

May 12, 2025 Board of Education Regular Meeting

Board Items

Student Discipline Report

Dr. Dan Gruman, director of assessment and research, presented an update on student behavior trends across the Shawnee Mission School District from August through April. The presentation opened with an overview of the discipline matrix, which is designed to support the goal of building strong relationships and fostering a positive environment that encourages students to remain in school. Dr. Gruman explained that the vast majority of students go through the year without receiving a single discipline referral, and the most severe disciplinary incidents remain extremely rare. Almost 80% of students never receive a discipline referral.

Dr. Gruman reviewed the data showing that while Level 1 and 2 referrals have increased, more serious Level 3 and 4 incidents have declined. Trends also show a spike in referrals during middle school, with a decrease after ninth grade. The most frequent referrals are for tardiness, interpersonal disrespect, class disruption, and personal electronic device violations. Dr. Gruman also presented discipline data broken down by student demographics.

Looking forward, Dr. Gruman highlighted several areas of focus for 2025-2026, including reducing chronic absenteeism and continued attention to the [Strategic Plan](#) strategies of Belonging and Mental Health. He shared that staff training in restorative practices will begin in the first quarter to build stronger relationships and constructively address conflict. The district will also continue using the Character Strong program to support students' social-emotional well-being.

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

World Languages Instructional Resource Adoption

Kristin Ridgway, coordinator of curriculum and instruction, along with pilot team members Stephanie Wixon and Nick Ruiz, world language teachers at SM North, and Brianna Ovalles, world language teacher at Shawnee Mission South, presented a proposal for the district to adopt a new World Languages resource. This proposed adoption supports Strategic Plan Action 1.3.2, “We will formalize a plan to increase bilingualism.”

The team first shared about the World Language program throughout the district, including the growing impact of the Seal of Biliteracy, student success in Heritage Spanish courses, and student achievements at the University of Central Missouri Modern Languages Film Festival.

Phase 1 of the resource adoption focuses on Spanish instruction in middle and high school, with a recommendation to adopt the Klett World Languages’ series. This resource was selected through a comprehensive pilot and evaluation process. The resource aligns with the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) standards and offers digital and print components that support language proficiency and real-world application. In addition, student and teacher feedback of the resource was positive.

Phase 2, planned for 2026-2027, will include the pilot and adoption of resources for upper-level Spanish and French courses. A future adoption cycle for Arabic, Latin, German, Russian, and Mandarin is planned for 2029.

Later in the meeting, the Board of Education moved to approve phase 1 of the World Languages Instructional Resource adoption.

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

Budget Workshop - Operating Funds

Chief Financial Officer Russell Knapp delivered a detailed overview of the SMSD’s operating budget for the 2025-26 school year. The presentation

outlined total anticipated operating revenues of approximately \$316 million and projected expenditures of nearly \$306 million, with 84.6% allocated to salaries and benefits.

Revenue sources include state aid and local option budget funds, among others. Knapp noted a \$237 increase in Base Aid for Student Excellence (BASE) state aid and pointed to factors influencing the budget, including a slight enrollment increase, reductions in state grants, and increases in utility and transportation costs.

The budget assumes a personnel increase of 41.2 Full Time Equivalency (FTE) positions. Major expenditure changes include costs for professional growth, added staff, student transportation, and increased health insurance participation.

Knapp also reported on the summary of fund balances, flow-through funds to the state, federal funds, and noted a projected mill levy decrease. The presentation concluded with a review of the timeline of steps for the final budget submission by September 20, 2025.

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

[Click here to review the budget workshop acronym reference document.](#)

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

[Revised Policy BDA: Developing and Adopting Policy](#)

[New Policy CC: Organizational Chart](#)

[Revised Policy CG: Administrative Personnel](#)

Deleted Policy CGI: Administrator Evaluation

[Revised Policy CNA: Preservation of Documents](#)

[Revised Policy DC: Annual Operating Budget](#)

[New Policy DEE: Fraud Prevention and Investigation](#)

[Revised Policy ICA: Pilot Projects](#)

[Revised Policy IDACA: Special Education Actions](#)

[New Policy JGFGAA: Stock Supply of Emergency Medication](#)

Approval of Westwood View Amendment

Superintendent Dr. Michael Schumacher recommended the approval of a fourth amendment to the Real Estate Purchase Agreement for the Agreement for the Westwood View Elementary property. The amendment extends the closing date to November 28, 2025.

