

**Gilbert McNeal Elementary School  
School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 18, 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

*See sign in sheet for all meeting attendees*

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:14pm.

**2. Approval of January Meeting's Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting were approved.

**3. New Business**

a. Fencing.

The school's fencing has been an area of concern as they are only 4' high. The new standards for school fencing is much higher than this. McNeal is included in Phase I of a State initiative to look at and begin replacing the fencing with the new standard height fence. This is to begin in April.

b. Standards Based Report Cards for Kindergarten

New standards have been adopted regarding kindergarten report cards. For about the last 1.5 to 2.5 years a committee comprised of several teachers in the county and members from the district office has been looking at the kindergarten standards. They have decided upon the most important standards which are going to be included in the new report cards moving forward. Prior report cards were not providing thorough enough information. The standards being focused on in the new report cards are year-end standards, and so parents should expect to see a progression of their children through the year. The new standards will reflect in reading, writing, and math, but will not reflect in social studies or science. Social studies and science will still appear on the report cards, but will be reflected in the existing manner. The new report cards will have a rubric to assist parents in understanding the new standards. Some teachers have been part of a pilot program to use the new report cards and positive feedback was received from the parents. This change is a "stepping stone" to eventual changes in first grade and second grade. Florida is still making new standards, so further changes can still be anticipated.

#### **4. Principal's Report**

a. Principal McGrew expressed gratitude to SAC and PTO volunteers for their efforts and involvement.

b. 5<sup>th</sup> Annual STEAM NIGHT is March 10, 2020 and will be a great event. Orlando Science is coming to McNeal to put on a show. There will be a Leader in Me Parent University that night, with many things for parents to see. The event is mostly free with the exception of the ability to purchase children's framed artwork. Framed artwork can be purchased only with cash or check (no credit card). LECOM will be present with dental information for children. There will be a science/rocketry exhibit, as well as music and ukulele playing.

c. Conference night is Thursday March 26, 2020, with the entire week of March 23 being parent-teacher conference week. Parents will hear from teachers in regards to setting up meeting times.

#### **5. Open Discussion**

**Proposed School Year Calendars.** The school district has prepared and published differing "drafts" of the school year academic calendars for School Years 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Each School Year has three different drafts (A, B, and C) with the differences among them being that of holiday and vacation dates. The drafts were reviewed by those in SAC meeting attendance and although no vote was taken or asked for, the consensus of attendees providing comments was that Draft A of 2020-2021 was preferred. There was no consensus for any single draft for academic year 2021-2022.

Parents are strongly encouraged to visit the School District's web-page devoted to this, to review the proposed drafts for both School Years, and to provide any comments to the district.

The School District's web-page devoted to this is currently:

<https://www.manateeschools.net/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&ModuleInstanceID=6709&ViewID=7b97f7ed-8e5e-4120-848f-a8b4987d588f&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=23452&PageID=1>

To provide comments, parents would click the link towards the bottom of the page that says "Please click here to submit your comments."

#### **6. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:42pm.