

**Gilbert McNeal Elementary School**  
**School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 15th, 2023**

**Location: McNeal Elementary School**

**Attending SAC Board Members:**

Principal Sheila Waid, Jaime Marco, David Havasi, Lindsay Milner

Parents and Staff Count: Approximately 44 in Attendance

**1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 6:20pm. upon the motion by Jaime Marco, seconded by Maria Ade. Meeting minutes from May 16, 2023, were approved and seconded by Maria Ade.

**2. New Business**

**A. What is SAC**

Jaime Marco described to all attendees that the School Advisory Council deals directly with infrastructure, safety and academics here at McNeal. We work hand in hand with administration and share the responsibility for guiding the school toward continuous improvement. Last year for example, we were able to execute the courtyard beautification project where we now have a large mural (which was added to this summer), the paw prints up the sidewalk, the new school signage and the extra picnic tables and all new purple umbrellas. We have a big list this year and we can't wait to get started.

Mrs. Waid explained how SAC guidelines allow for members and board members. We will be adding to membership this year and that will all be discussed in September's meeting. She explained to all new attendees the difference between PTO and SAC. PTO does all the fundraising, volunteer efforts and fun events during the year. She echoed Jaime's statements on SAC and how voting is much different because there aren't by-laws like PTO. She described that to be a member there are attendance guidelines and no set limits as you can be on for 2 years but can go longer if you want to continue to submit your name.

**Principal Report:**

**A. Safety:**

1. Heat Index- The heat index continues to peak around 11 am and so many of our students have been allowed out to PE/ recess and those who have those after 11 am have not. This is a district policy for having kids out for 10 min or less only during heat waves like this. We were able to move classrooms around this year so that both our PE teachers were able to have large classrooms to continue their classes during storms,

rain and heat waves. Jaime Marco thanked administrators for having the foresight to allow those teachers to have indoor spaces this year.

2. Rainy Day Dismissals- Jaime reminded everyone that the rainy-day dismissal policy comes straight from the district. Mrs. Waid and Mrs. Terry reported how they are sorry for the inconvenience, but the lightning policy comes straight from the district, and they get the warnings based on radar 10 miles or less alerting of lightning. Mrs. Terry shared a story from a year or two ago where a storm had passed, and the lightning warnings had faded and right behind the school a roofer was working and got struck and passed away. She reminded everyone that it's their responsibility to keep the students safe first.

3. Mrs. Waid reminded everyone that the new Family Handbook is located on the McNeal website as well as dismissal policies.

4. Drop off/ Pickup- No one is to open the car doors on the left side of the car rider line as that is a constant moving lane on that side of parents who have already picked up or dropped off. Everyone should have ample car rider identification tags for anyone on your safe pickup list. If you need extra for rainy day dismissals for anyone picking them up in the case of those last-minute emergencies, please contact Mrs. Mandi Frint and we would be happy to get those to you. We can't dismiss without that for safety reasons.

5. Jaime Marco reported that there will be on and off police presence at drop off or pick up and not to worry. Mrs. Waid frequently calls for that when and if she needs to for all kinds of reasons.

6. Mrs. Waid reported that the students would all be watching a safety video that both Mr. Parker and Mrs. Matzenski created. This is not a video that parents can watch as it can only be viewed by students and staff for safety reasons. There will be 4 drills coming down the pike for lockdown, fire, tornado and another fire. The kids will know what to do and be trained by taking field trips around school to make sure everyone understands.

## B. Academics

1. McNeal increased all proficiencies last school year in testing. We are at 80% in math, reading/ELA, which is up 7% from the previous year. We are at 77% in science and our goal this coming year is to make that 80%.

2. 5<sup>th</sup> grade is departmentalizing at McNeal this year meaning the students each have three teachers teaching different subjects, this gets them ready for middle school. It's our first year trying this method here and we have heard nothing but positive feedback so far from kids and parents.

3. State testing (FAST) Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> will go from May 1<sup>st</sup>- the last day of school this year. Teachers will notify everyone of dates so you can plan around that. Believe it or not, Pre-K tests also and Mrs. Waid asked Mrs. Sarah Lily to share how they are very

capable. Mrs. Lily agreed and said they all did a great job. May 24<sup>th</sup> is the last day and usually fun events occur in May, but we will move all of those to April this year.

