



BOARD MEETING RECAP

Board Items:

Updated 2nd Semester Mitigation Measures and Winter Guidance

The Board of Education approved updated second semester COVID Mitigation measures. Future updates to COVID mitigation measures will be made based on data relating to the rates of infection and transmission in Johnson County and in SMSD schools, vaccination rates among different age populations, and other factors. The current updated measures go into effect on January 11, 2022.

[Click here to view the mitigation measures adopted on January 10, 2022.](#)

[Click here to view the Guidance for Winter events adopted on January 10, 2022.](#)

Oath of Office As the January 10, 2022 Board of Education meeting opened, recently elected Board of

Education members took the Oath of Office. April Boyd-Noronha, Heather Ousley, and Dr. Mary Sinclair took the Oath as administered by Terry Wintering, clerk of the board, swearing to support the U.S. Constitution, the constitution of the state of Kansas, and to faithfully discharge the duties of a Board of Education member for the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD).

Organization of the Board of Education The Board elected individuals to serve in the following positions:

President: Mary Sinclair

Vice President: Sara Goodburn

SMAC PTA Representative: Jessica Hembree

KASB Board of Directors: Brad Stratton

KASB Nominating Committee: Jamie Borgman

KASB Legislative Committee: Heather Ousley

Legislative Update Dr. Stuart Little, district lobbyist, presented a legislative update to the Board. As the legislative session continues, updates will be [provided here](#). [Click here to view the 2022 Shawnee Mission School District legislative platform](#).

Communications Program Evaluation David A. Smith, chief communications officer, introduced Kristin

Babcock, communications coordinator, and Michaela Scruggs, communications coordinator, who provided a communications program evaluation. The presentation highlighted the many ways the communications team shares stories about the district and schools to a broad and diverse audience. Community members are always welcome to provide story tips for highlighting school activities, students and staff to the department at adcommun@smsd.org. The presentation also highlighted the numerous ways the team supports staff and students across the district. [Click here to view the report.](#)

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

[Revised Board Policy JBC](#): Student Admissions to/Withdrawal from School.

[Revised Board Policy JDD](#): Suspension and Expulsion Procedures.

[Revised Board Policy JCD](#): Student Discipline

[Revised Board Policy JCDA](#): Student Conduct

[Revised Board Policy IDACA](#): Special Education Actions and Due Process for Students

From the Superintendent Report:



2021-22 SMAC PTA
DISTRICT REFLECTIONS RESULTS*



Reflections Reception Prior to the January 10, 2022 workshop, Board members were pleased to recognize awardees in the Shawnee Mission Area Council

PTA Reflections program. This year students submitted their artistic creations in a variety of mediums, centered on the theme “I will Change the World By...” Attendees were pleased to see the student submissions and congratulate the students at the Center for Academic Achievement. Community members are able to view the student work through the SMAC PTA District Reflections on-line exhibit. [Click here to view the exhibit.](#)



Outstanding Music Educator

Hope Ragan, Shawnee Mission South Area elementary and middle school string teacher, is the Outstanding Elementary

String Teacher of the Year, as named by the East Central Kansas Music Education Association (KMEA). Ragan was honored for her encouragement to students and contributions to string programs in Kansas.

On a similar note, about 200 Shawnee Mission School District students have been selected to perform in district honor groups for the East Central KMEA. These orchestra, jazz band, band, and choir musicians were selected through a rigorous audition process and are considered among “the best of the best” student musicians in the state.



Coach of the Year The National Federation of State High School Associations named Andy Gibbs, Shawnee Mission East tennis coach, an NFHS Section Coach of the Year for girls tennis. This

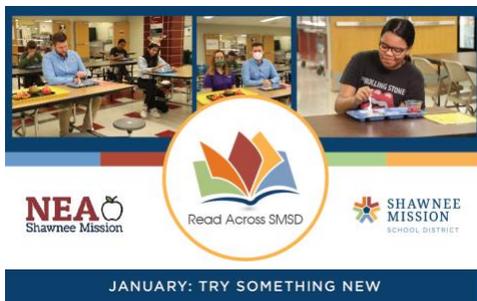
honor placed him in the running to be considered for National Coach of the Year. Honorees are nominated by the Kansas Coaches Association which considers involvement in professional organizations, coaching philosophy, and involvement with school and community activities and programs.

