

**Gilbert McNeal Elementary School
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 15, 2019
Location: Media Center**

Attending SAC members:

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

See sign in sheet for all meeting attendees

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 6:04pm by Principal McGrew, seconded by Chair Santiago. The minutes from last meeting were approved.

2. Falkner Farms Pocket Update – School Choice Fair

An update was given on the potential redistribution of various “pockets” including the Falkner Farms pocket of McNeal. The school board will vote soon, and it will be known by approximately the end of November if the plan is approved.

Principal McGrew discussed the School Choice Fair which will be held late November at the Convention Center. If the pocket redistribution goes into effect, this will create approximately 80-90 openings for the next school year. Parents of McNeal are encourage to spread the word on the School Choice Fair, so that parents wishing for their children to attend McNeal can apply timely. The choice period is earlier this year, and will be in December. Principal McGrew will still plan on providing tours for prospective/interested parents, but would like to focus on fewer/larger groups to give tours. Chair Santiago suggested a “hashtag” be used to promote the School Choice Fair, as well as the Choice period. After discussing several different, but similar, hashtags, the hashtag **#ChooseMcNeal** was chosen as the favorite.

3. Safety

Principal McGrew explained that the school is constantly performing threat assessments and always working hard to provide a secure school.

One of the values the school focuses on is to be a good influence and be empathetic to different situations.

Some teachers in attendance gave examples of what they tell their students to focus on.

A 1st grade teacher tells her students to “Stop, think, made good choices.”

A Kindergarten teacher tells her students to “Be in charge of yourself, not others.”

A 2nd grade teacher tells her students to focus on your own “circle of control.”

This year’s committee for an “A” School will form in November. There is usually one School Advisory Council member on the committee. The plan is due in February.

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.

4. Questions/Concerns

Chair Santiago asked if there was a plan in place for repainting the words on the road (McNeal drop-off/McNeal/Nolan office/etc.). Principal McGrew advised that regular maintenance is planned and asked if anyone had noticed fading. A number of attendees answered that they have. Principal McGrew advised she will call the county to re-paint any faded areas.

An attendee mentioned that the school board will be voting on increasing the number of SAC members. The vote is to take place on November 12.

The school choice procedure is going to be online only.

A student was congratulatorily recognized for being the only student thus far, who had read all of the sunshine books.

5. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm on the motion of Kelly Smart, seconded by Chair Santiago.