



# BOARD MEETING RECAP

## Board Actions:

**Strategic Plan Update: Strategy 1** Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood and sustainability, Dr. Darren Dennis, chief academic officer, Dr. Ryan Flurry, principal of career education campuses and coordinator of career and technical education, and Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, presented an update focused on [Strategic Plan](#) strategy 1:1: “Relevant, Engaging, and Applied Learning.”

The presentation highlighted work to formalize a definition for personalized learning, the development of the Portrait of a Graduate, and the creation of an intentional feedback loop to support personalized learning district-wide.

As part of the presentation, three students - Lida Padgett, SM East sophomore, Tobi Oyetunji, Indian Hills eighth-grader, and Jocelyn Tovar, Hocker Grove eighth-grader - provided details about the SMSD Portrait of a Graduate. They served on a committee of nearly 40 students, parents, community members, and higher education representatives and teachers representing all feeder patterns and grade levels. Together they submitted Portrait of a Graduate language ([details included in this presentation](#)) and a definition of personalized learning to the Executive Leadership Team.

The definition of Personalized Learning states that it “places the whole child at the center of instruction. It is informed by strong educator, student, family, and community relationships to provide equity and choice in time, place, path, pace, and demonstration of learning. Presenters shared further information about how the elements of the definition fit together and how Real World Learning opportunities, career guidance tools, and grading and feedback practices are intentionally implemented in support of personalized learning and Strategy 1.

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

## From the Superintendent Report



### **Sticking Together for Students**

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard reflected on the excitement across the district last week as the SMSD welcomed the newest members of the team to the New Team Member

Academy. These individuals arrived with an enthusiastic welcome from band members and cheerleaders and received a big round of applause as they concluded the academy. In between these celebrations, the new team members toured their work environments, met new colleagues, participated in professional development, and reviewed best practices.

Continuing educators also returned on Friday and the SMSD is thrilled for them to be back. School offices are open and teams

have been engaged in getting ready to welcome students. As an SMSD team, staff members have been talking a lot about sticking together and how that will help all of us support our students this next year.

“Please join the SMSD in making all new and returning team members feel welcome and ready for what lies ahead,” Dr. Hubbard expressed. “We thank everyone for the work they are doing and are so excited to begin this school year.”



**Job Fair** The SMSD hosted a job fair at SM West High School last week. The job fair welcomed about 75 community members

who attended. There are non-teaching positions open in operations and maintenance, food service, special education, information and communication technology, and for bus drivers. There are so many ways to help our students achieve their personal best through these roles. [Click here for more information, to view current openings, or to apply.](#)

Additionally, about 30 people also received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. The SMSD appreciates its partnership with the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, who distributed the vaccine at the event.

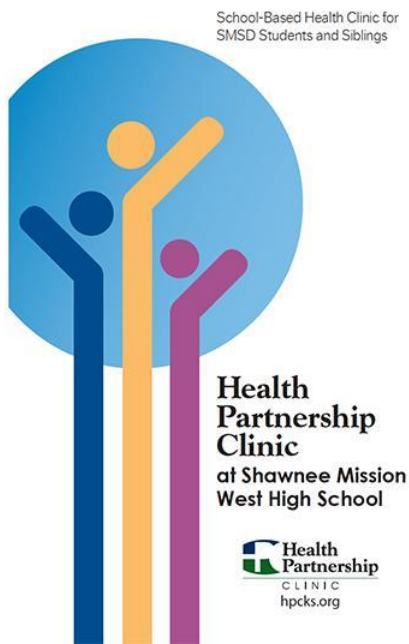
**Leadership Shawnee Mission** The fourth cohort of Leadership Shawnee Mission students recently completed this prestigious leadership development program. Twenty-two incoming junior and senior students, representing all high schools, participated in the



two-week program sponsored by the [Shawnee Mission Education Foundation](#) in partnership with the Tucker Leadership Lab at William Jewell College.

To participate, students are nominated by a teacher, counselor, or administrator and then invited to apply to the program. After the class concludes, the Foundation continues to help guide them on their leadership path, from introducing them to professionals in their field, to writing college recommendation letters to providing references for future jobs. Dr. Hubbard thanked the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation and partners from William Jewell for offering this experience for students and congratulated all of the students who graduated from the program this summer. Leadership Shawnee Mission students have often become faces for the Foundation and some will likely be participating in the Foundation's Annual Fall Breakfast on September 28. [Click here for more information.](#)

**Health Clinic at SM West** A school-based health clinic will be open soon to all SMSD students and their siblings this year. The Health Partnership Clinic and the district are partnering to provide primary and preventative health care, chronic disease management, and mental health services to students. This clinic will be open on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting on



Thursday, September 2 at Shawnee Mission West. More details will be shared with families in the coming days.

**Enrollment Update** Dr. Hubbard provided an update on enrollment projections for the 2021-2022 school year. As of Friday, August 5, enrollment sits at 657 students lower than what had been projected for the district, and upon which this year's budget was built. The enrollment numbers continue to change daily and Dr. Hubbard shared that leadership team members will

continue to monitor the numbers and update the Board of Education.



**Back-to-School** Superintendent Hubbard expressed excitement that students return this week. The community is thrilled to [welcome students on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> as they return to school](#). Educators and families are in the midst of preparing for

those first days. [Click here for a list of frequently-used, back-to-school resources to help in the process of getting ready for school.](#)

“There’s a lot of excitement and regardless of what this year brings, I’m confident it will be a great school year,” Dr. Hubbard shared.

This publication, provided after each Shawnee Mission Board of Education meeting, provides a recap of some actions taken by the Shawnee Mission Board of Education and information about activities happening in the school district.

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