



BOARD MEETING RECAP

During the April 12 Board of Education Workshop, Board members heard informational updates and heard a report from Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton.

Here is a recap:

Updates and Reports:

Food Service Update Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services, introduced Nancy Coughenour, director of food services. Coughenour provided an update on the work of the food service department, focusing on the last year, and the department's adaptations to the COVID-19 pandemic. She shared breakfast, lunch and summer lunch participation rates, details about the free and reduced lunch meal and after-school snack and meal programs, and provided an update on financial performance.

The food service department is awaiting federal guidance, expected to come this month, detailing how food service will be distributed to students in the 2021-2022 school year. [Summer meals](#) will be distributed in the summer, starting on Thursday, June 3.

[The presentation can be viewed here.](#)

Coughenour introduced Grace Liss, who was appointed to become food service director by the Board in December. Liss assumes the new role on July 1. In recognition of Coughenour's upcoming retirement, Ziegler shared several notes from colleagues thanking Coughenour for her leadership in school nutrition at the district, state, and national level.

Response Plan Deputy superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard introduced several district leaders who presented details about the district's COVID-19 Response plan.

[The presentation can be viewed here.](#)

Dr. Hubbard emphasized that a wide range of individuals contributed to the development of the plan and that each recommendation was made with the district Strategic Plan and state requirements at the forefront.

Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, shared district data related to attendance, including attendance rates, absenteeism, and grades. According to the data, students with chronic absenteeism are 11 times more likely to have at least one F,

compared to students who are not chronically absent. Dr. Gruman also shared NWEA MAP update, which provides indicators of academic growth. Later, Dr. Gruman also provided a discipline matrix update.

Dr. John McKinney, director of student and family services, provided an update on social emotional learning and data collected via the student Panorama survey. The survey responses related to student competency, student-teacher relationships, school climate, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Krista Carson, elementary coordinator for English Language Arts and social studies, shared details about academic recommendations made by the various learning teams.

Tyler Clubb, director of facilities and support services, and Judd Remmers, assistant director of facilities and support services, provided details about indoor air quality and sanitization. Clubb outlined the current status of HVAC equipment, evaluated with respect to professional and medical guidelines, and 2-year budgetary needs.

The data shared and feedback from teams across the district led to the presentation of the following recommendations to the board for the use of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds.

ESSR II Funds Allocations



ESSER II Budget Allocations	Budget
*Elementary Social Workers (7)	\$572,000
*High School Counselors (4)	\$372,000
**Reduce Elementary Class Size to 22/25 (18)	\$1,404,000
Subs to support student learning, professional learning, and COVID for the 21-22 school year (54)	\$2,160,000
*Secondary Math Teachers (10)	\$780,000
Elementary CARES Team	\$675,000
Middle School CARES Team	\$675,000
High School CARES Team	\$675,000
Indoor Air Quality	\$2,300,500
*6.5 Elementary Instructional Coaches	\$500,500
Technology Needs	\$450,000
Total	\$10,564,000

*These positions will need to be reduced or absorbed into the general fund 2023-24.

**Elementary class sizes would return to 24/27 in the 2023-24 school year.

Multiple individuals emphasized that several of the positions outlined in this allocation plan would need to be reduced or absorbed into the general fund in the 2023-2024 school year.

From the Superintendent Report:



Kansas Teacher of the Year Honorees –

Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton expressed that the community is tremendously proud to honor the two Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) Kansas Teacher of the Year honorees. Natalie Johnson-

Berry, English Language Arts teacher at Shawnee Mission North, is a Region 3 finalist for the 2022 Kansas Teacher of the Year award. This honor was announced in a virtual ceremony on March 28, 2021, hosted by the Kansas State Department of Education. She is eligible to be named Kansas Teacher of the Year, to be announced during a ceremony in September. Each year, every district in Kansas is able to nominate one secondary and one elementary teacher. Crystal Brower, a kindergarten teacher at Shawanoe Elementary and SMSD's Elementary Teacher of the Year, was also honored for her outstanding work as an educator during the March ceremony.

Congratulations to these educators- the Shawnee Mission School District community is tremendously proud of you.



