



BOARD MEETING RECAP

Affirmation of Reopening Plan Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton reiterated language from the Resolution on Affirming the Reopening Plan, adopted by the Board of Education in [July of 2020](#). Fulton stated the district will continue to follow guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, including requirements for mask-wearing and social distancing as appropriate.

“We all hope for the day when it comes, and it will, when the mitigation measures we are following give way to normalcy,” Fulton stated. “In the meantime we will continue to follow the guidance.”



SkillsUSA Honorees At the spring SkillsUSA Kansas State Championships, a group of Shawnee Mission competitors earned recognition in culinary arts and industrial technology.

Norah Pieken, Shawnee Mission North junior, earned a gold medal in commercial baking and Noah Belcher, a junior from DeSoto who attends SMSD’s culinary program, earned a gold medal in culinary arts. They are now preparing to compete in the national SkillsUSA competition. [Click here to view a list of medalists](#). SkillsUSA is an education association, including

students and teachers, that works to ensure America has a skilled workforce.



Biotechnology Success Students in Shawnee Mission's Biotechnology program were winners of the recent Children's Mercy decoding challenge. The challenge was issued in 2021 by Children's Mercy

Research Institute. Students were invited to decipher DNA sequences displayed on the outside windows of the Institute. Congratulations to Biotechnology students and their teachers for solving the sequences and for a successful spring!

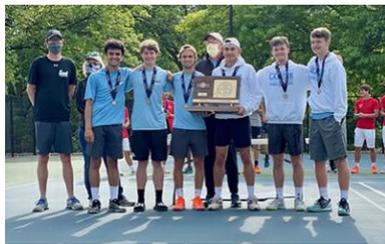


R&D Forum We kicked off this month with an exciting district-wide event. On May 1, we learned the winners of The Next Great idea competition, which was hosted in partnership

with Startland. Students shared pitch presentations detailing a solution to a problem. Several student innovators earned top cash prizes for their innovative ideas. [Click here to read more about the honorees](#). These students were given funds to put their ideas into reality and we look forward to seeing all they accomplish. We also were thrilled to see student projects from across the district [entered in the R&D digital showcase](#). We are grateful to the Regnier Family for 59 years of generous support for the Shawnee Mission School District R&D Forum.



Presidential Scholar Chase Horner, senior at Shawnee Mission South, was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar. 161 seniors in the United States were selected for this honor based on academic success, artistic and technical excellence, essays, school evaluations, transcripts, leadership, and community service. The Presidential Scholars Class will be recognized for their outstanding achievements this summer.



Athletic Honors Over the weekend, the Shawnee Mission East boys tennis team earned its second consecutive 6A Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) title. Shawnee Mission congratulates the athletes on this outstanding achievement. As the tournament began, Shawnee Mission East tennis coach Andy Gibbs was honored as the KSHSAA Tennis Coach of the Year. In addition, longtime Shawnee Mission East tennis coach Sue Chipman, who also was a teacher in Shawnee Mission for 50 years, was inducted into the KSHSAA tennis coaches association Hall of Fame. Both were honored for numerous titles and outstanding contributions to the sport.

Shawnee Mission also congratulates retired coach and educator Van Rose, who was inducted into the KSHSAA 2021 Hall of Fame. He began his 48-year coaching career at Shawnee Mission Northwest when it opened, and cross country athletes earned numerous titles under his leadership.



Chiefs Player Honors Teacher Tanner Ybarra, Shawnee Mission Northwest math teacher, was recently honored as one of “Tyrann’s Teachers” by the Tyrann Mathieu Foundation. The Chiefs player’s foundation

held an essay contest encouraging students to submit an essay sharing what makes their favorite teacher great. The foundation received hundreds of entries and named 32 winners across the Kansas City area. Ybarra was surprised with a gift from the foundation in his classroom.



SMSD for Trees More than 223 trees were planted in Shawnee Mission and throughout our community, thanks to a student-led project called SMSD for Trees. Students from across the district worked with student

and community volunteers on planting trees as a way to engage youth in service and promote togetherness outdoors. The project was formed by Harley Witbrod and Chase Horner, seniors and National Honor Society members from Shawnee Mission South.



Summer Lunch Program Summer pickup and go meals will begin on June 3 in Shawnee Mission. Meals will be provided at select sites for children ages 1-18. Pickup will take place from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on

Mondays and Thursdays and breakfast and lunch will be included. Shawnee Mission thanks everyone in food service for making this program, funded entirely by the United States Department of

Agriculture, possible in the community. [Click here for more information, including location addresses.](#)



Graduation Shawnee Mission looks forward to a district-wide celebration next week. In-person, outdoor commencement ceremonies will be held for the Class of 2021. Shawnee Mission will broadcast and livestream each ceremony so that friends, family members, and the extended community can join in this celebration. [Click here for the livestream links and the broadcast schedule.](#)



Thank you, Educators
This month Shawnee Mission marked Educator Appreciation Week. Superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton thanked every educator who has been Keeping SMSD Strong this year.

[Click here to see a video of students expressing their thanks.](#)

Shawnee Mission recently launched a [staff webpage](#) highlighting businesses that offer discount offerings to employees with an SMSD badge. The district thanks the Overland Park Chamber and the Leawood Chamber of Commerce for connecting the district with numerous local businesses who provided additional offerings during Educator Appreciation Week. Any local business interested in extending a discount offering to educators is encouraged to contact adcommun@smsd.org.

During educator appreciation week, Shawnee Mission also honored [retirees and service award recipients](#), who have dedicated thousands of years of service to help students achieve their personal best.

“The district finishes this year strong because of so many in our district who have overcome obstacles and have been working to help students achieve their personal best every day,” Dr. Fulton expressed.

Budget Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, presented a budget workshop focused on operating and federal funds. Dr. Fulton introduced the workshop by reiterating that the district’s objective, upon which budgetary decisions are based, is that every student will have a personalized learning plan that supports them in being college and career ready with the interpersonal skills important to life success.

Knapp shared information about what operating funds include, budget assumptions, anticipated funding, expenditure assumptions, a summary of fund balances, federal and ESSER Funds, the mill levy history, and the budget timeline. [Click here to review the presentation slides](#).

Legislative Update Dr. Stuart Little provided an update on the conclusion of the 2021 legislative session. An update will be added to the Legislative Information page on the [district’s website here](#).

Bond Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, joined by David Arteberry, public finance director with Stifel, Nicolaus, & Company Inc., provided an overview of the sale of general bonds.

Arteberry stated that he was pleased the district had maintained its Moody's AAA bond rating, which is judged to be the highest quality, subject to the lowest level of credit risk, even at a time when the rating process has become more difficult for Kansas school districts.

"That's a nice achievement to be able to maintain that rating for 10 years," he added.

The Board of Education approved the sale of General Obligation Bonds- [Bond Series 2021 A](#) and [Bond Series 2021 B](#).

Board Policy The Board of Education held a first reading of the following policies:

[CN: Public Records](#)

[BDA: Developing and Adopting Policy](#)

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

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