

Gilbert McNeal Elementary School

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

Location: McNeal Elementary School

Attending SAC Board Members:

- Principal Sheila Waid, Anthony Tretolo, Lindsay Milner, Erika Thurston, Nathan Carr, and Jaime Marco.
- Parents and Staff Count: Approximately in Attendance

Call to Order:

- The meeting was called to order at 6:14 pm. Upon the motion by Anthony Tretolo, seconded by Jess Rice and Tara Poulton.

New Business:

- Structural Updates
 - Car loop by bike rack: Plan in motion to add safety fencing by bollards.
 - Add additional bollards by PK playground for increased safety.
 - Working with the district to move the yellow gate in the car rider line to create a wider turn radius.

- Fencing: The District is working on establishing the final steps in the contractual and bid process. Working with the district, high on the list to be fixed
- Looking at turf options for PK playground, looks very dirty, contacted sister school that already did it. Mrs. Waid shared that Gulleys' estimate was too high, and we are waiting for other vendors' quotes. Mrs. Saviano is getting Mrs. Waid more numbers. Mrs. Freeman asked about the district's approval.
- Looking for other vendors and bids for our Fans. Tretolo shared that we are getting more quotes and deals along with Staff and Mr. Carr. Hopefully, by January, we will have more info regarding the matter.
- Safety: Book Character Parade.
 - A large group of parents could not follow our request to stay in cars until 8:45. Over 100 parents and families were on campus on the sidewalk at 8:20. Limits who can walk on the street. Dropoff was an issue, parking on Nolan. Looking for solutions, we need to know who's on campus. We need solutions as a community for the school year 25-26.
 - Expressed by principal to sac that being on campus is a privilege, and we need solutions so it's safe for everyone and have parents be out of the cars until we are ready, close the event and stream it. Open forum for ideas,
 - The problem is they are not listening to security and the principal.
 - Mr. Havasi: Mr. Parker and Waid were talking like crazy, so to remedy that, have a committee to patrol and make sure people follow instructions and have a parking friend to guide where to park and what you can do or not do. he can give cones.
 - Mrs. Lily: People have to stay in the cars. Otherwise, it's a safety issue.
 - Tretolo, the battle of having the kids sag

Mrs. Rice: If we change the start time, it will be difficult for parents, and parking is an issue like saving spots.

Mr. Batey: Having the committee is a great idea. It will guide parents, increase organization, and allow more cars to be driven if it's structured and organized.

Mrs. Ward: Spray chalk on the grass to mark parking spaces. The committee will have to be volunteers because teachers are already busy, and it's an issue getting parents.

Mr. Batey, it's a wonderful idea to have a committee.

Mrs. Marco: 30-40 parents to have as a part of the committee. It was hard to see Mrs. Waid guide the parents in her costume. it's hard to have the parents get the message when they don't attend the meetings. She will happily help. Communication is big, and we need a banner and signage everywhere, flyers in backpacks, and over communication. She will help and dress as a cone.

Mr. Carr: It's a pain on the grass along. Get a deputy for \$65 an hour, sit there with lights, orange no fence for kids walking, for a few hundred bucks, use it every year, and install with stakes.

Mrs. Waid: Yes, it helps to have a deputy for \$65 an hour, and I'll have fun. Parents' complaints were that they don't know and don't have time to read her messages. It's sad because the ones who want to volunteer will encounter this issue. I was depressed that weekend, and I don't want to take it away. She had a call from her boss to explain what happened. She doesn't know if her plan is going to be approved. She already submitted it.

She loves the idea of the shirts. This year, it was added to know who should take pictures of the events; she likes the idea of shirts, deputies, and fences. Someone did not come to school that day because a kid could not walk to school. She couldn't get through there, and the car line was terrible. I like the ideas, and if they don't read the Sunday message, at least we have signals.

Mr. Carr: Put a sticker on the shirt.

Mrs. Schmid: As a teacher walking by myself for the first time ever, I had an issue walking in front of those people. I feel it has to be later so we don't get in trouble, and it will cut down the number of people. Her vote is to do not after Nolan and the kids are safely in their class and the parents have dropped off the kids.

