



BOARD MEETING RECAP

During the Jan. 11 Board of Education workshop, Board members held an election of officers, heard several informational updates, took action on one item related to the superintendent search, and heard a report from Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton. Here is a recap:

Election of Officers The Board of Education approved the election of Heather Ousley as president and Dr. Mary Sinclair as vice president. They were elected to serve for a term of one year, or until a successor is elected and qualified. Jamie Borgman was elected to serve as the Shawnee Mission Area Council (SMAC) PTA representative.

COVID-19 Update Dr. Fulton provided an update on expanded testing availability for students, staff, and household members. The district is working with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment to develop a comprehensive plan for the distribution of a COVID-19 vaccine. He provided an update on the [district COVID-19 dashboard](#) and the plan for learning models, as [outlined in a letter to staff and families on January 5, 2021](#).

[Here is a link to the presentation.](#)

Strategic Plan Update on Learning Dr. Michelle Hubbard, deputy superintendent, Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment

and research, and Dr. Darren Dennis, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment provided an overview of district level NWEA-MAP data in reading and mathematics. (NWEA-MAP is an interim assessment, taken several times a year, which teachers use to find out how students are doing, so that they can adjust their instruction.)

[Click here to view the report.](#)

The report is part of SMSD's ongoing continuous improvement efforts to support data-informed decision-making on the [three strategic plan objectives](#).

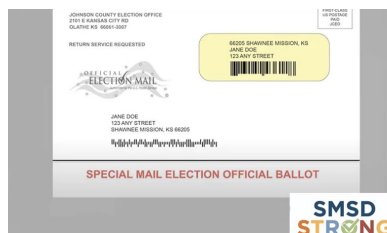
Legislative Update David A. Smith, chief communications officer and SMSD legislative liaison, and Dr. Stuart Little, SMSD lobbyist, facilitated a discussion on the Board of Education's draft 2021 Legislative Platform. Dr. Little also provided some contextual information about the new legislative session. [Click here to view the draft legislative platform.](#)

Hiring of Superintendent Search Facilitator Board members approved the hiring of a facilitator to aid in the superintendent hiring process. James Payne was hired at the contract rate of \$100 an hour.

Board President Heather Ousley stated that Payne would provide a menu of options for the Board as they conduct the internal search. Tasks will include conducting surveys and providing Board members the data related to desired attributes for the superintendent and concerns of the community. The facilitator

also will be able to help Board members in conducting the interview process to allow for a more secure and impartial process.

During the Superintendent Report, Superintendent Fulton presented the following highlights:



Bond Update Ballots have been mailed to Shawnee Mission School District residents so that they can decide on the \$264 million bond issue. [They are due to the Johnson County Election office, or an official dropbox, by noon on January 26.](#)

This bond proposes [facilities updates to all buildings across the district](#), including the rebuilding of five elementary schools. It also would provide a way to hire additional secondary teachers. This move would [help secondary teachers move from teaching six out of seven hours a day to five out of seven, in order to better support the student learning experience.](#)

[We encourage everyone to vote.](#) Anyone in the community who might be hearing questions about the bond is encouraged to direct individuals to the district website for details.

Some of those questions may include:

[How was the proposal developed?](#)

[How is the district proposing to spend the money?](#)

[How will the bond help SMSD teachers and students?](#)

[Click here to review the bond website.](#)



Susan Specht, SM Northwest
Horizon Award Winner



Horizon Award Winner Susan Specht , a health and physical education teacher from Shawnee Mission Northwest, is a Horizon Award honoree. Kansas Commissioner of Education Randy Watson surprised her with the honor, which recognizes teachers who demonstrated outstanding work in their first year as an educator in Kansas. She is one of only 32 Kansas educators to receive this honor this year. Dr. Fulton expressed districtwide pride in Specht and that she represents the many phenomenal educators across the district.



Update on Meals Meal pickups are taking place from 6:45 a.m. to 7:30 a.m on Fridays at all schools. Food service continues to provide breakfast and lunch to all students, regardless of their learning model. As the

new year has begun, food service has also encouraged families that have not already applied for free and reduced meals to apply if they believe they might qualify. There is a possibility that additional Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) funding may be available later this school year for those who have been approved for free or reduced meals. [Click here for more information.](#)



East Central Kansas Music Educators Association
2021 Honorees



ECKMEA Awards The East Central Kansas Music Educators Association is recognizing two Shawnee Mission music

teachers for their excellence in the classroom.

Penny Snead, Shawnee Mission Northwest band director, has been selected as the East Central Kansas Music Educators Association (ECKMEA) High School Band Director of the Year for 2020-2021. Jonathan Wiebe, Shawnee Mission South orchestra director, has been selected as the ECKMEA High School Orchestra Director of the Year.

ECKMEA describes the award winners as “standing tall among the ranks of the finest music educators.”

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](#).