BOARD MEETING RECAP

Board Items

Open Enrollment Building Capacity Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard provided a presentation about non-resident open enrollment. Prior to the presentation, she noted that Shawnee Mission has accepted “amazing” non-resident students for more than 20 years, except for a break for a period of time when the funding formula changed due to a block grant.

The presentation provided an overview of SMSD open enrollment in accordance with Kansas law (KSA 72-3123) and Board policy JBCD (Open Enrollment). The presentation defined capacities and available seats at the elementary level and detailed factors and calculations taken into consideration. Dr. David Stubblefield, associate superintendent of leadership and learning, provided details on capacities and available seats at the middle and high school levels and Signature Programs as well as factors and calculations taken into consideration. Sherry Dumolien, chief of special education, also provided details on Special Education services capacities. The presentation also included details about enrollment projections.
Click here to view the presentation.

The Board approved an enrollment report including enrollment projections, the capacity for each Shawnee Mission school, the pupil-to-teacher ratio, and the number of open seats available for nonresident students in schools and district programs for the 2024-2025 school year.
Click here to view the Shawnee Mission School District Open Enrollment Capacity Report

Food Service Update Grace Liss, director of food services, provided an update on the Shawnee Mission School District Food Services program. She highlighted departmental goals and detailed the collective work of food service team members done to achieve those goals. The goals included educating families on and increasing the number of reimbursable meals, increasing education on Smart Snacks, increasing sustainable practices wherever possible, improving procedures used to match students with direct certification, developing menus driven by student preferences, and providing the best employees in every position in the district.

Click here to view the presentation.
Click here to view the program report.

Early childhood Education Program Update Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood/sustainability, provided an update on the district's Early Childhood programs. Early Childhood in Shawnee Mission includes Parents as Teachers, Pre-Kindergarten, and Jump Start to Learning. The overview provided details on the number of students served by or enrolled in each program, the purpose of the programs, the educators who serve, literacy and numeracy measures, and demographic data. The presentation also highlighted renovations made to the Shawnee Mission Early Childhood Education Center.

Click here to view the presentation.

Budget Workshop Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, provided a budget workshop focused on non-operating funds. This included a look at self-supported funds, flow-through funds, bond debt funds, and capital outlay funds.

Click here to view the workshop presentation.

Board of Education members held a second reading and approved the following policies:

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

From the Superintendent Report

E2 Presentation

The Board of Education meeting began with Kim Hinkle, executive director of the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation, sharing exciting announcements about Excellence in Education grants.

These grants are awarded for projects that foster innovative and challenging teaching and learning. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard thanked the Foundation and all the educators who are receiving the grants for all of the creative ways they are innovating in Shawnee Mission schools and classrooms.

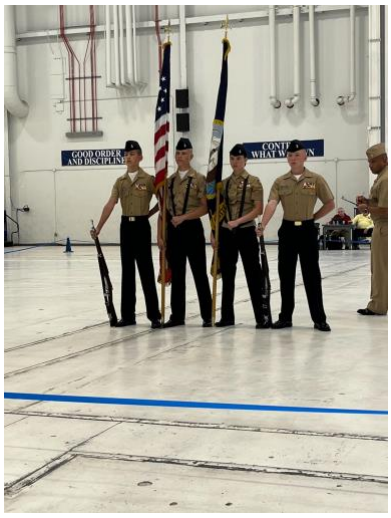
Click here to view a list of recipients.

Challenge Awards Two of Shawnee Mission's elementary schools have been recognized by the Kansas State Department of Education. Comanche and Shawanoe Elementary Schools are recipients of Challenge Awards, which were created to honor schools that performed well on the state assessments and had high percentages of students from disadvantaged

backgrounds. Randy Watson, Commissioner of the Kansas State Department of Education, shared that these awards “are a celebration of the great work schools are doing and remind us to continue pushing forward to improve student academic performance and narrow the gap between subgroups. These schools are doing an exceptional job in these areas.” Dr. Hubbard congratulated the Comanche and Shawanoe communities for all they have accomplished for Shawnee Mission students.



KTOY Honorees A statewide spotlight is also shining on two of Shawnee Mission’s teachers who represent the best among the best. Amber Pagan, a Pre-Kindergarten teacher at Nieman Elementary, was named a Region three finalist for the 2025 Kansas Teacher of the Year program. As a finalist she received a $2,000 cash award and is in the running for recognition as Kansas Teacher of the Year, the winner to be named at a ceremony in September. In addition, Shawnee Mission is proud that the Kansas State Department of Education also recognized Annie Hasan, Arabic teacher at Shawnee Mission South, who represented the Shawnee Mission School District as the district’s secondary nominee. “Thank you to both of these educators for all of the ways they shine,” Dr. Hubbard added.



