



BOARD MEETING RECAP

During the Feb. 8 Board of Education Workshop, Board members heard several informational updates and heard a report from Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton. Here is a recap:

Superintendent Search Update Board President Heather Ousley provided an update on the Superintendent search process. Results of surveys regarding a new superintendent have been compiled and will be brought to the Board for a presentation. Board members are getting ready for the interview process and are looking to conclude the process by no later than mid-March. She noted that deliberations on hiring the next superintendent would take place in executive session, as they involved personnel matters.

College and Career Readiness Presentation Dr. Ryan Flurry, principal of Career and Technical Education, provided an update on Equity and Access in Personalized Learning Plans. He shared details on steps that are being taken to support the district's mission, especially in the areas of personalized learning and college and career readiness.

He spoke about the efforts to increase access to Real World Learning opportunities supported by the Kauffman Foundation and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation. Efforts are

being made in support of the goal to have students obtain Market Value Assets: industry valued and recognized skills acquired in high school. He also shared information about YouScience and Xello, software resources that help students identify career matches and can inform the enrollment and ongoing college and career exploration process.

CARES II Funding Dr. Darren Dennis, director of curriculum, instruction, and assessment, provided details about the teams being formed and the processes that will be used for determining the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds.

[To view the College and Career presentation information click here.](#)

Human Resource - Workload Update Dr. Mike Schumacher, associate superintendent of human resources, spoke about outlined commitments and statements in the Professional Negotiated Agreement relating to teacher workload at the secondary level. With the financial commitment approved by the community through the bond, Schumacher said secondary workload can be addressed as outlined, making this an exciting time. Dr. Schumacher also provided an update on recruiting efforts, including early hiring, recruiting events, and efforts to attract and retain underrepresented candidates. [Click here to view the slides of the presentation.](#)

Strategic Plan: Bond Issue Facilities Update Dr. Rick Atha, deputy superintendent, joined by Duane Cash, lead architect of Incite Design (Diemer), and Justin Durbin, lead architect with Hollis & Miller (Westwood View) provided an update on John Diemer and Westwood View Elementary School rebuilds. Their presentation included details about ongoing community engagement and dialogue, a construction timeline, and shared

design details as they stand today. [Click here to view the slides from the presentation.](#)



Reflections Honorees Dr. Fulton noted a special recognition tonight.

The Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA put together a short movie highlighting students who have received an Award of

Excellence in this year's Reflections program. This is an art competition that draws students from across the district in elementary, middle, and high school. This year, students submitted artwork reflecting on the theme "I Matter Because." [Here is a look at award-winning submissions compiled by SMAC PTA volunteers.](#)

Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton stated he and Board members are all sorry they do not get to shake hands with each and every honoree due to the pandemic. "We want every student to know that we appreciate that you shared your talents with us and that we are very proud of your work," he expressed.

The Reflections program is put together by dedicated volunteers from SMAC PTA. Dr. Fulton noted that February 17 marks Founders Day for the National PTA, so it is only appropriate that SMSD thanks these volunteers and the many, many PTA members who contribute to our schools each and every day. Later this month Dr. Fulton and the Board anticipate recognizing students who participated in the Citizenship writing competition, also provided through SMAC PTA.



Presidential Scholars The U.S.

Presidential Scholars Program has named four Shawnee Mission seniors as candidates. The candidates are: Emmett Liljegren from Shawnee Mission East, Jesse DeBok from Shawnee Mission Northwest, Chase Horner from Shawnee Mission South, and Emma Worthington from Shawnee Mission West.

They were among 4,500 candidates selected in the 2021 program from nearly 3.6 million students across the country who are expected to graduate in 2021. Scholars are selected on the basis of superior academic and artistic achievements, leadership qualities, strong character and involvement in community and school activities.



Healthy KC Recognition for SMSD

The Shawnee Mission School District has been honored as a 2021 HealthyKC Certified Organization. It is honored with a Platinum designation, joining 132 businesses across greater Kansas City given this recognition.

This certification program recognizes organizations based on five pillars of health: healthy eating, active living, tobacco cessation, work-life integration, and design-built environment. This year's Workplace Wellness Certification had a specific focus on what policies and measures businesses implemented to ensure the health and well-being of their workforce, as well as creating a more inclusive and equitable environment to ensure employees' mental health. This is a celebration for the human resources department, for well-being coordinator Tammie McCoy, and for every employee who engages in services offered to benefit well-being. Dr. Fulton stated that he is very proud of everyone for this recognition and of all of the effort and care that has gone into supporting wellness for SMSD employees.

