



## BOARD MEETING RECAP



**Next Superintendent Announced** At its meeting on Monday, February 22, 2021, the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) Board of Education announced the selection of Dr. Michelle Hubbard as the next district superintendent. Currently, Dr. Hubbard serves as Deputy Superintendent.

Board President Heather Ousley issued the following statement on behalf of the Board:

“The Board of Education is pleased to confirm Dr. Michelle Hubbard as our District’s next Superintendent. Dr. Hubbard has played an integral role in the creation and implementation of our community’s Strategic Plan, and her knowledge and expertise as we execute the bond reaffirms the District’s deep desire to keep fidelity with our five-year goals. Dr. Hubbard’s leadership, strength, and commitment to children will serve the Shawnee Mission School District well in the years to come.”

[Click here to read more.](#)

**Learning Mode Update** – Several individuals provided a Learning Mode update and details about the district’s ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts. This update included the following target dates:

- Secondary students are scheduled to return to full in-person learning on March 22, 2021 (Students who chose the remote learning model in August will remain remote)
- Outdoor facilities rentals start March 1, 2021
- Indoor facilities rentals start March 22, 2021

[The report slides shared at the Board Meeting can be viewed here.](#)

The following presentations were made as a part of this update:

Elizabeth Holzschuh, director of epidemiology for the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, provided an update on national guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), scientific studies, and county guidance.

Shelby Rebeck, director of health services, provided an update on mitigation measures and contact tracing in the district and plans for when secondary students return to full in-person learning.

Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services, provided an update on testing and vaccination, sanitization and cleaning. She shared that vaccination rates for staff are being completed at a rate much higher than previously expected.

Dr. Rick Atha, deputy superintendent, provided an update on air quality and projected costs of mitigating COVID-19 from March 2021 to June 2022.

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, deputy superintendent, shared details about the updating of the district's middle and high school mitigation plan design for full in-person classes. She introduced Dr. Joe Gilhaus, director of secondary services, Dr. Jeremy Higgins, principal at Shawnee Mission North, and Blake Revelle,

principal at Indian Hills Middle School, who shared details about mitigation plans at their respective school levels.

[The middle school plan can be viewed here.](#)

[The high school plan can be viewed here.](#)

It was mentioned several times during the presentation that while schools will do everything possible to ensure social distancing, three feet of social distancing cannot be guaranteed at all times in this model.

**Bond Update** Dr. Rick Atha, deputy superintendent, provided a brief overview of bond-related items. His overview focused on items contained in the Bond consent agenda, approved by the board later in the meeting.

He also shared timeline highlights for the following elementary schools:

- John Diemer and Westwood View are scheduled for construction in the summer of 2021, with a planned completion in December of 2022.
- Pawnee is planned for on-site construction beginning in the fall of 2021, with an estimated completion date of June 2023.
- Tomahawk and Rushton are scheduled for construction to begin in January 2023, and open in August of 2024.

The timeline is subject to change based upon circumstances, but Dr. Atha said staff are hopeful the district can stay within the timeline unless something unforeseen takes place. Bond consent items approved by the Board [can be viewed on the agenda.](#)

**Legislative Update** Dr. Stuart Little provided the legislative update, which will be added to the Legislative Information page on the district's [website here](#).

**Board Policy** The Board of Education held first and final readings and approved the following policies:

Board Policy AC: [Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation](#)

Board Policy EBBD: [Evacuations and Emergencies](#)

Board Policy JBCB: [In-District Transfers](#)

**Approval of Administrator Contracts** The board approved the extension of administrator contracts. This approval did not include any components related to salary.



**Healthiest Employees** The Shawnee Mission School District has received another recognition for its work to promote wellness among employees. The Kansas City Business Journal has honored SMSD as a 2021 Healthiest Employees honoree. The business journal stated that the 30 employers who are being honored have prioritized their worker's health and wellness during a year when health took center stage. This comes on the heels of the SMSD receiving 2021 Healthy KC Workplace Wellness certification. SMSD congratulates everyone who works in human resources, Tammie McCoy and her team who promote wellness, and the entire staff for their work this year to promote health and wellness across the district.



2021 KSPA  
Student Journalist of the Year



### **State Journalist of the Year Riley**

Atkinson, Shawnee Mission East senior, is the 2021 Kansas Student Journalist of the Year, awarded by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association (KSPA). The award was presented to Atkinson in a surprise remote announcement. Atkinson is in consideration for a national award to be announced in May and is the fourth journalism student in the past five years at SM East to be named State Journalist of the Year. Each honoree has been instructed by journalism instructor Dow Tate.



**KMEA Musicians SMSD** extends congratulations to students from across the district who will represent the district in the 2021 Virtual Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA) In-Service Workshop.

Students auditioned this year for instrumental and vocal ensembles by submitting video auditions. The SMSD is proud of the students who will perform in state ensembles, choirs, orchestras, and bands. [Click here to see the](#) students who will be a part of these select groups.



**One Class at a Time** The very first recipient of the 41 Action News [One Class at a Time honoree was Conda Mauck](#). The first-grade teacher at Highlands was surprised with the news during an online interview with reporter Rae Daniel. They

presented her with a \$500 gift card for her efforts in the classroom and going the extra mile. Congratulations Conda!

## ONLINE ENROLLMENT

Pre-K and Kindergarten  
for 2021-2022



OPEN NOW

**Kindergarten/Pre-K Enrollment** has kicked off for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten students in the SMSD.

If you are a new family to the Shawnee Mission School District, click [here](#) to access online enrollment. If you already have children enrolled and attending Shawnee Mission Schools, you should log into your **Skyward Family Access** account and select New Student Enrollment to enroll your incoming pre-K or kindergarten student. Pre-Kindergarten is filled on a first-come, first-served basis families are encouraged to reserve a spot soon. Opportunities for families to safely visit their school and meet staff will take place during scheduled times in the spring. We encourage everyone to share this opportunity, especially with families of children who will be 4 and 5 years old this fall. [For more information click here.](#)



**County Spelling Bee Champion** Ishya Bhavsar, an eighth grader from Indian Hills Middle School, is the winner of the 2021 Johnson County Spelling Bee.

She earned the championship title after correctly spelling the word onomatopoeia.

Bhavsar will advance to the state spelling bee, scheduled to take place in Wichita in late March. This year, competitors entered the bee using an online testing format. Then, a Championship Session was held for the top eight participants in the county. Congratulations to all SMSD students [who took the challenge](#) and demonstrated their spelling abilities at this county-wide event.