May 13, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Board Items

Legislative Update

Dr. Stuart Little, district lobbyist, presented an overview of the recently concluded legislative session to the Board of Education.

The update can be watched on this video at 34:28.

Student Discipline Update

Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, provided an update on the subject of student discipline. Dr. Lisa Gruman, principal of Shawnee Mission Northwest, and Dr. Chris Kase, principal of Hocker Grove Middle school, were also present to answer questions about how student discipline is addressed in Shawnee Mission schools.

Dr. Gruman shared the goal of the Shawnee Mission School District is to ensure relationships are developed to foster a positive environment for students to remain in school. He provided an overview of the discipline matrix, which categorizes disciplinary actions into four levels of severity, from I to IV.

Dr. Gruman explained that events leading to a disciplinary hearing are extremely rare. As of May 6, 2024 there have been 35 total hearings. In Shawnee Mission, 99.99% of students are not involved in a disciplinary hearing.

Dr. Gruman provided a detailed statistical analysis across several categories including offense level and student demographics.

The discipline matrix was introduced in the 2019-2020 school year. However, due to interruptions caused by the pandemic, the baseline data is taken from the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Hubbard added that the leadership team is continually discussing the discipline matrix with both students and building principals to make improvements that will best serve the needs of students, teachers, and administrators.

Click here to access the presentation slides.

Safety and Security Program Update

Chief Mark Schmidt and officer Philip Lofflin presented an update on the safety and security program. Chief Schmidt provided a brief history of the Shawnee Mission School District (SMSD) police department which was established by the Board of Education in 1972. Under the leadership of Chief Schmidt since 2020, the department focuses on collaboration with local law enforcement and maintaining a fully-staffed team of experienced officers.

The department is composed of a director of emergency services/chief of police, eight district resource officers (DROs), a dispatcher, and five campus security officers (CSOs). With over 255 combined years of experience, the team undergoes rigorous training in various areas including crisis intervention, mental health, and de-escalation techniques.

Chief Schmidt provided an overview of the roles of the team, and explained that the number one priority of the officers in the schools is to maintain a safe environment and build positive, long-lasting relationships with students.

Officer Lofflin explained that, in addition to providing safety and security in schools, the team also ensures safety during extracurricular activities,

graduations, and emergency situations. He provided an overview of the tools and technology the team uses to maintain school safety.

Concluding his remarks, Chief Schmidt shared that the SMSD Police Department is committed to the safety and well-being of students, teachers, staff, and visitors through continuous professional development, adherence to best practices, and utilization of cutting-edge technology.

Click here to view the full report and presentation.

Budget - Operating Funds

Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, presented a budget workshop focused on operating funds.

Knapp provided an overview of the budget development process which begins in November with the assessment of building needs.

The operating funds consist of 12 funds that pay for daily expenditures in running the school district, including salaries and benefits, transportation, utilities, and supplies and services.

Knapp shared the anticipated 2024-2025 operating funding breakdown, with an estimated total of $304,132,716. Knapp also detailed the 2024-2025 anticipated operating expenditures, with total expenditures estimated at $288,808,312. 84.2% of the anticipated total expenditures is dedicated to salaries and benefits.

Click here to view the report.

Gun Violence Awareness Proclamation The Board of Education unanimously approved a proclamation declaring the month of June to be National Gun Violence Awareness Month in the Shawnee Mission School District.

Click here to read the proclamation.

Retention Payment The Board of Education approved a one-time, $1,400 retention payment for qualifying employees. The payment is scheduled to be made in September. This retention payment will be funded through the use of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds (ESSER) III. Dr. Hubbard noted this will be the final retention payment from ESSER funds. Click here for more information on the retention payment program.

Renewal of School Resource Officer (SRO) Contracts The Board of Education approved the renewal of SRO contracts with the cities of Lenexa, Overland Park, Prairie Village, and Shawnee.

Click here to see the Renewal of SRO Contracts Memo
Contract with the City of Lenexa
Contract with the City of Shawnee
Contract with the City of Overland Park
Contract with the City of Prairie Village

From the Superintendent Report



US News and World Report Shawnee Mission East, Shawnee Mission North, Shawnee Mission Northwest, Shawnee Mission South, and Shawnee Mission West are all ranked in the U.S. News and World Report list of Best High Schools in the United States. Shawnee Mission East was ranked #3 in the state of Kansas. These rankings are formed using data from nearly 25,000 high schools in the United States and Washington, D.C., and factors such as performance on state assessments and how well the schools prepare students for college, according to the publication. Dr. Hubbard congratulated all of the school communities for this incredible achievement.



