

**Gilbert McNeal Elementary School**  
**School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, September 17th, 2024**

**Location: McNeal Elementary School**

**Attending SAC Board Members:**

Principal Sheila Waid, Jaime Marco, David Havasi and Lindsay Milner

Parents and Staff Count: Approximately 46 in Attendance

**1. Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 6:46 pm. upon the motion by Jaime Marco, seconded by Elena Vergnais. Meeting minutes from August 2024, were approved and seconded by Jaclyn Lubofsky and Sarah Lily.

**2. New Business:**

A. Kevin Chapman, the Chief of Staff for the Manatee County School District, came to McNeal to share insight, information and answer questions from parents. First, he started by appreciating parents for being at the meeting and sharing concerns in the last few weeks regarding the school threats that have taken place in the district. He shared none of those were viable threats and the county works with police and security guards on having a top-notch approach to school safety. He also indicated that the police department means business and arrests will happen for any student making threats. Our own superintendent has a student in our district, and he views safety as his number one priority because we must get it right 100% of the time. Kevin also shared how important voting for the referendum is once again for our local schools. With the state giving us less and less money yearly, the referendum money really goes far with transportation, salaries, signing and retention bonuses, etc. Manatee county is now one of the highest paid districts in our surrounding counties with a starting salary of around \$60,000. Last year, we had over 20 schools that were A rated and 2 schools who were once Title 1 becoming A rated (Tillman and Able). Even with 24 Title 1 schools, we are 2 points away from being an A school district county wide. Kevin provided facts about how every penny of this extra tax funding goes towards safety and security, guardians, mental health and support counseling and so many other vital pieces for our students.

**B. SAC Election**

This year, two additional SAC positions have been voted on and approved, adding to the board the Chair Emeritus (outgoing Chair role) and the Community member. The new current board is made up of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Community Member and the Chair Emeritus. The

vote came in and Anthony Tretolo will serve as the SAC Chair, Lindsay Milner will serve as the Vice Chair, Erika Thurston will serve as the secretary, Nathan Carr will serve as the Community Member and Jaime Marco will stay on and serve as the Chair Emeritus. The SAC positions will remain and serve for a two-year term.

#### C. Coloring Book

SAC has worked on a special treat for our students and will be selling a coloring book we wrote and illustrated about our Leader in Me School, featuring Gilbert. We would love to sell these for around \$10 and utilize the funds for something needed and wished for on campus for students. Possibly a buddy bench or tutoring for students in need. More forthcoming.

#### 4. Open Discussion/ Action Items

- Mrs. Waid reported that she may get prices on turf for the pre-k playground.
- Ashley Bensen asked about the fans and sunshade pavilion for the large playground and field. PTO confirmed some money has been raised for these efforts, but the fans are around \$33,000 and we have roughly \$20,000.

Jaime Marco thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the school by attending the PTO and SAC Meetings. Next meeting there will be a principal's report and Mrs. Waid will go over her SIP plan.

5. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 pm upon the motion of Jaime Marco, which was seconded by Maria Ade.