



BOARD MEETING RECAP



Secondary Full In-Person Today was an exciting day as the SMSD welcomed secondary students to full in-person learning. They had been learning in a hybrid model, but today brought more students and staff together at the same time. Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton thanked everyone who dedicated so much time and effort to every aspect of bringing secondary students fully in-person.

He also extended thanks to everyone who has been assisting in vaccination efforts. The district announced recently that all staff in the district had at least the opportunity to receive their first dose of the vaccine and is on track to complete second doses by April 1. Shawnee Mission also has been helping to host a series of vaccination clinics at the Center for Academic Achievement, allowing for even more people in our community to be vaccinated. As was shared with families and staff via email, the SMSD is following updated guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

Mitigation measures remain critical for us to follow in our schools during the day and also during activities and athletics participation.

Information about guidelines for activities and athletics, including today's updated guidance for the performing arts, is available here:

[Spring Performing Arts Covid-19 Guidelines](#)
[Performing Arts Covid-19 Guidelines At-a-Glance](#)

As with all our COVID-19 guiding documents, we will update them as information becomes available from the CDC, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) and other health partners. We continue to collaborate with the JCDHE to assist in this effort, including monitoring the impact of the new coronavirus variants on the progress of the disease in our county.



PTA Citizenship Honorees The SMSD, in partnership with the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA, is proud to honor student winners of this year' Citizenship writing contest. Students submitted essays or a poem on the selected theme: "Caring for My Community Looks Like..."

SMAC PTA put together a slideshow to share in honor of contest winners: [Click here to see the video from SMAC PTA.](#)

Congratulations to all of these students, their schools, and family members for their phenomenal work and as they advance to state competition! Earlier this year, Dr. Fulton and Board members were pleased to recognize student artists who participated in the SMAC PTA Reflections art contest. Thank you to everyone on SMAC PTA who dedicate so much time to providing ways for students to express themselves through art and the written word.



Youth Art Month/Music in Our Schools Month March is Music in Our Schools Month and Youth Art Month. Dr. Fulton shared that teachers and students involved in performing and visual arts have done so much this year to adapt and share what they have learned artistically with an audience.

As part of this celebration, the Shawnee Mission School District shares the third installment of the 2020-2021 District Quarterly Art Show. This show features student artwork from across the district. [Click here to view the art show.](#)

Later in the meeting, the Board approved an Arts and Education resolution in honor of the important educational benefits of the arts in schools. [Click here to view the approved resolution.](#)



Missouri River Honor for SMSD Sustainability Missouri River Relief honored the Shawnee Mission School District and its previous sustainability leader with its “Inspiring the Next Generation”

award. The honor is presented to educators that strive to connect students and teachers to the Missouri River and deepen their sense of river stewardship. The honor reflects the work of retired sustainability coordinator Joan Leavens and the partnership of the curriculum and instruction team that has provided lasting opportunities for students to learn ways of helping their local environment.



Biotechnology Teacher Honored Dr. Kenneth Lee, Biotechnology Signature Program teacher, is the recipient of the Tom Steadman 2021 High School Biotech Teacher Award. The honor, given by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Kansas Medical Center, recognizes a high school teacher who teaches hands-on research techniques by providing the opportunity to contribute to original research. He has been recognized for his contributions to his field, for his work as an educator, and student participation in science competitions.



Basketball Champions The Shawnee Mission Northwest girls basketball team just completed a phenomenal season. Dr. Fulton expressed that the community is very proud to congratulate these champions! The Lady Cougars were crowned the 6A Kansas State

High School Activities Association champions. At the championship game they won with a final score of 61 to 54 and finished their season undefeated at 23-0. Congratulations to the Lady Cougars of Shawnee Mission Northwest!



National Merit Finalists The National Merit Program named 13 Shawnee Mission School District students National Merit Finalists. They will advance in the National Merit competition for National Merit

Scholarship Awards. We are very proud of these seniors for their outstanding academic achievement! [Click here to see a list of this year's SMSD National Merit Finalists.](#)



R&D Pitch One of Shawnee Mission's biggest showcases of the year is coming up soon and we invite students across the district to participate. This year's R&D

Forum will feature a **virtual Student Showcase** and a live-streamed **Pitch Finals** competition at the Center for Academic Achievement on May 1, 2021.

The R&D Forum is a 59-year Shawnee Mission tradition where the district showcases student work and celebrates student excellence and innovation.

Students and staff are encouraged to enter student projects, experiments, or art projects in the showcase of student work.