Spelling Bee Student Advances Ishya Bhavsar, an eighth-grader at Indian Hills Middle School, will compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee. She was declared the state spelling bee champion in late March, in a competition with 74 students from across Kansas. This talented speller is also the

two-time reigning champion of the Johnson County Spelling Bee. Bhavsar is preparing for the national bee, to be held this summer.

Women in Technology Award This week, two Shawnee Mission students will be honored for their accomplishments in computing and technology. Lindsey Chiu, a senior at Shawnee Mission South High School and an Engineering Signature Program student, and Hannah Poe, a Shawnee Mission South junior, are recipients of the National Center for Women and Information Technology Award for Aspirations in Computing. They are being acknowledged in a virtual award ceremony later this week for their

2021 Aspirations in Computing Award



outstanding aptitude and interest in technology and computing, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for post-secondary education.

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Perfect ACT Score at SM East Andrew Ward, a junior at Shawnee Mission East High School, scored a perfect 36 composite score on the ACT exam. Fewer than one-tenth of one percent of test-takers achieve this distinction.

2021
COCA-COLA
SCHOLAR



Coca-Cola Scholar Hananeel Morinville, a senior at Shawnee Mission North High School, was named a 2021 Coke Scholar. She is among 150 high school seniors across the country who will receive a \$20,000 college scholarship. Fewer than 1/6th of 1 percent of applicants to this scholarship

are chosen to receive this competitive award.



Food Service Recognition The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Shawnee Mission School District in recognition of “heroic efforts since March 2020 ensuring that Kansas students receive healthy and safe meals during the COVID-19

pandemic.”

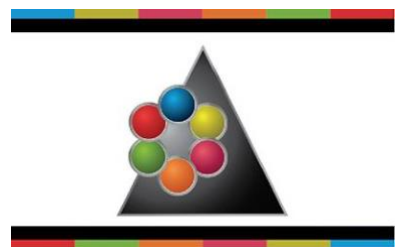
The certificate, signed by commissioner Randy Watson, along with the deputy commissioner and the director of child nutrition and wellness, states that KSDE “applauds your leadership, tireless dedication, perseverance, and commitment to help keep Kansas kids healthy and ready to learn.” Superintendent Fulton thanked everyone, especially those in the food service department, for all they have done to make sure students have received the nutrition they need throughout this year.

Week of the Young Child – This week nationally marks the Week of the Young Child across the country. Shawnee Mission celebrates all early childhood educators, students, families, and everyone who supports services that meet the needs of young children. Superintendent Fulton acknowledged the important role early learning plays in providing a foundation for success for students.

This is great timing as kindergarten kickoff events begin to be held in elementary schools. Of course, enrollment is open for kindergarten and pre-k in the district.

[Click here for more information](#) about enrolling in Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten in the SMSD.

[Click here to learn about](#) SMSD Parents as Teachers and other early-childhood offerings in the Shawnee Mission School District.



R&D Reminder – It's not too late to share student projects and work in this year's Research and Development (R&D Forum). Students and teachers are invited to submit student-created projects, experiments, or artwork to share in this year's digital, district-wide R&D Forum. [Click here to submit student work](#). The deadline to submit work to the showcase is this Friday, April 16, 2021.

The SMSD R&D Forum is one of the district's biggest showcases of the year. May 1, 2021 marks the 59th year of the forum, which will include a virtual Student Showcase and a livestreamed Pitch Finals competition called "The Next Great Idea." This competition is presented in partnership with community partners at Startland. Participants will be competing for cash awards to help make their dreams a reality.

The community is invited to view the Student Showcase and watch and vote in the Next Great Idea pitch competition on May 1. Links to watch will be posted on [smsd.org](https://www.smsd.org) and on the district's [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts. The entire R&D Forum is made possible through the generous support of the Regnier family, and their longstanding support of this district-wide event is deeply appreciated.



DLSS Reminder- [The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation](#) invites you to a special event celebrating the accomplishments of 2021 seniors. The Distinguished Leaders Speaker Series: Senior Portraits will feature seniors in their own words, inspiring us with their stories of strength, hope, resilience, and advice for younger students. The community is invited to join the virtual audience for the Distinguished Leaders Speaker Series, a free virtual event, at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Viewers can also watch on-demand. [Click here to make a reservation.](#)