

October 28, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Board Items

Strategic Plan Quarter 1 Update

Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood education and sustainability, provided an overview of progress on [the Strategic Plan Cycle II](#). The presentation began with a review of the plan's beliefs, mission, objectives, and strategies. Dr. Neal emphasized that participation from the community is essential to implementing the work of the Strategic Plan.

During the first quarter, eight action teams have met to advance specific work outlined in each of the Strategies. Below are the strategies and the associated quarter 1 action steps.

- **Learning:** Embedding interpersonal skills, aligning grading practices, and increasing professional learning for differentiated core instruction.
- **Belonging:** Strengthening belonging support groups for staff and students and ongoing professional development to enhance student voice and foster inclusivity.
- **People:** Exploring and implementing equitable hiring practices and growing teacher efficacy through research-based professional development, and developing a Superintendent's classified advisory council.
- **Technology:** Developing a curriculum and instruction cadre team for instructional technology and creating a developmental guide for age appropriate use of instructional technology, including a focus on personal device use.
- **Mental Health:** Clarifying and defining the roles and responsibilities of mental health professionals, reviewing staff to student ratios and developing a plan to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students.
- **Facilities:** Conducting independent facility audits, identifying best practices in facility planning/design, and maximizing and maintaining bond and capital budgets to enhance facilities that support student learning.

As part of Technology Strategy 4.1.3, Dr. Neal presented data from a recent ThoughtExchange survey on cell phone and personal device use. The ThoughtExchange had 4,658 participants contributing over 3,600 ideas and nearly 75,000 ratings.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher thanked the Technology team for their efforts and he expressed appreciation to the community for their participation and patience as the action team prepares a well-researched recommendation on this topic.

Dr. Neal shared upcoming Action Team work and noted that as we move into Quarter 2, community involvement remains important. [Individuals interested in joining an Action Team can click this link to apply.](#)

[Click here to view the presentation slides.](#)

[Click here to view the full presentation starting at 24:52.](#)

Dr. Schumacher thanked Dr. Neal, staff, community members and students for all of the great work on the plan during the first quarter.

Board Policy Review

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

[Revised Board Policy JBCD: Open Enrollment](#)

[Revised Board Policy JBCB: In-District Transfers](#)

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

[New Board Policy JGFGA: Administration of Emergency Opioid Antagonists](#)

[Revised Board Policy JH: Student Activities](#)

[Revised Board Policy ID: Instructional Program](#)

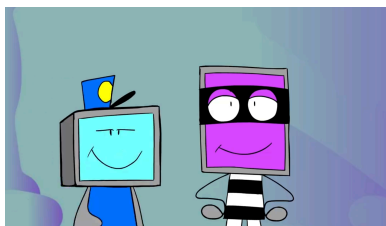
[Revised Board Policy BCBK: Executive Session](#)

[Delete Policy BBG: Consultants](#)

[Revised Board Policy CJ: Use of Consultants](#)

[Revised Board Policy KK: Sale of District Property](#)

From the Superintendent Report



Signature Program Successes

Signature Program students have seen recent successes in competition. Two groups of 2-Dimensional Animation students, led by instructor Enza Ketchum, took part in a 24-hour animation competition. This competition drew more than 550 teams, mostly made up of college and university competitors. Out of 49 high school teams,

Shawnee Mission's Recover_Untitled team ranked in the top 10! The Cosmic Sunflowers also finished and submitted their competition challenge, which is something not all teams are able to accomplish during the time period.

SMSD Cybersecurity students also had a strong showing at their first competition of the season at Wichita State University. SMSD students took first place in the 27-hour capture the flag competition that drew teams from high schools and junior colleges. Shawnee Mission also had a team place 8th in competition. Congratulations to these students and their sponsor, instructor Jessica Tickle.

Dr. Schumacher expressed congratulations to all of these students and their instructors.



Kansas Teacher of the Year

Shawnee Mission has announced one primary and one secondary teacher to represent the district in the 2026 Kansas Teacher of the Year program. Shauna Hammett, a kindergarten teacher at Apache Elementary School, and Lara Caldwell, an English teacher at Horizons High School are the district nominees. The Kansas Teacher of the Year

Award recognizes and utilizes representatives of excellent teaching in the elementary and secondary classrooms of the state. Both educators will be honored as part of the Kansas Teacher of the Year program.



Parents as Teachers Blue Ribbon Endorsement

Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers (PAT) has earned the designation of Blue Ribbon Affiliate from the national Parents as Teachers organization. This designation recognizes that our affiliate provides the highest quality services possible. Shawnee Mission Parents as Teachers completed a process that demonstrated they meet or exceed all PAT requirements as well as a large majority of quality standards. Parents as Teachers serves families of young children, ages birth to Kindergarten, by providing information, support, personal home visits, social activities, and developmental screenings. "We appreciate all that Parents as Teachers does to support optimal development for the youngest children in our community," shared Dr. Schumacher. [Click here for more information about](#)

[Parents as Teachers.](#)



Podcast Update Dr. Schumacher shared highlights from the second season of the Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up podcast. "I'm excited to let our community know that our most recent episode highlights the work of our amazing food services team. Before that, we highlighted middle school sports and the addition of middle school football," added Schumacher. "We continue to release new Mic'd Up episodes every other Thursday and we encourage everyone to download or subscribe." [Click here for more information about Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up.](#)



All Star The Board of Education presented two Shawnee Mission All Star Awards.

The first honoree was Megan Lemke, third grade teacher at ApacheS Elementary School. [Click here to see a video about Lemke.](#)

The next honoree was Britteny Jackson, head custodian at Indian Hills Middle School. [Click here to see a video about Jackson.](#)

Congratulations to these amazing Shawnee Mission All Stars!

Anyone wanting to nominate a Shawnee Mission School District team member as an All Star can do so [by filling out this form.](#)

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 by clicking here.](#) Links to board policies, agenda, and meeting minutes can be found by [clicking here.](#)