

February 24, 2025 Regular Board of Education Meeting

Board Items

Russell Knapp, chief financial officer, presented the weighted FTE report to the Board of Education.

[Click here to view the financial reports.](#)

Legislative Update

Dr. Stuart Little, district lobbyist, provided the Board with an update on legislative activities at the midpoint of the 2025 session. He noted that the expedited calendar has accelerated hearings, with only 18 days remaining for committee work. Dr. Little explained that a shift in the state budget process is transferring control from the executive to the legislative branch, impacting K-12 funding. The governor's \$72 million Special Education (SPED) proposal has been reduced to \$10 million by the House Appropriations Committee, while at-risk free lunch funding was cut from \$5.5 million to \$2 million.

Dr. Little also highlighted key policy discussions, including increased legislative oversight in health, public education, and welfare. The K-12 Education Funding Task Force has begun work on rewriting the school finance formula, with a draft bill expected in 2026. Several education-related bills are advancing, such as those altering board authority, requiring parental consent for pronoun use, and expanding non-public school scholarships.

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

Operations and Maintenance Program Evaluation

Dr. David Stubblefield, deputy superintendent, Tyler Clubb, director of facilities, and Michael Wood, assistant director of facilities, presented an update on the Operations and Maintenance program. They began by

explaining how their team's work supports the district's beliefs, mission, and objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan.

Tyler Clubb detailed the team's responsibilities, which include managing 49 schools and four district centers, overseeing more than 5.4 million square feet of facilities, and maintaining 860 acres of district grounds. He also outlined the department's structure, highlighting key roles in maintenance, groundskeeping, custodial services, and construction project management.

Michael Wood provided insights into work order performance and shared updates on the student internship program and the summer crew intern partnership.

The presentation showcased the district's bond planning, capital projects, and sustainability initiatives. In 2021, the community approved a \$264 million bond to fund district-wide facilities improvements. Guided by community input, the bond projects focus on enhancing educational infrastructure. Five elementary schools in the district have been rebuilt through the bond.

Britt Pumphrey, principal of John Diemer Elementary School, highlighted how the new building has positively impacted students and the community. A standout feature of the building is the collaboration space, including privacy restrooms, which has made students feel more comfortable. Each classroom also has a garage door entrance, bringing in natural light, enhancing safety, and fostering a sense of community.

"As principal, I get to walk through and see all the amazing things happening in our building every day," Pumphrey shared. "It feels like home."

Tyler Clubb shared the district's commitment to sustainability, noting that the first four rebuilt elementary schools have achieved Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification, and Tomahawk is on track to do the same. He also provided updates on major renovation projects at the middle and high school levels.

Dr. Stubblefield recognized former Corinth Elementary student Olivia Bloomfield for her advocacy for inclusive playgrounds, which helped ensure that all 34 elementary schools in the district now feature inclusive play spaces where all students can play together.

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

From the Superintendent Report



WEATHER ALERT

Statement on Winter Weather

The Shawnee Mission School District is pleased to have students and staff fully back after last week's inclement weather closures.

Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher shared that every snow day decision is made with great care. While the district prioritizes keeping students in school, safety remains the top concern when making these tough calls. Dr. Schumacher thanked everyone for their cooperation last week, and highlighted the notable example of flexibility of the Instructional Fair (iFair) professional development that was moved rapidly to a virtual event. He expressed gratitude for staff's ridiculous positivity and perseverance ensuring the iFair could be held virtually.

Dr. Schumacher also addressed how recent snow days may impact the end of the school year. The district will officially announce final school days in April. Currently, there are two additional days that could serve as inclement weather days if needed, though the hope is to avoid using them.

Acknowledging the community's snow day traditions, Dr. Schumacher encouraged families to keep their lucky charms ready by counting their spoons at night and making sure children are wearing pajamas right-side out.

As a reminder, the district only announces when school is closed. If no notification is received, school is open as usual.



Citizenship Recognition Prior to the Board meeting, student honorees were recognized in this year's PTA Citizenship Writing Program ceremony. The program encourages students in grades 5-12 to write an essay or poem on a selected theme. This

year's theme, submitted by Sunflower Elementary School student Fiona Francis was, "Small Things I Can Do to Impact My Community..."

Dr. Schumacher congratulated all the student honorees, their schools, teachers, and families. He also thanked educators and PTA members, including the Shawnee Mission Area Council PTA members, for encouraging students to express themselves through writing. [Click here to watch the ceremony.](#)



Summer Enrichment Shawnee Mission Summer Enrichment enrollment is open now! Classes are offered for students in Kindergarten through seventh grade. There is also a Pre-Kindergarten class for those that meet age requirements. All of the classes offered help students explore new

interests in the areas of visual and performing arts, science and nature, sports, and more. [Click here for more information or to enroll.](#)



Submit Projects to the R&D Forum The district is preparing for the upcoming Research and Development Forum in April. The initial deadline for the Next Great Idea competition is approaching on March 7. This contest invites

students to share their ideas for a new business or product to a panel of judges. Competitors have a chance to win prize money that will help them make their idea a reality. Students and staff are also encouraged to think of projects, experiments, inventions, and displays to feature in the Student Showcase. Submissions for the showcase are due by March 28. The R&D student showcase is a district-wide open house for the entire community. [Click here for more details.](#)

Non-Teaching Career Fair



Career Fair on Feb. 26 The Shawnee Mission School District is hosting a job fair for non-teaching positions from 4 to 6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at the Center for Academic Achievement, 8200 W. 71st St. This includes custodians, paraeducators, food service assistants, operations and

maintenance and skilled trade positions, information technology, and aide positions. Dr. Schumacher noted the Shawnee Mission School District was ranked by Forbes as one of the best employers in the state and he encouraged all in our community to share information about this upcoming career fair. [Click here for more information or to apply.](#)



Spelling Bee Winner The district is proud to announce that Briarwood Elementary sixth grader Jiya Bhavsar is the 2025 County Spelling Bee Champion. Her winning word was acetaminophen. She competed against 76 of the top spellers across Johnson County to claim the title. Bhavsar now advances to the state competition, where competitors have a chance to earn a spot in the Scripp's National Spelling Bee. Dr. Schumacher wished her good luck!



All Star The Board of Education presented a Shawnee Mission All Star Award to Pierce Jackson, head custodian at Sunflower Elementary School. [Click here to watch a video honoring Jackson.](#)

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.](#)