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

From the Superintendent Report



Cyber Title One of Shawnee Mission's cyber security teams, the Hills Hackers, won the 2025 National Cal Poly Space Grand Challenge. They claimed first place in their division and earned the highest overall score across all divisions, competing with 50 teams from across the country. This competition is a virtual, game-based cybersecurity competition designed by students at California Polytechnic State

University. The purpose is to help students build cyber and IT skills through games. Dr. Schumacher congratulated the students and their sponsor, Jessica Tickle, on their achievement.



National Security Language for Youth

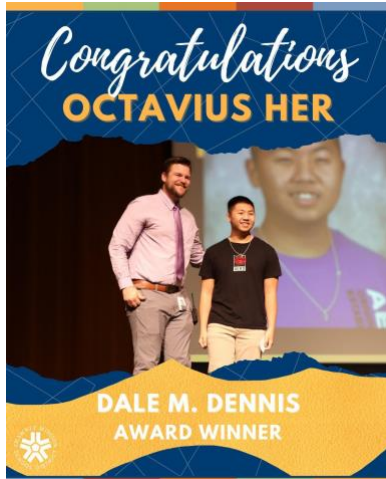
The National Security Language Initiative for Youth has announced that Cora Bruce, a sophomore at Shawnee Mission South High School, has been selected as a participant and will be studying abroad in South Korea this summer on full scholarship. SM South Arabic instructor Annie Hasan shared that in addition to the Korean language, Bruce is an Arabic student and is on her way to becoming trilingual.



Digital Art Show The Digital Art Show for Quarter 3 has arrived, featuring the work of Shawnee Mission School District students. This art show features artwork created by students across the district from Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade.

Dr. Schumacher thanked all of the art teachers who contributed to this show and Megan Ellis, visual arts coordinator and Lenexa Hills Elementary School art teacher.

[Click here to view the Digital Art Show.](#)



Dale Dennis Award The USA Kansas Dale M. Dennis Excellence in Education award was presented to Octavius Her from Shawnee Mission West High School. This honor recognizes students across the state who have displayed the citizenship, community and school service, scholarship, and strong self awareness that makes them a quality individual.



MAY: REVEL IN YOUR HERITAGE

Read Across SMUSD The May theme for Read Across SMUSD is “Revel in Your Heritage.” Dr. Schumacher thanked Kaitlin Shulman, coordinator of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and all of the students who participated in

the video for sharing about their heritage! He also thanked NEA Shawnee Mission and the Shawnee Mission Education Foundation for their continued partnership in Read Across SMUSD.

[Click here to see the video.](#)



Speech and Drama Honors The Shawnee Mission East High School speech and drama team finished their regular season this month with a second place finish at the state tournament held in Olathe. Dr. Schumacher congratulated the team, Shawnee Mission East High School, and

speech and debate director, Trey Witt.



Highlights from retirement and KTOY

Last week, the Shawnee Mission School District celebrated Educator Appreciation Week. Two events specifically honored Shawnee Mission educators. The first was the Teacher of the Year recognition event, honoring all educators who received a Teacher of the Year recognition from their school. The second event recognized retirees and employees who reached significant service milestones and was held at the Center for Academic Achievement.

“This year, 92 retirees in total have contributed 1,932 years of service to Shawnee Mission,” shared Dr. Schumacher. “If we add in all of those who celebrated a service milestone last week- we celebrated 5,202 years of service!”

Educator Appreciation Week Video Dr. Schumacher thanked all who serve in the Shawnee Mission School District. [Click here to view a video of students sharing a word of thanks.](#)



Graduation 2025 Next week, the SMSD will begin celebrating high school commencements! The district is pleased to present livestreams of graduation ceremonies for all of our high schools. Links to all ceremonies will be posted soon on

www.smsd.org. This is a meaningful time for the entire ONE Shawnee Mission community, as student's achievements are honored and celebrated with the support of educators, families, and the broader 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](#).