BOARD MEETING RECAP

Board Items

Strategic Plan Cycle II Update The Board of Education approved Strategic Plan Cycle II, which will serve the district from 2024-2029.

Click here to view the approved plan.

Prior to the approval, a team of individuals spoke about how community members developed the plan. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard highlighted the importance of the Strategic Plan Cycle II and how the plan was drafted in alignment with Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA).

She then introduced Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood and sustainability, who led a final presentation on Strategic Plan Cycle II. Dr. Neal highlighted the process and participants who supported the process, aspects from Cycle I that were reaffirmed, and the strategies drafted as part of Cycle II. The Strategic Plan was first drafted by Steering Committee members and then developed further by Action Teams that created action plans for each strategy.

Members of the Steering Committee that drafted the Strategic Plan presented at the meeting about the following:

Samantha Feinberg, English Language Arts teacher at SM East High School and SMSD parent, provided information on Strategy 1, focused on learning.

Brittany Martin, community member and Sunflower Elementary parent, provided information on Strategy 2, focused on Belonging.

Vicky Kopp, classified team member, provided information on Strategy 3, focused on people.

Dave Ewers, principal at SM North High School, presented details about Strategy 4, focused on Technology. He also shared information about Strategy 6, focused on Facilities.

Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services and diversity, equity, and inclusion, and Trailridge parent, provided details for Strategy 5, focused on mental health.

Dr. Michael Schumacher, incoming Superintendent, shared information about how Action Teams conducted a cost-benefit analysis and discussed how professional learning plans would support goals. He also provided details about what is next. He encouraged community members to continue to engage in the process and shared that quarterly updates will be presented at Board meetings. Sub-committee work will begin in the Fall of 2024.

Dr. Schumacher spoke about how the plan will serve all of Shawnee Mission and that the Shawnee Mission team will be all in, in order to see the plan implemented.

“This is our roadmap to success over the next five years,” he added.

Click here to view the presentation.

Student Handbook Update Kristie Darby, director of elementary services and Title I, Dr. Christy Ziegler, chief of student services and diversity, equity, and inclusion, and Chris Lowe, director of elementary services, provided a briefing on elementary, middle and high school student handbook updates. The updates are outlined in the slides found by clicking here. Later in the meeting, Board members approved elementary, middle, and high school student and parent handbooks for the 2024-2025 school year. Click here to view more information about the handbooks.

Revenue Neutral Rate
The Board approved the intent to exceed the revenue neutral rate for the 2024-2025 budget year. During the 2021 Kansas legislative session, SB13 and HB2104 (KSA 79-2988) were enacted and created the Revenue Neutral Rate (RNR), which establishes the calculation and communication of the RNR by the local county. Per section 3 of the first document linked below, Johnson County calculated the Shawnee Mission School District's RNR at 48.074 mill rate. The district intends to exceed the RNR and will finalize the second document with the Proposed Tax Rate once the state budget document is completed and submit to Johnson County by July 20, 2024.
Click here for more information.

Organizational Meeting
The Shawnee Mission Board of Education held their annual organizational meeting on Monday, June 24, 2024. During this meeting, the Board approved the following appointments and items.

Organizational Appointments: The Board approved the following positions:
Treasurer: Dr. David Stubblefield, incoming deputy superintendent
Deputy Treasurer: Mr. Russell Knapp, chief financial officer
Clerk: Ms. Shelly Trenholm, executive assistant to the Superintendent

District Attendance Officers: All Building Principals

Hearing Officers: All members of the Board of Education
Designated Signatories for the Board of Education: Board President Dr. Mary Sinclair and Board Vice President April Boyd-Noronha

KPERS Representative: Dr. Jeremy Higgins, incoming associate superintendent of human resources

Freedom of Information Officer: David A. Smith, chief communications officer

Representative Approved for Federal Programs: Pam Lewis, incoming associate superintendent of leadership and learning

Appointment of hearing official for the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs: Dr. David Stubblefield, incoming deputy superintendent

Appointment of Bond Compliance Officer: Chris Mesko, financial analyst

Official District Newspaper: The Kansas City Star

Appointment of Plan Administrator for the District's 403B/457 Deferred Compensation Program: Dr. Jeremy Higgins, incoming associate superintendent of human resources

Approval of Resolution for Student Activity Funds. Click here to read the resolution.

Approval of Banks of Record. Click here to read the Banks of Record.

The Board of Education established meeting dates for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Click here to view the meeting dates.

Ratification of Policies: The Board of Education approved continuing its policies as currently printed and repealed all others for the 2024-2025 school year.

