

Gilbert McNeal Elementary School
School Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Location: McNeal Elementary School

Attending SAC Board Members:

Principal Sheila Waid, David Havasi, Lindsay Milner

Parents and Staff Count: Approximately 25 in Attendance

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm. upon the motion by Jaime Marco, seconded by Sarah Ford. Meeting minutes from January 2024, were approved and seconded by Maria Aide.

2. New Business

A. Greenbrook Boulevard Safety: Obviously we need to address Greenbrook as safety issues and accidents have occurred as of late. We need to continue sharing our concerns with the community and even the commissioner to see what can be done for the safety of our students and families. In the meantime, stay alert and vigilant during drop offs and pickups.

B. New Family Facebook Page: There is a new McNeal Wildcat family private Facebook group for parents to join. See the weekly newsletter for the link or ask a friend who is currently in the group to invite you. It's private and there are 3 admins to make sure everything stays happy and drama free. It's a place to say hey we are going to the park if anyone wants to join, to social gatherings and just connect with parents of your kids' classmates. We plan on hosting events so stay tuned...

SAC welcomed Executive Director, Keivn Chapman (second to Superintendent Jason Wysong). Mr. Chapman shared that the executive team is going to SAC meetings to meet with parents, and he was thrilled to be at McNeal. He shared slides and information that can be viewed on our school district's website regarding our core values, safety and security and the goals for our schools. A new update in our local school community is that Nolan has received a permanent generator as the school is a special needs shelter during storms and hurricanes. McNeal is 1st to shutdown during a storm as we are a level one shelter. The Mileage vote will be coming up and he shared that Sarasota passes their referendum with over 80% for well over 20 years and it makes the school community better as a whole. The school board is going to be making sure all secondary schools have Evolve machines, which work much like metal detectors, to ensure safety as concerns have arisen. As a school district, we are hovering around a few points from A. Manatee County schools are outperforming charters by far. Mr. Chapman thanked all the

parents for coming and for their support as home values are a direct reflection of how well schools are performing.

3. Principal's Report

A. Academics:

1. Upcoming Testing- See all dates in the weekly newsletter

2. Clubs for Next Year- Make sure your child takes a signup form for any kind of club for next year. We do have some available tonight to check out.

B. Infrastructure:

1. Updates- McNeal is receiving a privacy screen on our fencing around the playgrounds so it is harder to see our kids playing etc. It's much like a privacy screen they use on construction fences. That should be here by August to welcome back our students.

C. Safety and Security:

1. Playground Privacy Screens- we touched on this, but it will allow our kids to be safer in the event of an emergency with an onlooker from the park or parking lot.

2. Additional Ballard Posts- We will be receiving additional yellow Ballard posts near the playground to assure our students safety from cars etc. Additionally, there is a work order in for signage on the sidewalk to let late walkers/ strangers know times it's ok to use the sidewalk (not during pick up and drop off).

3. See Something, Say Something- Again, as always, if you see something concerning, say something. It's always better to question it and share than to regret it later.

Reminders- Steam Night is April 18th.

4. Open Discussion/ Action Items

- Principal Waid reported that an alligator had been seen on the playground during afternoon after care and was taken care of immediately. We do have a lake and unfortunately it happens, but no student was harmed or in harms way. Everyone was evacuated and he was coaxed back to safety.

- Anthony Tretolo asked Mr. Chapman about allocations and how we can remedy the growing pains, then loss, then gains during the year. Mr. Chapman mentioned that they are heavily looking into this and explained how everything works. He explained that 14 teachers are roughly a million dollars and when we lose children to moves, charters, etc

and then they come back, the budget doesn't allow for that after that allocation number has been looked at.

- David Havasi mentioned looking at it statistically, knowing that a few years in a row, many kids are coming back from a certain charter school. Mr. Chapman said that's something they are looking into.

- Lindsay Milner asked specifically about ESE and how it's hard for our school (and many others) to have one teacher and one para for ESE students and bunch them K-5. She would love for them to be separated by K-2 and 3-5. Mr. Chapman agreed that it makes sense and gave her information to the ESE coordinator for the district.

Jaime Marco thanked Mr. Chapman for his time and for being so kind to our school and always eager to hear us out and help!

5. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm upon the motion of Jaime Marco, which was seconded by Maria Aide.