Deirdre A. Benka-Coker, Principal
1602 S. 27th Avenue
Hollywood, FL 33020
Phone: 754-323-3400 Fax: 754-323-3485
http://mcnicol.browardschools.com

School Advisory Council (SAC) Meeting Minutes
McNicol Middle Magnet & STEM School
October 7, 2026

1. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order, and members were welcomed and thanked for attending despite inclement weather.
- Members were reminded to sign in and collect meeting handouts.

2. Principal's Report

- Principal reviewed FAST PM1 (Progress Monitoring 1) results, highlighting a decrease in Level 1 students and an increase in students performing at Levels 4 and 5 compared to the previous year.
- Student performance continues to show improvement across grade levels and student cohorts.
- Explained the purpose of PM1 (baseline), PM2 (midyear progress), and PM3 (end-of-year assessment).
- New student recognition initiatives include:
    - **Upward Bound Celebration:** Students demonstrating at least a 10-point increase from PM3 to PM1 will receive an icy treat celebration.
    - **Wall of Success:** Students demonstrating learning gains on PM2 will be recognized by grade level.
    - **End-of-Year Field Trip:** Approximately 100 qualifying students demonstrating proficiency or targeted learning growth will attend Extreme Action Park.
- Emphasized the school's continued focus on celebrating student success and promoting a positive school culture.

3. SESIR Incidents

- No new SESIR updates were available because the state reporting website had not been updated.
- Additional information will be shared at the next meeting, if available.

4. Budget

a. Accountability Funds: $13,888.43
b. School Recognition Funds: $487

- No changes were reported to the current fund balances.
- Members were reminded that SAC voting members participate in decisions regarding the allocation of applicable school funds.
- Funding proposals must support school improvement priorities.

5. School Improvement Plan (SIP) Plan

a. How to Access McNicol's SIP

- Members were shown how to access the School Improvement Plan through the McNicol Middle School website using the search feature.
- Explained that the SIP outlines schoolwide goals, instructional priorities, and strategies for continuous improvement.
- Beginning at a future meeting, core academic departments will provide updates on instructional practices and student performance.
- A midyear SIP reflection is anticipated in January.

6. Guidance for Presenting SAC Video

- Members viewed an informational video explaining SAC-related school accountability information and how Florida calculates middle school grades.
- The video reviewed student achievement, learning gains, the lowest-performing 25%, and acceleration.
- Members were informed that the 2026–2027 school grading scale has increased, with an A requiring 65% or higher.
- Families were encouraged to review student assessment results through BCPS Connect.

7. SAC Positions for Vote

a. Parent of an ESE Student

- Ms. Johnson was nominated to serve as the parent representative of an ESE student.
- **Motion:** Ms. Spence
- **Second:** Ms. Benka-Coker

Additional Parent Voting Member

- Ms. Joseph was nominated to serve as an additional parent voting member.
- **Motion:** Mr. Montalto
- **Second:** Ms. Mendoza

b. Parent of an ESOL Student

- The ESOL parent representative position remains vacant.
- Members were encouraged to invite eligible parents to participate in SAC.

8. September Minutes Approval

- Members reviewed the September SAC meeting minutes.
- **Motion to Approve:** Ms. Spence
- **Second:** Ms. Mendoza
- **Additional Support:** Mr. Montalto

- **Outcome:** Motion approved with no opposition.

9. SAC Bylaws

- Members reviewed the SAC bylaws, including membership requirements, officer responsibilities, meeting procedures, and funding guidelines.
- Members discussed and approved the following:

Membership Terms

- Maintain one-year membership terms.
- **Motion:** Ms. Spence
- **Second:** Ms. Benka-Coker
- **Outcome:** Approved.

Officer Elections

- Change the annual officer election month from August to September.
- **Motion:** Ms. Mendoza
- **Second:** Ms. Spence
- **Outcome:** Approved.

Approval of SAC Bylaws

- **Motion:** Ms. Mendoza
- **Second:** Ms. Spence
- **Outcome:** Bylaws approved with the agreed-upon changes.

10. A+ School Recognition Funds: $41,251

- Members were informed that McNicol was awarded approximately $41,251 through the Florida School Recognition Program based on improved school performance.
- Funds are scheduled for distribution to the district beginning October 16, 2026.
- Discussed possible allocations to instructional staff, support personnel, administration, and school improvement initiatives, subject to program guidelines.
- SAC members will review funding guidelines and consider proposals before staff voting.
- If an agreement is not reached by February 1, 2027, funds must be distributed equally among eligible classroom teachers.
- Additional details, staffing counts, and previous allocation examples will be presented at the November meeting.

11. Important Dates

- **October 8:** 8th Grade JA Finance Field Trip
- **October 9:** PBIS Quarter 1 Incentive
- **October 9:** Early Release / End of 1st Quarter
- **October 12:** No School – Teacher Planning
- **October 29:** Family Night – Student Services Night
- **October 30:** Boo Ball – Student Dance
- **November 4:** Next SAC/SAF Meeting
    - Continued discussion of A+ School Recognition Funds

12. Open Agenda

Media Center Access and Student Literacy

- A parent expressed concerns regarding limited opportunities for students to check out library books and engage in independent reading.
- Administration acknowledged the concerns and shared plans to expand library access and promote recreational reading.
- Plans discussed included:
    - Opening the media center before school from 7:15–7:45 a.m. beginning in Quarter 2.
    - Providing opportunities for students to check out books.
    - Establishing classroom libraries and increasing access to independent reading materials.
    - Developing reading challenges, incentives, and literacy activities.
    - Gathering student feedback to identify reading interests and preferred incentives.
- Administration shared that funding has been allocated to purchase additional books and enhance the media center.
- **Follow-Up:** Administration committed to implementing initial improvements, including classroom book access, before the November SAC meeting.

13. Adjournment

- **Motion to Adjourn:** Ms. Spence
- **Second:** Ms. Mendoza
- **Outcome:** Motion approved with no opposition.
- Members were thanked for their participation and continued support of McNicol Middle Magnet & STEM School.