

McNamara Elementary
Shared Decision-Making Committee Minutes
April 27, 2022
3:15 – 4:00 PM

Members Present:

Toufic Elachkar
Carol Applebaum
Melanie Brooks
Sanfora Foote
Charity Maina
David Sadof
Lindsey Turner
Traci Warren

Agenda Items:

I. Welcome and Celebrations

Today we celebrated Administrative Professional Day by honoring our secretary Ms. Bessie Carroll (secretary), Ms. Foote (SDMC Member), additional clerks, and teacher assistants. These staff members are invaluable, proactive, and always willing to support teachers and students. Ms. Foote expressed that we are a team and the whole staff makes our job pleasurable. **We appreciate all our administrative professionals, and we will continue to work together to service our students.**

II. Budget and Staffing

McNamara's enrollment was projected to be 911 and we now have over 1000 students, so we were under projected by about 100 students. This under projection would have caused us to lose 8 teachers, 2 clerks, and probably teacher assistants. We had an influx of 180 new students from Afghanistan this year. Probably, this influx will not happen again next year from that particular country, but other refugee students may show up at our doorstep and we will welcome them too. Statistics state that refugees will remain in the same place for 3-7 years before moving out of the area. Mr. Elachkar spoke to everyone and shared the data spreadsheet and expressed why McNamara needed more funding. A community member spoke on behalf of McNamara at the board meeting. We made a second projection of 960 students, and it was accepted. This projection allows us to keep everyone in place. The budget is a little more complicated, but it will be shared when further details are given. It is a little bigger than last year's budget. We have requested a temporary building to place by third grade area which would alleviate some of the pressure of overcrowding and allow for smaller classes. Transfer period has started. Currently, all teachers are expected to return except for one. A first-grade bilingual teacher is moving back to Spain. Therefore, we have a bilingual first grade bilingual position to fill. HISD wants a counselor in every elementary school. If not, SEL specialist or social workers will be placed. Our priority is to find a counselor.

We are grateful to the district and board for accepting our new projection.

III. Data

Third through fifth grade students took the **Mock STAAR** and the results were good, but we always push for better. We are currently a B. A grade of B plus would be good, but we are pushing for an A. Even though students are considered passing at approaches, we want to push them to pass at meets and master. In third grade math our campus average (60) in Spanish is almost the same as the district (55). In English the campus average (60) was a little better than the district (55). Fourth grade math needs to show more growth. We need to keep working with the fourth-grade teachers. We are pulling out small groups and several people are assigned to them. These teachers are working with them the same way their teachers have been working with them so everyone will be on the same page. Mr. Sadof and Ms. Harris are helping with reading and math. Fifth Grade scored (58) very close to the district average (61). They did great in meets and masters which is excellent. We have 55% in approaches, 40% in meets which is kids scoring at 80 or above and 20% in masters students scoring 90 or above. In Science our campus average (64) was a little better than the district (62). 58 approaches and 31 meets which is excellent, but only 5 masters. We want to bring approaches to meets and meets to masters. Third, fourth, and fifth grade reading numbers are pretty good. We need to keep pushing in fifth grade to get higher scores. **Benchmark Running Records** data in Kindergarten through second grade are very important. Teachers continue to work with students in small group to improve reading levels. We implemented Reading Mastery this year. Some teachers use it with fidelity. We see great progress in students from those teachers who are teaching Reading Mastery with fidelity. Many of those students are reading at or above grade level. We hope all our teachers buy in and focus on reading in the primary grades. That is so important for the whole school. Reading builds everything else.

We will continue to work toward increasing student achievement and push for an A.

IV. Summer School

The STAAR Test is in less than two weeks. STAAR starts May 10 and after that we are getting ready for summer school. Summer school is upon us, and we are preparing. At first the district was asking that we be guest of Bonham Elementary. Bonham is not far from us but far for students and parents who walk to school. Most importantly, many students may not attend summer school because their parents do not have cars. We have 600-700 students walking home every day. They would not be able to walk to Bonham especially in the heat of the summer. Transportation is not offered for Pre-K students. Mr. Elachkar spoke to his supervisor and wrote and submitted the reasons to the district. Thankfully they came back and said McNamara can be a standalone school. We are very grateful. As of now we have about 20 teachers and probably about 300 students. The exact student enrollment in Summer School will be determined based on retentions, STAAR scores, and absences. We are almost done with staffing for summer school. We need enrichment teachers. We will also have staff for curriculum and GPC (committee for promotion and retention). Thankfully our school nurse will be with us. This year summer school will be more fun. Every week we are doing Fun Thursday. There will be hours of instruction and then fun activities (volleyball, soccer, basketball, art, etc.) Regular enrichment blocks will be held during the regular day, Monday-Wednesday.

We will continue to work toward finalizing summer school staffing and plans.

V. SDMC Election is underway for a few members.