From the Superintendent Report

Farewell from Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard



June 24, 2024 marked Superintendent Dr. Michelle Hubbard's final board meeting as Superintendent in the Shawnee Mission School District. She shared that her time as superintendent here has been a wonderful way to wrap up 33 years in education. Prior to the meeting, a reception was held at the Center for Academic Achievement in honor of Hubbard and retiring Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Joe Gilhaus.

"I want to extend my thanks for the warm reception that was held for Dr. Gilhaus and me before the board meeting," Dr. Hubbard shared. "The support of the members of the board, the community, staff, and colleagues means the world to both of us. I look forward to continuing to support the district as a dedicated community member. I am confident that Dr. Michael Schumacher will lead the district to amazing things, and I am excited for the future under his leadership. Keep shining Shawnee Mission, the best is yet to come!"

Leadership Shawnee Mission



Dr. Hubbard offered her congratulations to the newest class of Leadership Shawnee Mission. Every summer, a select group of incoming juniors and seniors are invited to participate in an invitation-only, two-week summer leadership development program offered by the Shawnee Mission

Education Foundation. The program combines career mentorship experiences with a classroom curriculum focused on skills such as conflict resolution, communication, responsibility, and trust. This year, 29 students accepted the opportunity to participate. “I am so proud of their dedication and achievements and we thank the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for providing this incredible opportunity,” Dr. Hubbard expressed. “I look forward to seeing these students excel as leaders within our district and beyond.”

Summer Enrichment



June 10 marked the beginning of the Summer Enrichment program in the SMSD. This program offers students the opportunity to explore and discover in a variety of different areas of interest. Students kicked off their summer learning experiences by taking classes in art, music, culinary arts, technology, science, nature, sports, and more. This summer the program is being held at Westridge Middle School. Enrollment for the program is still open. Click here for more information.



Kansas Superintendent of the Year Scholarship Dr. Hubbard shared how honored she has been to represent the district and state as Kansas Superintendent of the Year. She added that two parts of the experience made it especially meaningful for her. First, she noted, it has been an amazing opportunity to be able to shout out and highlight the Shawnee Mission

School District, specifically the district's amazing team and incredible students, everywhere she visited.

The second experience Dr. Hubbard shared at the June 24 Board meeting.

As Superintendent of the Year, Dr. Hubbard had the privilege of presenting a student with a $4,000 scholarship through the support of Security Benefit. This scholarship is to be given to a member of the Class of 2024 who is passionate about becoming a public school teacher, with an intent to come back and teach in the Shawnee Mission School District. "I am thrilled that this scholarship is going to help those who will nurture our next generation of learners," Dr. Hubbard expressed. "We have so many amazing people who are preparing to become educators in the future. But one scholarship applicant in particular stood out above the crowd." The recipient, Dr. Hubbard said, showed a strong commitment to special education - a part of education that is especially near and dear to her heart. Dr. Hubbard then presented a $4,000 scholarship to Isela Gatewood!

Gatewood shared a personal story in her application, telling about Libby, who became her best friend when they were five years old. Gatewood explained how when she reached about eight years old, she began to learn and understand her best friend Libby had special needs. It was then she began to hear other students define Libby by her disability.
Gatewood wrote: "Even at eight, I never considered her separate from our classmates because to me she was just Libby." This experience inspired Gatewood to pursue more opportunities to learn how to help students with special needs.

Gatewood became a cadet teacher and she enrolled in a Personal Life Skills class. In her junior year, she chose to spend her time providing after-

school care for a student with special needs. Throughout the years, she learned how to create lesson plans, teach life skills, facilitate special sports opportunities, and advocate for students with special needs. Gatewood also remained friends with Libby, from their time at Trailwood to their time at Shawnee Mission South, where they graduated together in May.

Gatewood also wrote how inspired she is by her parents, who are teachers. Her dad, Travis Gatewood, teaches at Shawnee Mission South, and her mom teaches gymnastics in our community. She concluded her essay by saying:

> "As a special education teacher, I will build strong relationships with each student and their family. I will make students feel valued and know that they can rely on me. I will ensure that my students get every resource and opportunity they need to be successful in their lives. And I will advocate to all members of the community the value of belonging and the need for inclusiveness.
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> Just like my dad who has been part of SMSD since kindergarten, I started in kindergarten at Trailwood Elementary. And just like him, I see a future of returning to our district to make the same kind of positive impacts and lifelong connections. I want to give back to the community that has given me so much. Thank you for this opportunity."

Congratulations to Isela Gatewood on receiving the Kansas Superintendent of the Year Scholarship presented by Dr. Hubbard.

An archive video of the meeting can be found here.

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