



BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Shawnee Mission School District Board of Education met for a regular meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021. During the meeting, Superintendent Mike Fulton shared information with the Board and the public about district news, programs, and recognitions.



Animation Award Bianca Musselman, a SM West senior and Animation Signature Program student, earned several top recognitions at the e-Magine Media Festival. This contest is the only one of its kind for high school students in the Midwest.

Musselman placed second in Character Animation, third in Animated Story, and third in Music Video. Musselman is planning to pursue animation next year in college and hopes to eventually animate for a studio. She graduates this May with a robust portfolio of animation work.

World Language Honor Hocker Grove eighth-grader Hannah Lank won the middle school division of the Kansas World Language Association (KSWLA) poster contest. The Spanish II student created an original digital design for the competition. The



contest asked students to create artwork depicting the 2021 KSWLA Conference theme, “One World, Many Voices.”



Perfect ACT Benjamin Phillips, a junior at SM West, earned a perfect score on the ACT exam. Philips plans to attend college and is considering pursuing a degree in physics. Less than one-tenth of one-percent

of all ACT test-takers earn a perfect composite score on the ACT exam.

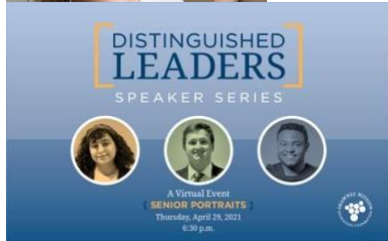


Princeton Prize The Greater Kansas City Committee of the Princeton Prize in Race Relations is honoring three students from the Shawnee Mission School District. These students are being honored for their work to advance racial equity and understanding in the Kansas City community. The honorees are Samantha Morinville and Ore Oni, both juniors at Shawnee Mission North, and Laylan Hamid, a Shawnee Mission West senior. Morinville and Oni are members of the executive committee of Shawnee Mission North’s Coalition of Racial Equity (CORE). They also have created a college advising program to extend CORE’s reach to middle school students and help them be successful in multiple facets of life. Hamid is honored for her work to push diversity, equity, and inclusion in school curriculum, and creating spaces for students to have conversations about cultures in her school and abroad.

National Journalist of the Year Riley Atkinson, a senior at Shawnee Mission East, is the 2021 Journalism Education Association Journalist of the Year, making her the top student journalist in the country. She was also named the Kansas Student Journalist of the year in February by the Kansas Scholastic Press Association. Atkinson is copy editor and online co-editor for the



SM East student newspaper. As the top winner she earned a \$3,000 scholarship. We are very proud of Atkinson for this national recognition.



Distinguished Leaders Speaker Series

[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.](#)



R&D Forum We invite you all to watch the R&D Forum – one of our biggest student showcases of the year, on May 1, 2021.

This 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 starting at 9 a.m. on May 1. Links to watch will be posted on [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.



Distinguished Service Award – Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton presented a Distinguished Service Award to Shelby Rebeck, director of health services, and all SMSD nurses and staff on the health services team. Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services, and Elizabeth Holzschuh, epidemiologist from the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, spoke about the critical role the team has played in supporting student and staff health and safety in Shawnee Mission. Dr. Ziegler also shared comments from Dr. Jennifer Watts of Children’s Mercy Hospital, thanking the health services team for their work throughout the pandemic and their partnership in administering vaccines to students and staff. Rebeck accepted a plaque on behalf of the team in honor of their “extraordinary contributions and commitment to student and staff health and safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.”

[Click here to see a video thanking the SMSD health services team.](#)

National Library Month Proclamation Board of Education members read a National School Library Month proclamation. The proclamation details the contributions of staff and notes the contributions a library program at a school makes to the individual growth and development of all students, while fostering both excellence and equity in education. [Click here to read the full proclamation.](#)



Food Service Update SMSD staff have been informed by the US Department of Agriculture that all student meals will be provided at no cost for the 2021-22 school year. Additional details are currently being developed, and more information will be shared when it becomes available.



ESSER Page A new page on Information Central outlines the plans and allocations of the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds in the Shawnee Mission School District. These federal funds provide needed resources that directly support Shawnee Mission School District's (SMSD) [Strategic Plan](#). Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton reiterated that these funds are desperately needed because they will make a difference in the life of every child served in the Shawnee Mission School District. [Click here to view details about ESSER funding.](#)



Bond Update Dr. Fulton presented an update on district bond projects. He shared progress details on the rebuilding process for Westwood View, John Diemer, and Pawnee Elementary schools. The presentation also outlined the next renovations scheduled to take place for Shawnee Mission North, Shawnee Mission Northwest, and Indian Woods. Dr. Fulton also shared details about HVAC upgrades, playground replacements, roof repair and replacement, asphalt repair and overlay, security upgrades, furniture replacement, and carpet and floor tile upgrades. [Click here to view the presentation.](#)

Legislative Update Dr. Stuart Little, SMSD legislative liaison, shared an update. A written summary of his update [can be found on this page](#), dated April 25.

Budget Update Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, provided a board financial report and a Budget Workshop regarding non-operating funds. This workshop provided descriptions and a status update for self-supported funds, flow-through funds, bond debt funds, and capital outlay funds. Knapp noted the approved bond referendum allows the district to move custodial salaries from the operating fund into capital outlay, which will allow for the hiring of additional secondary teachers. [Click here to view](#) the presentation slides.

Curriculum Adoption Board of Education members heard short presentations from Dr. Michelle Hubbard, deputy superintendent, Christopher Villarreal, secondary coordinator of curriculum and instruction, and Dr. Bill Thomas, performing arts coordinator, about the selection of new district curriculum. Educators from across the district who collaborated on the selection process joined the presentation. The following curriculum programs were adopted by the Board of Education:

[Social Studies Curriculum](#)
[Music Curriculum for K-6](#)

Wellness Session The Shawnee Mission School District invites families to join a free, virtual presentation focused on student and family wellness. The event will be held virtually from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Families are asked to register here for this free event: <http://bit.ly/SMSDwellness>

The event, titled “Wellness in a Pandemic,” will feature several district and community mental health professionals presenting a

variety of 30-minute virtual sessions. The topics are all centered on strategies and resources for wellness during the pandemic.

An archive video of the meeting [can be found here.](#)

Links to board policies, agendas, and meeting minutes [can be found here.](#)