4. Lighthouse Distinction- McNeal is a Leader in Me Lighthouse School. McNeal worked for around 7ish years as a Leader in Me school following the 7 habits of a highly effective student and as of last spring, we are accredited as a Lighthouse School. The team came in and went through all our classroom, met with teachers, students, parents and administrators and went back to their home office to compile the file and decide that our school was ready to move forward with this honorable distinction. Our journey is only the beginning. We have lots instore this year. It will continue to cost around \$6,600 + training fees a year, which our PTO pays for. Mrs. Rubal and Mrs. Bunyak were able to have training for free this summer.

5. The district has moved from IReady to Alexia this year for reading and math. The district decided not to renew Iready after Alexia came forward with a better approach. They give assessments and the time frame you need to complete every week is based on your level. Noelle Reynolds asked if this would be used like iready as part of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade portfolio and Mrs. Terry replied that at this time it hasn't been stated.

6. After-school clubs will begin soon, and Mrs. Waid reported being grateful to have been able to add two more this year. McNeal is offering the Good News Club, Cheer, Bits and Bots and Soccer. She checked into a language club, but no one offers that yet and she is also checking into a ballet club thanks to Mrs. Elaina.

7. Jaime Marco reported that this year a big goal would be to have a live performance/ play the students could audition for and perform this spring. She asked if anyone had experience in this area to please contact her.

### C. Infrastructure

Zen Den- Mrs. Waid reported that she would love to revamp this room for staff members. It's supposed to be an oasis to take a moment for yourself to breathe, relax and enjoy a moment of quiet when you can sneak away. School staff notoriously gets burnt out and their goal is to not let that happen. Mrs. Waid reported this year she has a wellness goal for her staff and really would like to put some hard work and love into this space. She reported that for these amazing teachers to perform at the best of their abilities, they also must have time to take care of themselves and someone pushing them to do that. It's going to be a big goal this year. Amanda Hasenzahl reported that she knows several people in the wellness industry and would be happy to reach out to see if they could donate time for this effort.

Mulch- Jaime Marco thanked everyone for coming out to the courtyard beautification day before back-to-school night. She also thanked the girl scouts for volunteering their time as well. She reported we still needed mulch for the courtyard and would love for donations if anyone ever saw it on sale and could pick up an extra bag here or there.

Fans- We are looking into fans for the undercover areas for PE. It's a big ask as the price range is very, very large.

New Business

### 3. Open Discussion/ Action Items

- Sarah Zabel asked if we were able to secure the bases for the fields this year yet? Mrs. Waid reported that we are in the process of getting new clay added to the fields, but we couldn't have secured bases as it was a safety issue with the district. We can have the bases that move, and we can surely add new ones. Amanda Hasenzahl reported that she was a former softball/ baseball coach and would love to donate hers to McNeal.

- Lindsay Hartman reported there was a major incident on the bus that day and many students have been traumatized. Mrs. Waid reported they needed to email the person over transportation, Jaime Worrington and she would also be contacting him. She asked Lindsay and all the parents concerned about their children that day to stay after so they could chat.

- Elaine reported that the t-shirts for wildcat Wednesday were way off for sizing. Mrs. Waid said for anyone who needs a different size to bring theirs to the front desk and switch. They will order more in all sizes if need be.

- Noelle Reynolds reported we needed to look at painting the medians at the front entrance so they are more visible. Mrs. Waid said that could be an easy fix.

- Jaime Marco reported that SAC was going to investigate starting a Security Task Force to help administrators during storms. The hurricane last year proved we need help taking down umbrellas, sponsorship signs, etc. during the storm prep. Also, McNeal is a hurricane shelter and helping to prepare for those guests would be also needed. We would love a few people to sign up for this to make it easy. If anyone would be interested, let us know.

5. Adjournment- The meeting was adjourned at 7:14 pm upon the motion of Jaime Marco, which was seconded by Sheena Jordan.