ONLINE ENROLLMENT

Pre-K and Kindergarten
for 2021-2022



BEGINS SOON

Pre-K and Kindergarten

Enrollment We want everyone to know that **pre-kindergarten** and **kindergarten** enrollment is coming soon. Enrollment will kick off with online registration which will open at 8 a.m. on February 16,

2021. We will share the link to enroll with families in our district via email and on the district website. Families will be able to complete enrollment for pre-kindergarten or kindergarten. Just a reminder: pre-kindergarten enrollment is filled on a first come, first served basis so be sure to enroll early to reserve a spot for your child. Opportunities for families to safely visit the school and meet school staff will take place during scheduled times in the spring. We encourage everyone to share this upcoming opportunity, especially with families of children who will be 4 and 5-years-old this fall. We look forward to welcoming our newest SMSD students soon!



Internet Access Support Program

In December, we broadly shared an opportunity through the Internet Access Support Program. This program provides free broadband in the home via Johnson

County CARES Act funding. So far, 135 families in the Shawnee Mission School District have obtained six months of free broadband service through this program. We thank everyone who worked in partnership to make sure students in our community have this needed resource available. Those needing more information about this resource [can find it here](#).



Kindness Week In January we had schools across the district participate in kindness week. It's always a good time to be kind and to learn about being kind. But during Kindness Week, students and staff take extra moments to focus on the practice of caring for one another. We saw numerous examples of students and staff sharing words of encouragement with one another and working together on acts of community service. Thank you everyone for the kindness you exhibited that week and for how you continue to pay it forward in our community.



Thank You SMSD Community!

Bond Issue Dr. Fulton took a moment to express thanks to the entire community for the vote of approval for the proposed SMSD bond issue. The election office has confirmed that final results are now official and 69.41 percent of voters said “yes” to the bond referendum. Thank you also to everyone who dedicated their time to studying the proposal, who developed the strategic plan, and who provided information throughout the community about what was proposed. Thank you to everyone who helped us reach the point where we can now take steps necessary to improve facilities across the district and work toward hiring additional secondary teachers at the secondary level. This approval will help SMSD students and staff for years to come.

COVID-19 Update Dr. Fulton shared that the district continues to work to manage the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure that all students continue to learn, while keeping students and staff safe. SMSD has begun to get staff vaccinated, beginning with health care providers, who are receiving their second vaccine dose this week. SMSD has also begun to get vaccines to those staff who work directly with students who are unable to consistently mask,

those with Americans with Disabilities accommodations on file, and those staff who are age 65 and older.

The district will continue to move through staff, by age, until all staff are vaccinated. “I do want to thank the staff who have been working to organize the vaccination schedule, most especially Shelby Rebeck and Dr. Christy Ziegler,” Fulton expressed. “There have been times when we learned about the availability of vaccine time slots with less than two hours notice, and they have been working hard to ensure that no vaccine goes to waste.”

Shawnee Mission continues to work with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment on a plan to bring all students back to school full time. There are a number of variables that will need to be worked through, in order to do so safely. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has urged schools to reopen, saying that research shows that this can be done safely, but there are several caveats that sometimes get ignored. Their recommendations, which are the same for all 130,000 schools in the country, assume the ability to continue with all mitigating actions, including mask wearing and social distancing. Otherwise, they note, there will be an increased risk of transmission. This will be a significant challenge for many SMSD classrooms, and something the district will continue to work through and seek guidance on. Shawnee Mission staff expect to receive additional and more specific guidance from the CDC later on this week.

Other variables that must be considered include the district’s ability to continue to contact trace (in order to identify and track any increase in COVID-19 cases) and the on-going ability to staff buildings, specifically with regard to substitute teachers, nutritional services and custodial services staff.

Over the next two weeks, assuming the district receives updated guidance from the CDC, Shawnee Mission will work to finalize

plans, with the hope and goal of returning to daily in-person learning for secondary students. Dr. Fulton stated he will provide an update at the February 22 Board of Education meeting.

DEI Update Dr. Fulton shared that affinity groups will soon begin in the district, as a space where underrepresented individuals and groups who share common interests, backgrounds, and experiences can come together to support one another and the district. He also shared information about the formation of a Superintendent advisory group, composed of staff, students and community members who bring diverse perspectives and experiences to the conversation. The goal is to provide a safe space for dialogue on ways to support all students on their learning journey.

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](#).