

## **December 9, 2024 Regular Board of Education Meeting**

### **Board Items**

#### **Annual Comprehensive Financial Report**

Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, along with Karen Linn, managing director with BT&Co., P.A., presented the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) to the Board of Education. [The full report can be viewed here.](#)

#### **iReady Curriculum Resource**

Joanna Roche, curriculum coordinator for elementary math and science, led a presentation recommending iReady, a new math resource for grades K-5. Erika Sales, 3rd grade teacher at Roesland Elementary, Jennifer Thomson, 5th grade teacher at Roesland Elementary, Jill Ryder, 5th grade teacher Sunflower Elementary, and Joanna Euston, instructional coach at Nieman Elementary also contributed to the presentation. This recommendation follows a rigorous evaluation and pilot process aimed at enhancing math instruction across the district.

The timeline for the adoption process began in August 2023, with research, resource pre-screening, and professional learning for cadre teams and instructional coaches. A pilot program was launched in the first quarter of the 2024-25 school year, during which teachers and students provided feedback and evaluation data. By compiling these findings, district leadership collaborated to finalize the recommendation.

The proposed iReady program offers a comprehensive plan that includes print and digital resources for students and teachers, professional learning opportunities, diagnostic testing and data support, and personalized learning tailored to meet the needs of all students. The program aligns with the district's Math Instructional Framework, emphasizing student ownership of learning, diverse problem-solving approaches, mathematical confidence, and conceptual understanding. The adoption will also provide learning continuity across grade levels as iReady was approved as the district's math curriculum resource for grades 6-8 last year. [Click here to view the presentation.](#)

Later in the meeting, the Board of Education approved the adoption of the iReady math resource for grades K-5.

#### **Personal Electronic Devices**

Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher delivered a presentation summarizing the work of Strategic Action Team 4.1.3, which centers on developing age-appropriate recommendations for technology usage, including personal devices. Dr. Schumacher began by expressing gratitude to the action team members, co-leaders Dr. Chris Lowe, director of elementary services, and Lacy Warren, director of secondary services, as well as the community for their active engagement in the process.

Throughout the fall, the action team met six times to develop their recommendations. Divided into elementary and secondary subgroups, they conducted thorough research and engaged the community through ThoughtExchange survey, ensuring diverse input informed their work. Dr. Schumacher shared the engagement results and the major themes identified from the ThoughtExchange.

The action team developed recommendations for the elementary, middle, and high school levels, although they were not able to come to consensus at the high school level.

Informed by the work of the Action Team, input from building administrators, and the ThoughtExchange feedback, Dr. Schumacher developed three options for recommended action, which he presented to the Board of Education for consideration.

Key points of the Superintendent's Recommendation:

- **Elementary Schools:** All personal electronic devices will be stored during the school day.
- **Middle Schools:** All personal electronic devices will be stored during the school day. Students can access their cell phones at their locker during passing periods.
- **High School:** Personal electronic devices (other than smart watches) will be put away during instructional time.

Dr. Schumacher presented three options for the Board's consideration noting the pros and cons of each option:

**Option 1: Take Immediate Action:** Vote on the proposed draft policy at the current meeting for potential implementation by January 6, 2025.

**Option 2: First Read with Feedback:** Conduct a first read, gather feedback, and take action at the January 13, 2025, meeting.

**Option 3: Policy Review Committee (PRC):** Send the draft policy to the PRC for further input, delaying potential implementation until August 2025.

The Board of Education engaged in extensive discussions and deliberations, considering the recommendations alongside related topics such as discipline, student engagement, definitions of instructional time, and the proposed timeline.

Later in the meeting, the Board of Education moved to adopt option 2.

### **Legislative Platform**

The Board of Education approved the 2025 Shawnee Mission School District Legislative Platform. [Click here to view the redline and final platform.](#)

### **2026-2027 School Calendar**

Dr. Darren Dennis, chief academic officer, presented the 2026-2027 Calendar to the Board. The Board of Education approved the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar. [Click here to view the calendar.](#)

### **2025-2026 Middle School Program Planning Guide**

The Board of Education approved updates to the 2025-2026 version of the Middle School Program Planning Guide. [Click here to view the memo to the Board outlining updates.](#)

[Click here to view the full Middle School Planning Guide.](#)

### **2025-2026 High School Program Planning Guide**

The Board of Education approved updates to the 2025-2026 version of the High School Program Planning Guide.

[Click here to view the memo to the Board outlining updates.](#)

[Click here to view the full High School Planning Guide.](#)

### **Policy Approval**

The Board held a second reading and approved the following policies with the amendment that Policy JBCB:In-District Transfers will come back before the Board in January for clarification of the language defining absence event.

[Policy JBCD: Open Enrollment](#)

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

### From the Superintendent Report



**Fall Sports Wrap Up** Shawnee Mission teams and individual competitors were ALL IN this fall. Dr. Schumacher shared a few highlights from the fall athletic season.

The Shawnee Mission East Girls tennis team was state runner up. In Girls golf, Shawnee Mission East also was state runner up. In gymnastics, Andi Prendiville, SM East junior, earned second place in vault and Claire Rogers from SM East earned second place in bars. Charlotte Hardy, a Shawnee Mission East sophomore earned second place in cross country. Shawnee Mission South Boys and Shawnee Mission East Girls placed third as teams in cross country. Shawnee Mission Northwest made it to Sectionals and Shawnee Mission East made it to Regionals in football. Shawnee Mission East and Shawnee Mission Northwest also qualified for state in Unified Bowling. Shawnee Mission West earned fifth place in cheer and Shawnee Mission East earned sixth place in dance at the Kansas State High School Athletics Association Game Day Showcase. Shawnee Mission East also was declared state champion in Boys soccer.

