

**Gilbert McNeal Elementary School  
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, January 21, 2020  
Location: Media Center**

**Attending SAC members:**

Cheryl McGrew, Principal  
Jonathan Santiago, Chair  
Jeremy Tartt, Vice Chair  
Joseph Battaglia, Secretary  
Jolene Stewart  
Kelly Smart  
Mandy Frint  
Stacy Pawlak  
Akhlesh Mittal

*See sign in sheet for all meeting attendees*

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 6:18pm. The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**2. Share and discuss A+ Vote and Approve A+ Funding**

McNeal earned \$75,835.00 for A+ funding. Mrs. Blue spoke about the A+ funding process and the plan for how the funds would be disbursed. There were 6 people on the committee, including School Advisory Council chair, Jonathan Santiago. Mrs. McGrew also provided guidance during the process. Two choices were provided by the committee, which went to all of the staff to vote on. The two choices were:

- 1) Divide all funds equally amongst all staff; and
- 2) Divide 60% of the funds amongst certified staff and divide 40% of the funds amongst non-certified staff.

The vote went to McNeal staff who “overwhelmingly” voted to split the funds evenly and equally amongst all staff, without regard for certified classification.

The School Advisory Council voted unanimously to approve the staff’s vote to divide the funds equally amongst all staff.

**3. SAC By-laws and SAC Roster**

As a carryover from November’s meeting, as there was not a quorum present during November’s meeting, SAC discussed the current bylaws of SAC as they relate to the number of SAC members. The current bylaws were amended at the August meeting to limit the number of members to 10 based on belief that only 10 were allowed. It is up to each school to determine the number of members and so McNeal could increase the number of SAC members, but doing so would require amending the bylaws.

If the bylaws were amended to add members, SAC would need to vote to determine the number of members to add, what the composition would be (parents vs. teachers vs. faculty). Also, open

spots would need to be advertised so that interested parties would have an opportunity to apply to be voted on at the next meeting, at the earliest.

The logistics of this was discussed by those in attendance. Differing viewpoints given by attendees were:

1. A school as large as McNeal should have more representation than only 10 members.
2. The board should be comprised of an odd number of members, in the event of ties.
3. Changing course at this point in the year would be more disruptive than helpful.
4. The soonest meeting that new members could be added would be February's meeting, due to having to advertise the open spots, and then there are only 2 meetings after that one.
5. Adding more members would make it more difficult to reach a quorum.

SAC voted on whether to amend the bylaws to increase the number of School Advisory Council voting members. There were no votes in favor of so amending.

The consensus was that this topic would be looked at during the first SAC meeting of the 2021-22 year, to be discussed and voted on at that time.

#### **4. School Uniforms**

There was discussion and vote on whether McNeal should look to have students be required to wear uniforms. SAC voted on whether parents of the entire student body should vote on whether uniforms should be required. If the SAC vote passed, it would then be up to the parents to ultimately decide. SAC voted on this, and there were no votes in favor of having the parents ultimately vote on school uniforms.

#### **5. Principal Report**

Principal McGrew expressed gratitude to SAC and PTO volunteers.

#### **6. Open Discussion**

A parent inquired on whether there was a speed limit in the drop-off/pick-up parking lot lanes. The parent recounted a recent scenario in which the parent was cut off by another driver. Other attendees then also began recounting incidents with drivers driving too quickly through the lot, or being inattentive due to cell phone use. Principal McGrew stated she would request that the Guardian have more of a presence in the parking lot area, and also that she and Assistant Principal Ashley Terry would also make more rounds.

#### **7. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 on the motion of Jonathan Santiago, seconded by Joseph Battaglia.