



BOARD MEETING RECAP

Board Items

Strategic Plan Update Progress continues on the [SMSD Strategic Plan](#) and several individuals provided an update to the Board of Education. Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, chief of early childhood education/sustainability, Dr. Matt Andersen, assistant director of curriculum and instruction, along with Action Team members Karen King, community member, and Kate Harrenbruck, fourth-grade teacher, Trailwood Elementary School, shared details about the work of Action Team 1.2.1, related to interpersonal skills.

Michelle Lord, director of elementary human resources, and Maggie Carter, Highlands Elementary School instructional coach, provided an update on Action Team 3.1.3, related to the comprehensive evaluation process for team members.

Judd Remmers, director of classified human resources and Meagan Alexander, Brookwood Elementary School secretary, provided an update on Action Teams 3.2.2, related to the Superintendent's Classified Advisory Council, and 3.2.5, related to classified data.

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

Apply or Nominate Action Team Members Input and feedback from volunteers serving on Action Teams is an essential part of the Strategic Plan implementation process. Anyone in our community is invited to apply to serve on future Action Teams or nominate an individual to serve on Action Teams. [Click here to apply or nominate.](#)

Upcoming Action Teams include:

Strategy 1- Learning

1.1.4 - [Internal Only] - Design and implement job-embedded professional learning to support personalized learning for all students

Strategy 2- Belonging

2.1.2 - [Internal Only] - Review and revise district-wide discipline policies and procedures to ensure an equitable, consistent, restorative, and effective disciplinary approach

2.3.1- [Internal and External] - Develop mentorship programs to provide guidance, support, and foster safe and caring relationships

2.2.4 - [Internal and External] - Ensure accessible communication for all through translation and assistive technology

Strategy 3- People

3.1.1 - [Internal Only] - Consider expanding mentorship opportunities to support teachers

Strategy 4- Technology

4.1.4 - [Internal Only] - Adopt and implement an evidence-based framework for instructional technology that supports the differentiated needs of all students

From the Superintendent Report



Battle of the Books Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher shared that students from all five Shawnee Mission middle schools recently put their reading knowledge to the test in a district-wide competition. The students had been busy reading books from a reading list so they could answer trivia

questions about the subject matter. It was a tight competition this year but Hocker Grove Middle School took home the championship trophy. “We congratulate all of the competitors on a job well done, as well as the Hocker Grove team and librarian Carol Edds,” Dr. Schumacher expressed.



Podcast Update

It took a little bit of time to get back to the podcast after Winter Break and snow days, but Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up is back with a new episode. Dr. Schumacher shared the most recent episode, #32, is one he won't forget anytime soon. Dr. Brittany Gonser, director of professional learning, and Dr. Schumacher had the honor of interviewing Kaden Griffith, who is a published author, special education advocate, award-winning innovator and Shawnee Mission student. "He is an incredible person and I encourage everyone to listen to this episode," Schumacher added. SMSD continues to release new episodes every other Thursday. [Click here for the Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up webpage, with resources to download and subscribe.](#)



The Next Great Idea We know our students in Shawnee Mission have great ideas, so we are encouraging them to enter in The Next Great Idea competition. Students are able to share a pitch for an idea before a panel of judges for a chance to win prize money. The initial application deadline for The Next Great Idea is March 7. [Click here for some resources to help anyone get started and join the fun.](#) The Next Great Idea is part of the district's [Research and Development Forum](#), which also includes student showcase open houses. The forum, including the student showcase and Next Great Idea, will take place in April. Shawnee Mission thanks the Regnier Family for their long-standing support of the R&D Forum.



Polar Plunge Dr. Schumacher shared a reminder for everyone in the SMSD community that they are invited to join and support this year’s Polar Plunge. At this event, a brave group of individuals will take a jump into Lake Olathe on February 22, 2025, all to help raise money for the Special

Olympics.

Shawnee Mission’s Team is called “Shiver and Shine” and Sherry Dumolien, chief of special education, has stepped up to guarantee SMSD has a representative taking the plunge. Dr. Schumacher said he also is looking forward to being ALL IN as well. Shawnee Mission students, families, and staff benefit from opportunities created through Special Olympics. [Click here for more information and a link to support.](#)



READ ACROSS SMSD FEBRUARY – PURSUE PASSIONS

Read Across SMSD February Video This February, Read Across SMSD is encouraging everyone to Pursue Passions.

Click here to take a look.

Dr. Schumacher thanked Chantel Mason, associate principal at Westridge, as well as students Zaundra, Kensley, and Ryan. “We hope you continue to explore and enjoy all you are passionate about,” he shared. “We also thank NEA-Shawnee Mission for their ongoing partnership, providing Read Across SMSD and [The Shawnee Mission Education Foundation](#) for providing access to Read Across SMSD books to all Shawnee Mission School District students.

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.](#)