At the middle school level, Indian Woods girls and Indian Hills Boys were district champions in Cross Country. Trailridge was district champion in Volleyball. Indian Woods (boys and girls combined) was champion in Wrestling. Shawnee Mission also had an outstanding first season of middle school football, though the district did not have championship playoffs this year.

This fall, 3,691 middle and high school students engaged in athletics. Dr. Schumacher congratulated everyone on an amazing season, "We are so proud of all of these athletes and coaches!"

**Biotechnology Success** Savannah Siceloff, a Shawnee Mission Northwest junior and Biotechnology Signature Program student, has earned an incredible research opportunity. She has been invited to the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research Conference in Puerto Rico. This invitation came based on work she is doing



in the laboratory at the University of Kansas Medical Center. With the help of Dr. Lane Christensen, she is studying the effects of space flight on female fertility and offspring. Dr. Schumacher congratulated Savannah and her instructors, Dr. Kenny Lee and Zulma Perez-Estrella.

**Presidential Award** The Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award was recently awarded to Jessica Tickle, SMSD Engineering Signature Program instructor. Tickle launched the district's Cybersecurity program and integrates cybersecurity lessons into the classroom. She also leads competitive cybersecurity teams and has collaborated with industry leaders to help students gain experiences in cybersecurity. This honor is

only given to two educators in the United States each year and is presented to those who demonstrate exceptional achievement in cybersecurity education.



**Pre-K/Kindergarten Enrollment** Online enrollment for Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten for the 2025-2026 school year begins soon in the Shawnee Mission School District! Families will be able to enroll students starting on January 1, 2025. Pre-K is a half-day program at various elementary schools across the district. Next year, a Pre-k classroom will be added at Pawnee and Tomahawk, bringing Pre-k to 21 of our 34 elementary schools. Kindergarten is a full-day program in all of our elementary schools across the district.

Dr. Schumacher noted an important agenda item related to Pre-k fees. The district applies for and receives funding through the state to offer no-fee pre-kindergarten to qualifying students and families. The district also offers fee-based Pre-kindergarten for students and families who do not meet the qualifications for a no-fee program. The consent item on the meeting agenda, approved by the Board, included a recommendation for a

fee increase to ensure operational costs are more accurately and fully covered while remaining competitive in the marketplace.

Detailed information will be shared on [www.smsd.org](http://www.smsd.org). Families who have 4-year-olds and 5-year-olds in our community are encouraged to take note of these opportunities. Shawnee Mission is excited to welcome this new class of students – both Pre-K and Kindergarten - into our district! Our Pre-K and Kindergarten opportunities provide an outstanding foundation for student success.



**R&D Forum** The Research and Development Forum, one of Shawnee Mission’s biggest events of the year, is coming up in April. It will feature a student showcase with public open house reception events on April 22, 23, and 24. For anyone unfamiliar with the event, Dr. Schumacher compared it to a gigantic, districtwide open house for the whole community.

The Next Great Idea Pitch Competition will be held on Saturday, April 26. This event gives students a chance to pitch their ideas to solve a problem or start a business in front of judges. They have a chance to win prize money that will help them put their ideas into action. Dr. Schumacher encouraged all students, staff, and families to think of projects they want to enter and ideas for the pitch competition. “I enjoy going to this event,” expressed Dr. Schumacher. “It’s such a wonderful way to see what our students and staff accomplish throughout the year, and I think we are all impressed by the innovation and talent our students share.” This is a long-standing tradition in Shawnee Mission and the District is grateful for the support of the Regnier Family, who have supported the R&D Forum since the beginning.



**Quarterly Art Show** The quarter 1 digital art show has arrived. This digital presentation features work created in Pre-K through 12th grade classrooms from across the district during this first quarter. Dr. Schumacher thanked all of the educators across the district who contributed to this show, as well as Megan Ellis, visual arts coordinator and Lenexa Hills art teacher for all of her contributions. [Click here to view the Quarter 1 Digital Art Show.](#)



DECEMBER 2024: FOSTER CONFIDENCE

**Read Across SMSD** This December, Read Across SMSD is focused on “Fostering Confidence” and several high school students helped to introduce this theme. [Click here to view the video.](#)

Dr. Schumacher thanked students Erin, Audrey, Chris, Ashley, Jaxon, and director of elementary human resources, Michelle Lord, for helping us “Foster Confidence.” “We also thank NEA-Shawnee Mission for their ongoing partnership in support of Read Across SMSD and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for their partnership and for providing access to all Read Across books in all of our schools,” stated Dr. Schumacher.



**Podcast update** Dr. Schumacher highlighted the most recent episodes of Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up. Episode 29 featured student musicians and highlighted the collaboration at feeder pattern music festivals. The following episode featured the Broadmoor Bistro and their Everything But the Turkey fundraiser. The next episode drops on December 12 and it's going to be one you don't want to miss. [Click here for a link to listen, download, and subscribe to the district podcast.](#)



**Weather Procedure Update** Last week, information about changes to the weather procedures were shared with families and staff. As of December 5, the District has four plans in place in case of Inclement Weather. A new “Plan C” outlining a 2-hour delay has been added. This new option aligns SMSD with neighboring districts in Johnson County, and will facilitate common decision-making with regard to inclement weather.

[Click here to view the updated Inclement Weather Procedures.](#)



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

The first honoree was Allison Meyer, secretary at Shawanoe Elementary. [Click here to watch a video about Meyer.](#)

Next to be honored was Sydney Seratte, music teacher at Bluejacket-Flint Elementary. [Click here to watch a video about Seratte.](#)

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.](#)