March 25, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Board Items

Legislative Update

District lobbyist Dr. Stuart Little presented an update to the Board of Education about ongoing discussions in the Kansas legislature. He provided an overview of bills being debated on topics including school finance, proposed changes to special education and at-risk funding, and school vouchers, among others.

Dr. Little highlighted the timeline of the legislative session, noting the regular session will adjourn next Friday, with a wrap-up session scheduled for April 29.

Click here to view the presentation starting at approximately 41:06.

Visual and Performing Arts Update

Dr. Bill Thomas, performing arts coordinator and Shawnee Mission West band director and Megan Ellis, visual arts coordinator and Lenexa Hills Elementary art teacher presented an update on the visual and performing arts programs.

The Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) visual and fine arts departments comprise a dedicated team of 80 full-time and 12 part-time performing arts teachers, as well as 61 full-time and one part-time visual arts teachers, one part-time secretary, and two half-time curriculum coordinators.

They offer comprehensive weekly music and art classes from K-6th grade, as well as extensive middle and high school fine arts courses. Students

have the opportunity to participate in a multitude of performing and visual arts events spanning local, regional, and international levels.

Program challenges include rising costs, staffing constraints, and adapting to district and community changes. Despite these challenges, the departments are committed to engaging with their diverse clientele and fostering artistic growth and excellence.

Click here to view the presentation slides.

Math Resource Adoption

Dr. Darren Dennis, chief academic officer, led a presentation about the adoption of new math resources for grades 6-12. Holly McCarty, curriculum and instruction coordinator, Connie Springfield, Shawnee Mission Northwest assistant principal, and math teachers Marcy Murphy, Christina Lange, Monica Fleming, and Amy Read contributed to the presentation.

The team provided detailed information about the background research and input gathered, pilot resources, timeline, and evaluation process of the math resources. With this data, the group recommended the adoption of the iReady curriculum for grades 6-8 and the College Preparatory Math (CPM) for grades 9-12.

Later in the meeting, the Board of Education approved the adoption of these instructional resources.

Click here to view the presentation slides.

Click here for additional information about the iReady instructional resource for math in grades 6-8.
Click here for additional information about the CPM instructional resource for High School.

Strategic Plan Update

Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood and sustainability, provided an update on the Strategic Planning process. The steering committee retained the beliefs, mission, parameters, and objectives established in the 2019-2024 Strategic Plan for the Cycle II update. Six key strategies have been identified: learning, belonging, people, technology, mental health, and facilities.

Action Teams, each consisting of around 30 members, have been formed for each strategy. Approximately one-third of the action team members were appointed and two-thirds were selected by a lottery system. Dr. Neal explained the Action Team selection process.

Action Teams will begin their work on March 27, with subsequent meetings scheduled for April 10 and May 1. The Action Teams will present their findings to the steering committee on June 6, with the finalized draft to be presented to the Board of Education on June 24, 2024.

Click here to view the presentation.

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

Revised Board Policy JGFGBA: Student Self-Administration of Medications
New Board Policy JDDAB: Student Misuse of Medication
Revised Board Policy EE: Food Services Management

Arts Are Education Resolution

The Board of Education unanimously adopted the Arts ARE Education resolution. The resolution states that all students have the right to an arts education which includes dance, media arts, music, theater, and visual arts, taught by certified arts educators in partnership with community providers.

Click here to view the resolution.

National School Library Month Proclamation The Board of Education unanimously approved a 2024 School Library Month Proclamation.

Click here to read the proclamation.

Prior to the conclusion of the meeting Dr. Hubbard invited Dr. Schumacher to share that Pam Lewis, director of elementary human resources, has accepted the role of associate superintendent of leadership and learning effective July 1, 2024.

From the Superintendent Report



Biotech Success Dr. Hubbard shared information on recent successes from the Biotechnology Signature Program. Elizabeth Barnes, Shawnee Mission West sophomore, was named a 2024 National STEM Challenge Champion, student innovator, and is the only representative from the state of Kansas selected to go to the inaugural National STEM Festival in Washington, DC. Less than 200 National Champions were selected to present at the Festival. In D.C, champions will showcase their projects to some of the nation's most influential leaders.

The Biotechnology program is also celebrating the fact that three students qualified for the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Mia Stamos, Tayten DeGarmo, and Elizabeth Barnes qualified among a pool of 150 submissions and are preparing for Nationals in May. Dr. Hubbard congratulated these students and Biotechnology Signature Program instructors Dr. Kenneth Lee and Zulma Perez-Estrella.





KIAAA Honors The Kansas Interscholastic Athletic Administration Association has honored two Shawnee Mission athletic directors. Annette

Gonzales, athletic director at Shawnee Mission North, was selected as Athletic Director of the Year for District Three. Mark Mahoney, athletic director at Shawnee Mission South, was honored with the Art Newcomer Promising Athletic Director award. Dr. Hubbard pointed out that the award itself is named after a Shawnee Mission athletic director who served Shawnee Mission East from 1965 to 1995. Both Gonzales and Mahoney were formally recognized for the leadership they demonstrate within the KIAAA organization at a banquet held this past weekend.



