together as a compassionate, caring community to educate and support our students,” Fulton expressed. “I thank all educators and staff, parents, community members and the students themselves for the many ways in which they demonstrated SMSD strength. I hope everyone is able to find time to relax and recharge.”

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](#).