R&D Forum Dr. Hubbard also congratulated students and the community on another wonderful

Shawnee Mission Research and Development Forum. She shared that it was inspiring to see all of the projects in science, technology, engineering, arts, and career and technical education featured at the Student Showcase. “The innovation, problem-solving skills, and poise demonstrated by all of the competitors in the Next Great Idea competition was impressive,” expressed Dr. Hubbard. “I also want to thank the Regnier Family for all of their support over the years which has made this event possible. Also, a special thanks to Dr. Neal and the entire Curriculum and Instruction Team.”



Read Across This month concluded another season of Read Across SMSD. The May theme is Focus on Family. Click here to see a video.

Dr. Hubbard thanked Ray Marsh Elementary School for their participation, NEA-Shawnee Mission for their partnership, and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for providing access to Read Across SMSD books.



Podcast Update Episode 19 of Shawnee Mission Mic’d Up features the Shawnee Mission North NJROTC team. Click here to listen to Brooklyn Bonowitz, Shawnee Mission North junior, and Chief Warrant Officer Dennis Grayless talk about the team’s successes this year, including National titles.

Strategic Plan Update Dr. Hubbard reported that all Strategic Plan Action Teams have completed their meetings. These teams met with the purpose of developing plans for all of the six drafted strategies of the updated plan, developed by the Strategic Plan Steering Committee. As a next step, Action Teams will present their work to the Steering Committee on June 6. A finalized draft of the updated Strategic Plan, which will serve the district from 2024-2029, is expected to be presented to the Board for their consideration on June 24, 2024.

Food Donation Presentation

Representatives of the 2024 Shawnee Tomorrow Leadership Class presented a donation of $6,862.50 to help pay outstanding lunch balances.

Inspired by Dr. Hubbard's presentation during Education Day, the class organized a successful snack drive and fundraiser aimed at erasing lunch debt.

"Thank you very much, Erin, and to all of your collaborators in the City of Shawnee for supporting our students," expressed Dr. Hubbard.

National PTA Life Achievement Award

Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard and Deputy Superintendent Dr. Joe Gilhaus were each presented with a National PTA Life Achievement Award.

Former Shawnee Mission Area Council Parent Teacher Association (SMAC PTA) presidents Tash Davis and Karen Wagner presented the honor to Dr. Hubbard and Dr. Gilhaus on behalf of SMAC PTA. The Life Achievement Award is the highest honor bestowed by the National PTA and is given to individuals who live out their commitment to children on a daily basis, entirely advocating for children's education, health, and well-being.



Graduation Coming Up The graduation ceremonies for Shawnee Mission East and Shawnee Mission South will be held on May 20, 2024, the ceremonies for Shawnee Mission North and Shawnee Mission West will be on May 21, and Horizons and Shawnee Mission Northwest will be on May 22. In addition to the ceremonies at the district stadiums, the events will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook. The links to view the ceremonies can also be found on smsd.org so everyone can watch and join in honoring these amazing graduates. The district is also excited to

celebrate milestones with a graduation ceremony at Arrowhead, and ceremonies to honor Project SEARCH interns as well as students receiving Post-High Transition Services. “We are so proud of the ways that students and staff have shined in the 2023-2024 school year and we’re looking forward to all of the celebration,”shared Dr. Hubbard.



Educator Appreciation Week Last week, the Shawnee Mission school district observed Educator Appreciation Week, extending gratitude to all those who work in our schools. Several formal district events commemorated the occasion. The Kansas Teacher of the Year recognition was held early in the week, honoring all teachers in Shawnee Mission who were nominated by their school communities as Teacher of the Year. Amber Pagan, Pre-K teacher at Nieman Elementary, who is a Kansas Teacher of the Year finalist for the State of Kansas, and Annie Hasan, Arabic Teacher at Shawnee Mission South, who represented our district at the secondary level, were also celebrated.

On May 9, Shawnee Mission celebrated and thanked service pin recipients and retirees. These honorees represented so many years of dedication to Shawnee Mission students. The retirees this year collectively have given more than 1,730 years of service to Shawnee Mission. We all congratulate these individuals and thank them for all they have done for our community. Click here to view a video that includes some reflections from students about the individuals who have helped them shine. We know their comments are representative of many in our schools.

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 here.

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