Winter Sports Recognition Shawnee Mission schools had a fantastic winter sports season. Some highlights include:

Indian Hills is the SMSD girls basketball champion at the middle school level.

Indian Woods is the SMSD boys basketball champion at the middle school level.

At the high school level:

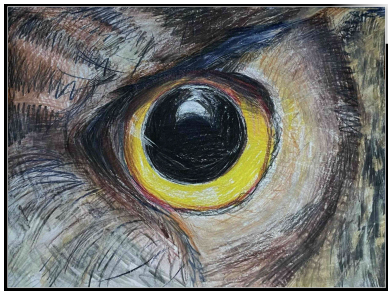
- Shawnee Mission East earned state runner-up in boys swimming.
- SM South's Grady O'Connor was declared state champion in 200 Yard Freestyle and the 100 Yard freestyle
- Shawnee Mission East's 200 Yard Freestyle Relay Team are state champions.
- In Girls State Wrestling, SM South's Stella Sergua earned a state championship and SM West's Ella Weber finished as a state runner-up in their individual weight classes.
- Adam Hageman from Shawnee Mission Northwest was runner up in boys wrestling in his weight class.

Shawnee Mission Northwest boys basketball and Shawnee Mission South girls basketball are also celebrating state championship titles!

“With more than 550 middle school participants and more than 1,200 high school participants, there are always more individual and team accomplishments than we can name,” explained Dr. Hubbard. “We celebrate all of the athletes and coaches for an outstanding winter season!”



Women in Leadership A group of 130 Shawnee Mission students and more than 80 mentors from around the city had the honor of gathering at the first women’s professional sports stadium in the world to learn about and celebrate Women in Leadership. Female students from five Shawnee Mission high schools joined mentors at CPKC Stadium, home of KC Current. Shawnee Mission West has presented this popular breakfast event to students for three years, bringing more than 150 women together for a chance to connect and learn about serving in leadership roles. This year, five of Shawnee Mission’s high schools offered the Women in Leadership program to students. “We are proud of all of the opportunities this provides for our students to learn and connect and that this was one of the first events held in the new stadium,” shared Dr. Hubbard.



Quarterly Art Show The third quarter digital art show has arrived! This digital presentation features work created in Pre-K through 12th grade classrooms from across the district during the third quarter. Dr. Hubbard expressed thanks to all of the educators across the district who contributed to this show and to Megan Ellis, visual arts coordinator and Lenexa Hills art teacher for all of her contributions that put this show together.
Click here to view the digital art show.

R&D Reminder The district Research and Development Forum is coming this April.

Submissions for the Student Showcase are due on March 29, 2024. The R&D Forum student showcase features student work in the areas of career and technical education, fine arts, and science. The community is invited to see the showcase from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 23 through April 25. The R&D Forum will also include a student Next Great Idea pitch competition the morning of April 27, with an award ceremony to follow later that afternoon. Dr. Hubbard thanked the Regnier Family for helping to make this event that highlights student and staff innovation and achievement possible.

Click here for more information on how to submit to the Showcase and about the R&D Forum event.



Read Across SMSD - This March, Read Across SMSD features a group of students from Apache Elementary School and Shawnee Mission's next Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher exploring the theme Celebrate Diversity. Click here to view the video.

Dr. Hubbard thanked everyone at Apache and Dr. Schumacher. "Thank you also to NEA-Shawnee Mission for your ongoing partnership and to the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for making Read Across SMSD books available in all of our schools," expressed Dr. Hubbard.



Summer Enrichment Enrollment is now open for Summer Enrichment. There are classes available featuring art, music, technology, science, culinary arts, sports, theater, and more. Click here for more details including session dates, location information, and how to enroll.



Presidential Scholar Candidates

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program named six Shawnee Mission seniors as candidates. Each year, up to 161 students are named Presidential Scholars, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students.

Shawnee Mission School District seniors named as candidates are:

From Shawnee Mission East: Aanya Bansal, Mitchell E. Blair, Kael E. Mercer, and Katherine Murphy

From Shawnee Mission Northwest: Theodore Ohly

From Shawnee Mission South:
Emma E. Krueger



All Star The Shawnee Mission Board of Education presented two Shawnee Mission All Stars Awards. The first honoree is Maggie Carter, instructional coach at Highlands Elementary. Click here to view a video celebrating Carter.

Next to be honored was the Shawnee Mission North Food Services Team. Click here to see a video about this dedicated team.



School Calendar Update: Dr. Hubbard shared that she has received many questions regarding how the five inclement weather days that have been used this school year will impact the last day of school. Noting the unpredictability of weather in Kansas, Dr. Hubbard stated, “Assuming that we do not have any additional weather-related closings this year, the last day of school will be Tuesday, May 28 for Pre-K students, and early release on Wednesday, May 29 for grades K-11. These are the dates that are on the district calendar that was distributed last year, and that are on our website.” Click here to view the District Calendars.

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 in the school district.

An archive video of the meeting can be found https://youtu.be/T7KQ1vCLvkIhere.

Links to board policies, agenda, and meeting minutes can be found here.