

Gilbert McNeal Elementary School
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday January 15, 2019

Attending:

Cheryl McGrew, Principal
Jonathan Santiago, Chair
Lisa Hotaling, Secretary
Kelly Smart
Jackie Blue
LaRue Ashman
Mindy McCabe
Stefanie Guido
Alondra Torres-Aponte
Akhlesh Mittal
Jeremy Tartt

Other attendees:

Carol Ricks, Vice Principal
Jen Mandzik
Kristi Dyer
Jessica Patterson
Karen Washington
Jami Goodlad
Lisa Higgins
Kelly Jacker
Sara Garger
Nichole Craig
Joanna Martinez
Jodi Batsch

1. Call to Order-

The meeting was called to order by Jonathan Santiago at 6:19 pm and seconded by Mindy McCabe.

Minutes were approved

2. Our Brand/Elevator Conversation

- A. Small groups were formed to come up with how best to describe McNeal in the time frame of an elevator ride.
 - A. Group 1- Administration honest and trustworthy, fun events for the kids and positive environment.
 - B. Group 2- People are the best part of McNeal, warm welcoming and the principal is great.
 - C. Group 3- Respect for teachers is obvious from the parents, kids and the kids focus on kindness and wildcat pride.
 - D. Group 4- Community school that builds whole child and not just academics in a positive environment.
 - E. Group 5- Warmth, security, teachers.
- B. Mrs. McGrew was please a lot of the comments were not about academics even though that is the obvious job of the school.

3. A+ Vote and Approval- Mrs. McGrew

- A. We were an A school last year and therefore we get school recognition funds. The committee including SAC president met and discussed possible ways to use the money which was \$75,620 plus a carryover of \$464.67 from last year. The committee discussed 2 ways to use the money as a bonus for the staff:
 - A. Option 1 was to distribute the money evenly between the staff members with part time getting a fraction of the amount the full time staff receive based on how many days they work.
 - B. Option 2 was 60% of the money goes to certified staff and 40% to non-certified staff.
 - C. Committee voted for option 1 and now SAC has to approve the decision or the money goes only to certified staff.
 - D. SAC committee voted to approve with majority vote. (11 yes votes and 0 no votes)
 - E. Next the decision goes to the school board for approval.

4. Building Assessment Update/Jan 17- Mrs. McGrew

- A. Building Assessment Update will be completed 1/17/19. Look at number of rooms in the school, room usage. Starting to see how the space is used and how many students you can handle in the school.

5. Safety Update/Road Approval/Amy Anderson will be here in March- Mrs. McGrew

- A. Amy Anderson will talk about road widening in March
- B. Threat Assessment Team in place at McNeal and has been looking at the closets/interior space. Schools must now have hardened corners in classrooms. This is considered the best second choice of location in the room to hide after a closet in the case of an active shooter. They will be taped off with purple tape in each classroom and the kids will know what they are for but they aren't making a big deal about it. (Parent commented they were glad the tape wasn't yellow.)
 - A. The threat assessment team will be trained and then teachers will be trained as well so they know what to do in the case of an active shooter.
 - B. A parent asked about bullet proof glass in the doors. It is not bullet proof at this time. McNeal is a category 5 hurricane shelter so the exterior glass is strong but not bulletproof.
 - C. Number one thing to improve safety is to lock classroom doors per Mrs. McGrew from findings after Parkland.
- C. Fortify FLorida- new app put out for FL schools to report suspicious behavior. If you see something say something. Recommend downloading app.
 - A. Parent recommends reading privacy policy first.

6. Principal's Report/Curriculum Update- Cheryl McGrew

- B. Envision was the curriculum chosen for math. McNeal had 5 more votes for Houghton-Mifflin, but overall Envision had more votes. Sample books are here for parents to look at or email Mrs. Ricks if you want to see samples.
- C. Mrs McGrew opened the floor for questions. 2 parents asked about the use of virtual reality sets that are being used in Sarasota county and screen time limits as well as parental consent for screen time. Mrs. McGrew replied no VR is being used at McNeal but a positive use of technology is that 5 Promethean Shortthrows were removed from another school and are being installed at McNeal. They make the white board interactive. Mrs. Garger explained she uses the technology for all different kinds of lessons and it makes it more interactive and fun for the kids. She balances time on and off screen.

7. Motion to adjourn made by Jonathan Santiago at 6:45pm seconded by Kelly Smart.