Mrs. Waid: We changed the time, and I had no issue with it; some people were mad at me for that.

I love the idea for the flyer. It's easy to forget, and now is the time to start and tell the parents this.

The parking spaces are created at the park tons of spots.

Mr. Tretolo: We don't own that, so we don't know if they will open.

Mrs. Waid: We don't know if it will be open.

Mr. Carr: With deputies, there wouldn't be any nonsense. Have the deputies for four hours, so they control everything.

Kately Seviano: Would you ever consider splitting into 2 sets to limit the people on campus?

Mr. Batey: Echo her; it will solve one issue but create another.

Mrs. Waid: Volunteers give goodie bags and go through the cafeteria, sit on hallways, so all the kids that follow the youngest, so all the school gets to cheer the kids inside for the littles ones, they walk through the hall school and the siblings get to see each other.

Mrs. Freeman: For many years, we did the upper grades watch, cut parents in half, still dressed up, watchers not paraders.

Mrs. Ward: No committee from PTO; it's a staff.

Mrs. Marco: Havasi is the chair of that, and we do not want to take that away from them if 5th graders give that instead of volunteers.

Mrs. Waid: I was worried.

Mrs. Chapman: I heard from another teacher that we appreciated the PTO time, but the kids are losing the stuff. Save some money; its not necessary, They get stuff in the classrooms, they go trick.

Mrs. Chayna Picard: Live streaming would be a good idea. Maybe make it more secure and limit the people who can be here. Can the live stream be from the outside?

Mrs. Marco: Recommendation? Let's table it.

Mrs. Waid: Thanks for the ideas.

Mr. Batey: Can we just move it later?

Mrs. Waid: Pushing it later made a huge difference. If I don't make it later, they won't even look at my plan. It's safer to move it later. I need to push that time back.

- Safety concerns

- Child walking to school late and middle school could not make it through.
- Uncertainty of who is on Campus.
- The Nolan parking lot becomes blocked with our parking and is a safety concern for their students and staff.

- Mrs. Tretolo: School Improvement Plan see pictures:
 - Large gains in our ESE populations.

- There was a prioritization of science last year, and we exceeded our goal.
- Principal Wade's comments and 24-25 School Improvement Plan: SAC has to approve it (see picture attachment).
- The state test is from Pre-K to grade 5.
- As a mom, I see the PreK; they are fine and do well with testing.
- ELA is achievement and means proficiency. ELA lowest core tile: The district tells every teacher the lowest count twice. We need to gain at least a year and a half. Teachers love it because they can see the points the kids need to get by the end of the year.
- Progress monitoring: after thanksgiving break, when they return in January, is for reading. Math and science are the same way, and that's how we know if we get the A.
- We are going to keep doing what we are doing. We changed the whole schedule, and we cannot have the reading block simultaneously so the aides can get in the classroom and help the students.
- Mrs. Waid got cut 2 paras this year; we have great Paras with degrees in education and are pushing to help the classrooms.
- We also have to help the gifted students; we have many and need to keep them engaged.
- We have many gifted certified teachers and must get 7 more certified.
- It's proven that when kids help teach others, they learn it better, and we have teachers who want to get certified.
- This is what we have our SIP in form,
- Thanks to the staff, we are able to keep that.
- Mr. Tretolo thanked Mrs. Waid and the attendees.

3. Principal's Report:

- **Testing: Please have the kids eat a good breakfast and be in a good mood.**

School choice night is on the 14th.

Mrs. Waid: The new school is opening up Lake Manatee K-8, elementary only next year. The principal at Gullet will be there now, and he's been reaching out to our Gullet-zoned people and asking them to move there. As of now, 5 families are there. We have quite a few, and I keep hiring teachers. Choices will be different, hardships will go away, and we only have choices now. I get to go there to show how great our school is, so if you have a student, pay attention to the district info; it's a new process.

Mrs. Marco: It applies also to Nolan, so be aware.

Mr. Tretolo: We need to approve four new books, the little blue truck ones, because they are not in the system.

He thanked everyone for coming out and supporting the school by attending the PTO and SAC Meetings.

Adjournment—The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 p.m. upon Anthony Tretolo's motion, seconded by Sarah Lilly and Jess Rice.