



# BOARD MEETING RECAP

## Board Items

**Legislative Update** Dr. Stuart Little, district lobbyist, provided a legislative update. He provided status updates on bills related to budgets, special education funding, discussion on expansion of non-public school scholarship programs, graduation rate calculation, Board meeting process, and more. The update can be viewed at about 41:47 on the meeting video. [Click here to view that portion of the meeting.](#)

**Middle School Cheer 2025-2026** Dr. Kent Glaser, director of athletics and activities, and Ericka Waller, Trailridge Middle School associate principal, shared a proposal to add Middle School Cheerleading for the 2025-2026 school year. Later in the meeting, the Board [approved uniforms, equipment, and coaching supplemental contracts](#). [Click here to view the presentation.](#)

**Assessment Update** Pam Lewis, associate superintendent of leadership and learning, and Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, presented an update on winter 2024 assessments. The update provided winter snapshots, a high-level overview of Acadience Literacy and Northwest Evaluation Association Measure of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) Reading data and Acadience Numeracy and NWEA MAP Math data. Dr. Gruman also provided details about iReady implementation and explained correlations between NWEA and iReady assessment results. iReady is a math resource being implemented across the district. The iReady Diagnostic Assessment is integrated into this resource. Pam Lewis then highlighted plans for the future, including but not limited to expansion of iReady math resources, expansion of LETRS (a professional development program designed to provide educators with the knowledge

and tools needed to effectively teach reading and spelling, grounded in the science of reading), re-starting structured walkthroughs, and the continuation of monitoring student progress. [Click here to view the update.](#)

## From The Superintendent Report



### Junior Science and Humanities Symposium National Qualifiers

Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher shared that three Shawnee Mission Biotechnology Signature Program students qualified to attend the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. They are now preparing to attend the national symposium in Washington, D.C. this April. Qualifying students include

Elizabeth Barnes, Shawnee Mission West junior, who earned second place and a \$1,500 scholarship, Cooper Grotzinger, Shawnee Mission South senior, who earned third place and a \$1,000 scholarship, and Sahira Bhakta, Shawnee Mission Northwest senior, who earned fourth place. Their sponsors are Dr. Kenneth Lee and Zulma Perez-Estrella, Biotechnology instructors.

**Social Worker Honor** The Kansas School Social Worker of the Year Award was presented recently to Anne Langdon, who serves Arrowhead in the Shawnee Mission School District. This award, presented by the Kansas School Social Worker Association (KSSWA), is given in recognition of



Langdon's dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to supporting students, families, and the school social work community.



**Enter projects in Student Showcase** A month from now the Research and Development Forum will be in full swing in Shawnee Mission. There is still time to enter projects in the Student Showcase. Every student in the SMSD is invited to share experiments, inventions, and project displays at the R&D Forum. The deadline to

submit is March 28. [Click here to enter projects](#). Anyone unsure of where an entry fits is invited to reach out to the contact listed on the webpage for resource questions. The Student Showcase is a district-wide open house and we are excited to welcome everyone from 4 to 7 p.m. on April 22, 23, and 24 at the Center for Academic Achievement, 8200 W. 71st St. for this event. We also look forward to hosting the Next Great Idea competition at 9 a.m. on April 26 at the CAA and live-streamed online. We thank the Regnier Family for their long-standing support of the Shawnee Mission R&D Forum!



**Read Across SMSD March** This March our Read Across SMSD theme is "Join In." [Click here to see a video](#).

Dr. Schumacher expressed thanks to Calista Martin and Sunflower Elementary School musicians. He also thanked NEA Shawnee Mission for its partnership. "A special thanks to Kim Hinkle for hosting and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for providing access to Read Across SMSD books to all of our schools and for the many ways you support our students," Dr. Schumacher added.



**Podcast update** Everyone is invited to listen to Shawnee Mission Mic'd Up- the district podcast. It is a great way to find out about the amazing students and staff in Shawnee Mission schools. Dr. Schumacher highlighted a couple of recent episodes. The most recent episode highlights

Shawnee Mission service animals and some of the amazing ways we support student mental health in our schools. [Click here to view or download the episode.](#) This month SMSD also highlighted the district Women in Leadership program. [Click here to view or download the episode.](#) Everyone is invited to listen and subscribe and watch for a new episode released on April 3!



**Winter Sports Wrap Up** It was a thrilling winter for athletes in the Shawnee Mission School District! Dr. Schumacher highlighted a few state recognitions: In Boys Wrestling, Adam Hageman, a senior at Shawnee Mission Northwest, was state champion in the 175 pound category. In Girls wrestling, Lulu Kirk, a freshman from Shawnee

Mission South, was state champion in her bracket. Shawnee Mission South also had several top finishes including Stella Segura taking third, Addilyn Masters taking third, Rachel Wilson taking third, Sevyn Donovan taking third, and Siobhan Flanner taking second in their respective categories.

Shawnee Mission East was state runner up in bowling and Christian Lahey from Shawnee Mission East earned second place in individual titles. In boys swimming, Shawnee Mission East High School was state runner-up as a team. Gabe Cavin, representing Shawnee Mission Northwest, was named state champion and Max Cavin, representing Shawnee Mission Northwest, earned third place in 50-yard freestyle. Jack Eaton from Shawnee Mission North placed third in the 100 yard butterfly. Gabe Cavin earned second place in 100-yard freestyle. Emmet Lynch from Shawnee Mission East earned third place in 500 yard freestyle. Jonothan Guild from Shawnee Mission North earned third place in the 100 yard backstroke. A

team from Shawnee Mission East earned first place in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Dr. Schumacher also congratulated the Shawnee Mission Northwest boys basketball team on back-to-back state championships!

In middle school championships- Indian Hills earned the top title in girls and boys basketball. “This represents a rundown of some of the highlights, but we congratulate all athletes and coaches on all personal and team accomplishments from this past season,” Dr. Schumacher shared. “Shawnee Mission is proud of the 1,917 students who took part in winter sports and we’re looking forward to an exciting spring!”

**All Star** Shawnee Mission recognized three Shawnee Mission All Stars.

The include:

Melinda DiGirolamo, Shawnee Mission East High School English Language Arts teacher. [Click here to see a video about DiGirolamo.](#)

Holly Barnhart, Trailridge Middle School social studies teacher. [Click here to see a video about Holly.](#)

Lindsey Guillen, John Diemer Elementary School secretary. [Click here to see a video about Lindsey.](#)

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

Superintendent Schumacher also shared the following statement regarding an executive order, signed last week, directing the secretary of education to dismantle the U.S. Department of Education:

“Last week, the Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) released a statement in response to the President’s actions. The Shawnee Mission School District will take guidance from our state leaders and we do agree that education is a state



issue. However, we have always appreciated the federal role in educating all students. As KSDE said last week, 'For decades, federal support has played a critical role in ensuring equitable access to education, particularly for students with disabilities, and those from low-income families and rural communities.' These are unprecedented times for public educators and for those families and communities who rely on public education and the promise that it provides to ALL students across this country. As I said when I was hired to be superintendent about a year ago, I believe strongly that public schools are the great equalizer in this country. I committed at that time to fight for our students, our families and our community. As public school leaders, there has not been a more important time in our careers to fight for what we know is right, and to do all that we can for those who don't have a voice and depend so greatly on the services that we provide. Having said that, our leadership team will work closely with our state leaders and our local Board of Education to ensure the students of the SMSD receive the resources they deserve. This will include strongly voicing our concerns when necessary and appropriate. We are All In for our students, and for the Shawnee Mission community."

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](#).