NJROTC The Shawnee Mission North Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) continues its long record of success. This group recently competed at the national level and earned first place in Armed Regulation Drill, first place in Push Ups, and first place in Color Guard. This national competition included 10 events, and Chief Warrant Officer and instructor Dennis Grayless noted this team claimed either National Champion or Runner up in half of the events. The Corps concludes the season with a record of 94-5.



Health Partnership Award The Shawnee Mission School District was recently recognized as a Founders Award recipient by the Health Partnership Clinic (HPC) for its continued work to ensure greater access to health care for students across the district, including those experiencing housing insecurity and houselessness.

Mr. David Aramovich, McKinney-Vento liaison, and Dr. John McKinney, director of family and student services, were recognized at the organization's annual luncheon. "We greatly appreciate and value the ongoing partnership with Health Partnership Clinic to provide a school-based health clinic for students and their siblings at Shawnee Mission West High School," Dr. Hubbard expressed.

This clinic serves all SMSD students and their siblings, ages three to 20 years old at Shawnee Mission West. Appointments may be scheduled on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. HPC accepts Medicaid and private insurance and offers a sliding fee discount to uninsured individuals based on household size and income.

Click here for more information.

Signature Program Success Shawnee Mission Signature Programs continue to add to their record of success:



A team of engineering students earned the opportunity to present a prototype to NASA scientists at Johnson Space Center in Houston this month through the NASA Hunch program. Madeline Ampleman, Alayna Beck, Miles Cohen, and Samuel Wilson entered their prototype design last semester and have advanced in this competition. The same team also earned a semi-finalist designation for another component of the same project.

Shawnee Mission Animation students showcased their talent and creativity recently at the eMagine Media Festival. Shawnee Mission competitors placed first or second in each of the three 2D animation categories at this event that welcomed more than 30 different high schools. Ben Gilman, a senior at Shawnee Mission East, earned two awards, winning first place in Animated Character and second place in 2D animation. Click here for more information about eMagine Media Festival success.

Greater KC Science/Regeneron The Biotechnology program also shined at the 73rd Greater Kansas City Science and Engineering Fair. These students drew six division wins, eight special awards, two Pioneer in Science Awards, and one International Science and Engineering Fair qualifier. Elizabeth Barnes, a sophomore from Shawnee Mission West, has now qualified for international competition for two years in a row.

Superintendent Hubbard congratulated all Signature Program students and instructors on all of their accomplishments.



Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up Update Dr. Hubbard invited everyone to check out the most recent episode of Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up. Episode #17 features Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood and sustainability, and Tina Huntsinger, a pre-kindergarten teacher at Brookridge. This episode provides a great opportunity for all to learn about the power and importance of early intervention and early learning and how so many students begin their time in Shawnee Mission! Click here to watch, download or subscribe!



April Read Across Throughout this month Shawnee Mission is taking time to Discover the Power of Poetry as we Read Across SMSD.

Click here to see a video.

Dr. Hubbard thanked Board of Education Member Jessica Hembree and featured poets, NEA-Shawnee Mission for their ongoing partnership, and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for providing access to Read Across books to all Shawnee Mission students!



R&D Forum Next week will be an exciting one in Shawnee Mission as the district hosts the 62nd annual Research and Development Forum. This is a district-wide celebration of student innovation and achievement and our entire community is invited to see many ways our students shine! From 4 to 7 p.m. on April 23, 24, and 25, the district will host Student Showcase open houses at the Center for Academic Achievement. Attendees will be able to see student work in art, science, and career and technical education, as well as see student musical performances and live demonstrations. On Saturday, April 27 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Shawnee Mission will host the Next Great Idea Pitch Competition. Anyone can view a livestream on smsd.org or attend the event in person at the CAA. Shawnee Mission also will host an awards ceremony at 2 p.m. Dr. Hubbard thanked the Regnier Family, who has supported the R&D Forum throughout its entire time in Shawnee Mission, and extended thanks to all who make this event possible.

Strategic Plan Dr. Hubbard also offered a brief update regarding the Strategic Plan Cycle II process. Most recently, Action Team Meetings have taken place at the Center for Academic Achievement. These Action Teams are meeting with the purpose of developing action plans for all of the six drafted strategies of the updated plan, developed by the Steering Committee. These members include community volunteers, Shawnee Mission leadership team members, certified and classified staff, students, and parents. The teams have been highly engaged in discussions to develop the next steps to move the plan forward. The Action Teams will present their work to the Steering Committee on June 6. A finalized draft of the updated Strategic Plan, that will serve us from 2024-2029, is expected to be presented to the Board for their

consideration on June 24. “We thank everyone who has provided their input and time to contribute to this process,” Dr. Hubbard shared.

All Star The Board of Education presented two Shawnee Mission All Star awards. The first honoree was Patti Hays, paraeducator at Shawnee Mission West High School. Click here to see a video about Hays. The next honoree was Rebecca Donahoo, music teacher at Indian Woods Middle School. Click here to see a video about Donahoo.