



BOARD MEETING RECAP

During the June 14 Board of Education Workshop, Board members heard an informational update, held discussions, and heard a report from superintendent Dr. Mike Fulton. The Board also took action on one item during the meeting.

Update and Discussion:

Dr. Michelle Hubbard, deputy superintendent, introduced Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood learning/sustainability, who provided an update on the district's [Strategic Plan](#), with support from additional team members. The update included an overview of progress made in the 2020-2021 school year, and previewed next steps to be taken in the 2021-2022 school year.

[Click here to view the report and slides presented during the meeting.](#)

Board Policy BCBI: Public Participation Members discussed [Board Policy BCBI](#), which relates to public comment. Some changes had been made to the public comment process due to circumstances related to COVID-19, including the timing of public comment prior to a Board meeting. Board members discussed

how the process may or may not change as a new school year approaches. A draft policy is expected to be presented to the board for a first reading at the June 28 meeting, with a second reading and vote to take place at a later date.

Board Manual Update Board members heard a status update and discussed potential changes to the Board Manual. The Board Manual is a document that governs the Shawnee Mission School Board. Some discussion centered on livestreaming procedures and potential livestreaming practice alternatives for public meetings. Actions that could result in updates to the manual will be made at a later meeting.

Classified Salary Schedules Board members approved an increase in the 2021-2022 classified salary schedule. This included a 1.45% increase on the base salary, step movement, and an increase in the district-paid portion of the health insurance premium of \$36 monthly. The increase aligns with the agreement reached by the NEA-SM and SMSD IBB team for Professional Employees.

From the Superintendent Report:



Shooting Star Awards Multiple members of the Shawnee Mission Class of 2021 were recognized this spring for their artistic excellence. The Shooting Stars program honors graduating senior artists and arts educators for their creative accomplishments with scholarships, awards, and honorariums. Shawnee Mission had students

honored in the areas of literature, and performing and visual arts. [Click here](#) to see a list of all of these honorees.



Pacemaker Top 10/Top 100 Shawnee

Mission scholastic journalism is in the national spotlight. The National Scholastic Press Association, in celebration of its 100th anniversary, recognized the top 100 publications honored with a Pacemaker during the last century. The Pacemaker is the top prize of scholastic journalism. The Shawnee Mission Northwest Lair Yearbook was number one in the rankings, in recognition of having earned 23 Pacemakers and 3 Pacemaker finalist honors. The Shawnee Mission North high school yearbook earned fourth place and the Shawnee Mission East yearbook earned ninth place. The Shawnee Mission East newspaper/magazine and online publication and the Shawnee Mission Northwest newspaper/newsmagazine were also recognized among the Top 100 publications. As mentioned at previous meetings, Dr. Fulton also noted that Riley Atkinson, a 2021 graduate of Shawnee Mission East, was named the Journalism Education Association national journalist of the year.



Kansas PTA Award Marie Hooker, a sixth-grade teacher at Highlands Elementary, is the 2021 Kansas PTA Outstanding Educator of the Year, as named by Kansas PTA. She was selected for the honor

because of her numerous accomplishments in education, her tenacity and respect for students, and her hard work and

dedication on behalf of children. Kansas PTA recognizes an outstanding educator each year at the Annual State PTA convention. Marie Hooker was nominated by a Highlands parent, Jen Davis, who describes her as a consistent force of positivity and inspiration in the classroom.



2021 National Trumpet Competition Winner

Chris Petrella, a trumpet player and incoming junior at Shawnee Mission South High School, won the High School Solo Division of the 2021 National Trumpet competition. The National Trumpet Competition is considered the premier competition

event for trumpet players in the United States. SM South band director Steve Adams shared that Petrella was successful because of Petrella's incredible technical control and maturity in his musicality. This national award winner began playing trumpet in Shawnee Mission in the fifth-grade.



National Spelling Bee Competitor Ishya

Bhavsar, an eighth-grade graduate from Indian Hills Middle School has advanced to the quarterfinal round of the Scripps National Spelling Bee. Quarterfinals begin

Tuesday, June 15, with a focus on word meanings, engaging competitors from across the country. Bhavsar was a county champion and a state champion and advanced through a preliminary round in the national competition to reach this level.



Westwood View Groundbreaking A

couple of weeks ago, community members gathered on the construction site at the future home of Westwood View Elementary School for a groundbreaking ceremony.

Students performed songs and took a shovel to the construction site, drawing the applause of educators, family, and community members who attended. Westwood View is being rebuilt as part of the \$264 million bond referendum approved by voters this year.

Westwood View is among five elementary school buildings that will be rebuilt as a part of this bond. Construction will take place next at John Diemer Elementary, followed by Pawnee Elementary.

As we've shared at previous meetings, this will be a busy summer for construction in Shawnee Mission. In the next few weeks, weight room additions and restroom renovations will take place at Shawnee Mission North. Shawnee Mission Northwest's restrooms and commons area will be remodeled. Indian Woods will undergo a restroom remodel and three-story addition. SMSD will also have multiple buildings receiving heating, ventilation, and air conditioning updates, playground replacements, and carpet and floor tile upgrades. SMSD is very grateful to our entire community for supporting student success through the bond approval – it is essential to the strength of our schools.



Leadership Shawnee Mission Over the last few days, a group of exceptional high school students has been developing their leadership skills at the Center for Academic Achievement (CAA). Leadership Shawnee

Mission is a prestigious invitation-only summer leadership development program offered by the [Shawnee Mission Education Foundation](#) for incoming juniors and seniors. It combines career mentorship experience with classroom curriculum focused on leadership skills such as conflict resolution, communication, responsibility, and trust. These students have been hard at work learning these skills with partners from the Tucker Leadership Lab from William Jewell College. They also have worked with professional mentors from throughout the Kansas City community to strengthen their leadership skills.



2020-2021 School Year Concludes June 14 marked the first board meeting following the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Fulton congratulated students and all educators on a job well

done. Many schools held clap-outs, parades, and other ceremonies to honor students for all of their academic accomplishments and all they overcame this year. SMSD was also thrilled to host commencement ceremonies for nearly 2,000 high school students. [Those ceremonies are now available to be watched online.](#) “Thank you to everyone who made this school year possible,” Superintendent Fulton expressed. “It was a

challenging time, but so many worked hard to do what was best for students and to keep us SMSD Strong.”



Summer Enrichment Starts Soon The learning continues this summer. We have students engaging in summer music, summer academy, and next week Summer Enrichment begins for students in Pre-k

through seventh grade. Summer Enrichment features classes allowing students to explore areas of interest including art, music, technology, science and nature, sports, and more. Incoming sixth and seventh graders are able to attend Signature Program courses at the Center for Academic Achievement. Enrollment is open and interested families [can find out more here](#).



Impact Institute Educators are also already getting ready for next year. Soon after the school year concluded, educators attended the Impact Institute, featuring a variety of professional development opportunities.

Some also engaged in Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST) training. These sessions gave educators a chance to connect, reflect on the previous year, and set goals for the year that is to come.

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

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