Student Panel on Screen Time An event for parents and guardians will be held soon focused on students and screen time. SMSD students will serve on a panel,



sharing their experiences as they learn using technology. Attendees will walk away with ideas and tips for parenting in the digital age. The event will be at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 25 at the Center for Academic Achievement. [Click here to](#)

[register.](#)



Read Across SMSD An update was provided on Read Across SMSD. This initiative, hosted in partnership with NEA Shawnee Mission, continues to promote reading throughout the Shawnee

Mission School District community. Each month the district focuses on a new theme. In December, the theme was “Lending a Hand”. Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services, and Mike Roudebush, Operations and Maintenance foreman, and students from Westridge’s Heart of a Wildcat Club helped with the launch video and inspired a lot of conversation about how we all can help one another.

[Click here to see their video.](#)

This month's theme is "Try Something New." Indian Hills Middle School students and Principal Blake Revelle and Jill Funk, nutritionist, took on a taste test and encouraged all of us to kick off the new year with a sense of adventure.

[Click here to see them "Try Something New."](#)

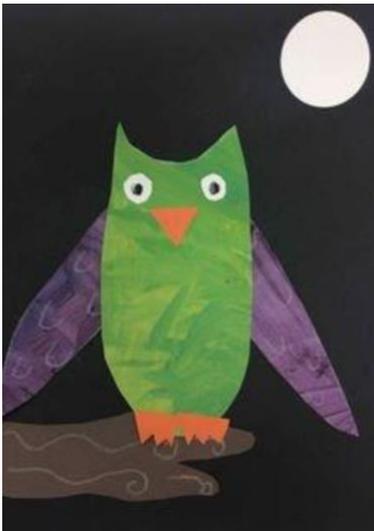
The district thanks all video hosts and encourage everyone to continue to #ReadAcrossSMSD!

 **Inclement Weather** Last week, the SMSD shared inclement weather procedures for the 2021-2022 school year. These procedures include three plans, A, B, and C, outlining what families, students, and staff members will need to do if there is a school closure. [Click here to see the procedures](#). Plan C is a remote learning plan. Plan C is a last resort for SMSD due to the 40 hour limit imposed by the state on remote learning hours.

 SHAWNEE MISSION SCHOOL DISTRICT
INCLEMENT WEATHER
PROCEDURES 2021-22



SMSD also has received questions about how it is decided whether to close school or not and how it is decided which plan will be used. Due to the large number of complicated factors that impact any weather-closing decision, these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.



Board Recognition Month

January is School Board Recognition Month. Dr. Joe Gilhaus, deputy superintendent, who delivered the January 10, 2022 report, took a moment to thank the Board of Education for what they do for Shawnee Mission students. Student artwork was presented in the Board

room in their honor. These works of art represent students from all feeder patterns from grades Pre-K through 12. Board members also were presented with a set of cards that feature the student artwork. Students featured included:

Joel Kellenberger, first grade, Santa Fe Trail
Artwork medium: painting and collage

Teacher: Cayla Cushing

Clare Siengsukon, fourth grade, Belinder

Artwork medium: Oil pastel, weaving/printmaking

Teacher: Julia Mandl

Eleni Jouras, eighth grade, Indian Woods

Artwork medium: Digital art

Teacher: Kelsey Phillips

Tatum Swanwick, junior, Shawnee Mission West

Artwork medium: Watercolors

Teacher: Doug Catloth

Keren Tuttle, senior, Shawnee Mission Northwest

Artwork medium: Oil paint

Teacher: Kimberly Ruttan

Luna Olivas, early childhood, Nieman

Artwork medium: Chalk

Teacher: Amber Pagan

Dr. Gilhaus thanked Megan Ellis, the district's visual arts coordinator, Tash Davis, communication specialist,

and Terry Wintering, clerk of the Board, for their help in presenting the student work.

“It often gets forgotten that everyone who serves on our Board does so on a volunteer basis,” Gilhaus mentioned. “Board Members make challenging decisions and dedicate so much time and energy in support of our students and staff. We thank you for filling these crucial roles and for all you do for the Shawnee Mission School District.”

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](#).