



# BOARD MEETING RECAP

## **Board Items:**

**Discussion of Staff Vaccinations** Board of Education members held a discussion about staff vaccinations. The discussion included information about the current rate of staff members who are vaccinated. The discussion also included an exploration of potential pros and cons that could result from a vaccination requirement. [The discussion can be viewed here](#), and begins at minute 27:10.

Following this discussion, Board members reached consensus that they would pause the conversation.

## **Board Financial Report**

**Invoice Settlement Reached** During the Board Financial Report, Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, reported the district had reached a settlement with Symmetry Energy Solutions, LLC. The district will pay \$337,577 to settle the \$675,154 outstanding February 2021 natural gas invoice, resulting from the disruption caused by winter storm Uri. The original bill the district received was for \$1.6 million. The Board approved the payment later in the meeting.

**Enrollment Update** Knapp shared that on Sept. 20, 2021, the official enrollment count day, Shawnee Mission had 26,534 students enrolled. This is 422 more students than last year and

588 fewer than were projected. The headcount that will determine state funding for Shawnee Mission will be based on the 2019-2020 school year. However, Knapp shared, weighted fundings will be based on the headcount from this year and will come in less than originally projected.

### **From the Superintendent Report:**



**Horizon Nominees** Kira Stahly , a third-grade teacher at Merriam Park, and Kristen Carrillo, a special education teacher at Shawnee Mission West High School are the SMSD’s nominees for the Kansas Horizon

Award. This is a state recognition for first-year Kansas Teachers who “perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding.” Each district is able to select one elementary and one secondary teacher to be considered for the state Horizon Award.

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard congratulated the nominees saying “We are so proud of the work you are doing as you begin your careers in Shawnee Mission.”



**Advisory Committees** Dr. Hubbard shared that a student advisory group and elementary and secondary faculty advisory groups have kicked off their work for this school year. These groups joined Dr. Hubbard and several leadership team

members for discussion on ways the Shawnee Mission School District can continue to improve schools. Each gathering provided very helpful ideas and great conversation, Hubbard shared.

The discussions included everything from school culture, rules and policies, furniture and facilities, and opportunities available for students. “I am a firm believer that we are stronger when we all stick together and this was such a great example of that,” Hubbard added. “I appreciate everyone who is taking the time to get together and share thoughts and collaborate in these advisory groups.”



**National Merit Semifinalists** With pride, the Shawnee Mission School District announces the seniors named semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students took the 2020 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship

Qualifying Test, which served as an initial screen. These semifinalists represent less than 1 percent of U.S. high school seniors. [Click here to see the list of honorees.](#)



**FAFSA Challenge** The Kansas Board of Regents honored Shawnee Mission East in the inaugural Kansas FAFSA Challenge.

This is a recognition for high schools in Kansas that had the highest percentage of students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or had the largest increase in FAFSA completion. Shawnee Mission East was the 6A school in Kansas with the

highest completion rate. The Board of SRegents stated that students who complete the FAFSA are more likely to enroll in college and that they are grateful to the parents, counselors, teachers, and administrators who help students complete this step.



**Fall Breakfast** Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021 is the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation Fall Breakfast. The virtual event kicks off at 7:30 a.m., with the theme “Unlimited Possibilities.” “I know that this event is going to leave everyone inspired with stories highlighting all that our students and staff are accomplishing,” Dr. Hubbard shared. Here is [a link](#) for those who would like to make a reservation to watch the event and support the Foundation.

**Baptist Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation** The Shawnee Mission School District recognized the Baptist Trinity Lutheran Legacy Foundation, which provided \$18,750 to purchase hypochlorous acid generators.

When Kansas schools were closed in March of 2020, SMSD began planning for the safe reopening of classrooms, with all departments and custodians working especially tirelessly toward full in-person learning for all students.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) laid out specific recommendations for cleaning and disinfection of schools and classroom settings, including highly touched surfaces and objects such as drinking fountains, sink/door handles, desktops, and handrails. The purchase of 17 hypochlorous acid generators with

BTLLF grant funds substantially increases the district's ability to clean and disinfect schools and classrooms in a nontoxic, non-corrosive, and cost-effective manner.

Dr. Hubbard and Board members took a moment at the meeting to thank representatives from BTLLF who were present.

**SM North Mascot** Dr. Hubbard provided an update on the logo transition process at Shawnee Mission North High School. Here is a timeline of the process:

- **January 25, 2021** – The Board of Education approved [Board Policy ACA: School Mascots](#)
- **July 20, 2021**- An initial Meeting was held with the DLR Group to review the design process and goals
- **August/September 2021**- Numerous draft reviews were conducted, with feedback from staff, students, site council, building and district leaders
- **September 23, 2021**- The final brand/logo was chosen by the school, and presented to the Superintendent
- **September 27, 2021**- Logo presented to the Board of Education



**Logo Reveal** Dr. Hubbard shared an image of the Shawnee Mission North Bison logo. She reiterated there will be a process to fully implement the image and thanked everyone who has been working on the transition and those who helped in this selection

process. Principal David Ewers and senior Samantha Morinville expressed their excitement over the new logo and thanked collaborators.



## **Update to Field Trips/Building Visitors - Mitigation Plan**

Dr. Hubbard shared two updates to the district's guidance for fall events during this school year. The first relates to individuals who are allowed access to the school building. Shawnee Mission will allow direct service providers from partner organizations access to school building to provide essential educational services. Examples of that include Johnson County mental health, university student teacher supervisors, and National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) testing proctors.

Shawnee Mission will continue the practice that most outside guests are not allowed past the office when students are on-site during regular school hours.

Another change to note is that field trips to non-SMSD facilities will be considered. Requests can be made by the building principal to elementary and secondary directors.

“Keeping our schools open and safe continues to be a top priority,” Dr. Hubbard added. “We thank everyone for keeping SMSD strong and for their work to keep students in school.”

**Welcoming Week** The Board of Education read a Welcoming Week Proclamation, supporting a community effort, including the KC Chamber and members of Welcoming KC, to make Kansas

City a designated “welcoming city.” [Click here to read the full proclamation.](#)