

**Gilbert McNeal Elementary School
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 17, 2019**

Attending SAC members:

Cheryl McGrew, Principal
Ashley Terry, Assistant Principal
Jonathan Santiago, Chair
Jeremy Tartt, Vice Chair
Joseph Battaglia, Secretary
Jolene Stewart
Kelly Smart
Mandy Frint
Stacy Pawlak
Monica Cepero

See sign in sheet for all meeting attendees

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:10pm by Jonathan Santiago, seconded by Jolene Stewart. Minutes from last meeting were approved.

2. McNeal Special Area – Falkner Farms

A plan was discussed regarding the Falkner Farms McNeal Pocket which contains approximately 72 children who attend McNeal, despite the “pocket” being outside of McNeal’s zone, and in Myakka Elementary School’s zone. The plan, which has not yet been fully-approved by the School Board, would go into effect at the next school year, and would redistribute the children within the pocket to Myakka Elementary School. This would not be considered a “rezoning.” One of the goals of the redistribution is to try to get back to “neighborhood schools.” Letters are expected to go out shortly to affected families. It is expected that affected families could file applications to stay at McNeal, but would be required to provide their own transportation. The plan is not exclusive to McNeal and the county has a number of these “pockets” being redistributed.

3. Review / Approval of the 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan

The draft of the 2019-2020 School Improvement Plan (“SIP”) was reviewed by all members and attendees. Complete copies of the draft were circulated with all members and attendees. Principal McGrew drew attention to certain areas of improvement identified within the SIP. Principal McGrew welcomed questions from all. An attendee asked for clarification on some of the acronyms used within the SIP, which Principal McGrew answered to the asker’s satisfaction. Member Kelly Smart made a motion to approve the SIP, which was seconded by Vice Chair Jeremy Tartt. The final/approved SIP will be posted to the school’s website shortly.

4. Update on Safety / Questions & Discussion

Improved bike rack logistics due to organization and staggered release times was discussed.

A portion of the street is going to be painted yellow to better differentiate it from the rest of the parking lot. An issue was discussed relating to the sidewalk in McNeal interfacing with the adjacent park's sidewalk, which is much smaller. It was discussed that in the past the county had been asked about making the sidewalks' widths match, and that the cost was approximately \$30,000.00.

A meeting attendee asked about whether there were plans for any fencing along the sidewalks near the new drop-off loop. Principal McGrew advised that a fence is planned for a certain portion of the sidewalk. Positive feedback was discussed regarding the new drop-off line.

Member Pawlak asked if there were plans for a traffic light at Greenbrook Blvd at the entrance to the school. Principal McGrew stated a desire to form a committee to look into the possibility of such a light being added.

A member asked, and discussion followed, about plans for providing communications updates to kindergarten students so they understand updates to routines.

An attendee asked if the school allows dental students in to teach children about flossing. Principal McGrew said yes, during certain times of the year and directed the asker to the person with whom to make further inquiry.

5. Drop-off Line Discussion

Assistant Principal Ashley Terry spoke about the drop-off routine/logistics in the morning. Stated the expectation that all students other than VPK students (who need to be signed in) be dropped off in the drop-off line. AP Terry stated an expectation that all bikes and scooters that are being dropped off, to be dropped off prior to 7:55am.

An attendee noted observations of seeing children being let out of vehicles on the driver side of vehicles, which is a safety issue due to traffic traveling along that side of the drop off line. AP Terry agreed this is a safety issue and that children should be let out on the passenger side of the vehicle, but noted that, she doesn't notice this occurring as much as it did in the first couple weeks of the school year.

6. No Texting in the School Zone

Principal McGrew mentioned that a new law was going into effect soon which would result in double fines in school zones for texting while driving.

7. Landscaping Project

An attendee asked if there were plans to beautify the landscaping of the school. Principal McGrew mentioned this was something the school was already looking at. Principal McGrew stated that the school is looking for one of the teachers to run a club to redesign a garden area with interchangeable pots/planters so that children could rotate seasonal flowers. Also, the children would perform light-duty maintenance throughout the year, such as weeding and mulching. The bulk of the initial heavy-duty work, such as shrub removal, if necessary, being performed by maintenance staff. The club would be run on a small budget, to be funded by PTO. Principal McGrew stated an intention that there be a focus on plants that are native and/or more suited to

our climate/ecosystem. Principal McGrew asked that a committee be formed to look further into and develop this program.

8. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Chair Jonathan Santiago and was seconded by Vice Chair Jeremy Tartt. Meeting was adjourned at 7:03pm.