



# SHAWNEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

326 NORTH UNION AVENUE | SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74801-7099 | (405) 273-0653

**AMANDA JOHNSON**  
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

## Shawnee Public Schools – Communications Department Board Report BOARD UPDATES | April 13, 2026

### Professional Development

I will be attending the Oklahoma School Public Relations Association (OKPRSA) Conference April 14-16. This conference provides valuable opportunities to learn best practices, strengthen communications strategies, and collaborate with peers across the state.

### Community Engagement & Events

- We had a great turnout for Pack the Park, hosted this year at Memorial Park Ed Skelton Field. Feedback from attendees has been positive, with many expressing how much they enjoyed the setting and community atmosphere.
- HOWL Week (Helping Others with Love) raised over \$2,000 for Community Market of Pottawatomie County. To wrap up the week, students joined Mr. Hall, Mrs. Wallace, and myself in serving at the Community Market, reinforcing the impact of student-led service in our community.
- On Tuesday, April 7, we celebrated another milestone made possible by our community's support of the bond with a ribbon cutting for the Paul Duffield Tennis Complex. Approximately 100 students, staff, and community members attended to celebrate this new facility and what it represents for the future of Shawnee Public Schools.

### Community Partnerships & Safety Initiatives

- The City of Shawnee City Commission passed the Safe Streets and Roads for All Action Plan in March. A key next step includes advancing Safe Routes to School initiatives.
- The City continues to host Shawnee Walks walking audits at school sites to gather data that will inform future improvements. April's walk audit was held at Shawnee High School on April 8. These efforts are critical in improving safety and accessibility for all citizens, especially students who walk to school.
- We were proud to host Shawnee Forward's Leadership Shawnee class for their Education Day. Participants toured Will Rogers Elementary, Shawnee Middle School, and Shawnee High School, gaining insight into our academic programs, student opportunities, and facilities.

### Student & Staff Recognition

- **Speech & Debate:**
  - Jenny Myner & Bailyn Gatlin – State Qualifiers (Humorous Duet)
  - Madison Corneil – State Qualifier (Poetry)
  - Competition dates: April 17 (3:30 PM & 7:30 PM) and April 18 (10:30 AM)
- **Athletics & Activities:**
  - Shawnee Winterguard – **5th Place at State**
  - Tenielle Kidd (Swimming), Daley Rice & Coach Wendi Wells (Basketball) – **All-State Honors**
- **Academics & Arts:**
  - Shawnee Middle School students advanced to State for National History Day
  - Isaiah Lightsey (SMS) – Winner, Comedy Category, OK Teen Film Festival
- **Staff Honors:**
  - Leslie Cappo, District Teacher of the Year – recognized as Educator of the Game at Potawatomi Fire

- Mrs. Kroenke – Magic 104.1 Teacher of the Month
- Keely Tolin – named 2026 Distinguished School Administrator by the American Association of School Librarians
- Cherity Pennington – named a 2026 School Librarian of the Year Finalist by the American Association of School Librarians