[Click here to enter student work in the digital showcase.](#)

This year, the district also has an exciting new opportunity for students to enter a pitch competition. The district is accepting entries NOW for the Next Great idea. In this contest, students have the opportunity to work on a plan with industry professionals, win a cash prize, and gain additional funding to turn their ideas into reality. This opportunity is presented with help from partners at Startland. The Deadline for entering the Pitch Competition is Friday, March 26, 2021. However, all that needs to be completed by Friday is a rough draft idea and a filled out entry form. There will be more time and support provided by industry mentors for the students to further develop their idea and pitch prior to the competition on May 1.

[Click here for a link to enter The Next Great Idea pitch contest.](#)

The entire R&D Forum is made possible through generous support of the Regnier Family and we thank them for their longstanding support of this district-wide event.

Legislative Update Stuart Little, SMSD legislative liaison, provided the legislative update to the Board. For more district legislative information, [click here](#).

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

[GAR: Communicable Diseases](#)

[JGCC: Communicable Diseases](#)

Bond Resolution David Arteberry, public finance director for Stifel, Nicolaus & Company provided an overview of the finance plan and process for selling bonds. The Board approved a resolution authorizing the offering for sale of General Obligation Refunding and Improvement Bonds, Series 2021-A and Taxable

General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021-B. [Click here to view the resolution and presentation information.](#)

Shawnee Mission All Stars The Shawnee Mission Board of Education recognized two Shawnee Mission All Stars. Shawnee Mission's newest All Stars are:

Ruby Reynolds, special education teacher at John Diemer Elementary School. [Click here to see a video about Ruby.](#)

Dale Clark, building manager at Shawnee Mission East. [Click here to see a video about Dale.](#)

Tonight, the Shawnee Mission Board of Education made the following appointments:

- **Dr. Scott Sherman** was named Director of Secondary Education. Dr. Sherman has been a principal in the district since 2007, serving at Antioch, Hocker Grove and Indian Hills Middle Schools, and for the past three years at Shawnee Mission East. He has served for ten years as the district counselor coordinator, and taught Business Law, Personal Finance and Computer at Shawnee Mission North High School. Dr. Sherman earned a bachelors of science degree in secondary education from Kansas State University, a master of science degree in secondary counseling, and a doctorate in educational leadership from Saint Louis University. Dr. Sherman was raised in the Shawnee Mission community, and is a graduate of Shawnee Mission West High School.
- **Kristin Ridgway** has been named a coordinator of curriculum and instruction, with a focus on secondary English language arts and social studies. Ms. Ridgway is currently an instructional coach at Indian Hills Middle School.

Previously, she taught English language arts for ten years in SMSD. Prior to coming to the district, she taught high school English language arts and middle school Spanish in Arnold, Missouri. She earned a bachelors of science degree in English education from Southeast Missouri State University, and a Masters of Arts in education from Baker Univeristy.

- **Amanda Wade** has been named a special education coordinator. She is currently a school psychologist at Olathe South High School. Prior to moving to Olathe, she served for six years at Kansas City Christian School, including the last two years as principal. She previously served seven years as a professional developer/school psychologist in the Blue Valley School District, and as a school psychologist in Johnston, Iowa. She earned a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's degree in psychology and counseling, and an education specialists degree in school psychology, all from Pittsburg State University, and a certificate in educational leadership from Emporia State University.
- **Dr. Laura Brogdon** was named an associate principal at Shawnee Mission North High School. Currently, she is the principal of SMSD Connect (the district's remote learning program). She began her tenure in the district as a teacher, teaching algebra, math extension, geometry and honors geometry at Shawnee Mission West High School. In the 2017-18 school year, she served as an instructional coach at Shawnee Mission North High School, and then went on to serve as an associate principal at Hocker Grove Middle School. Dr. Brogdon earned a bachelor's degree in secondary mathematics from the University of Kansas, and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Kansas. She earned her doctorate in educational administration from the University of Kansas.

- **Nicole Bennett** has accepted the position of administrative intern at Comanche Elementary School. Ms. Bennett is currently in her second year as the instructional coach at Rosehill Elementary school. Prior to Rosehill, Ms. Bennett was a classroom teacher for six years at ApacheIS Elementary School.
- **Ms. Angela Harris** has accepted the position of administrative intern at ApacheIS Elementary School. Ms. Harris is currently an instructional coach at Ray Marsh Elementary school. Prior to Ray Marsh, Ms. Harris was an innovation specialist at Comanche and Shawanoe Elementary Schools. Ms. Harris began in Shawnee Mission as a teacher at Westwood View elementary, where she taught for five years.
- **Ms. Jessica Risinger** has accepted the position of administrative intern at Rosehill Elementary School. Ms. Risinger is currently the administrative intern at Comanche Elementary school, where she previously served as the instructional coach. She has also taught fifth and sixth grades in the Turner and Leavenworth School Districts.

An archive video of the meeting [can be found here.](#)
Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here.](#)