

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Friday, October 13, 2023

8:30 AM

Workshop

City Hall Conference Room, 405 Biltmore Way

School Community Relations Committee

Board Member Erin Anding
Board Member Winnie Chang
Board Member Sandy Dimitris
Board Member Joshua Goodman
Board Member Ana Lam
Board Member Andrew Nadal
Board Member Cecilia D. Slesnick
Board Member Sharon Watson

The School Community Relations Committee will be holding a workshop on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023, commencing at 8:30 a.m. While the Committee is back to live in-person meetings, members of the public may participate in person but are also able to participate via the Zoom platform. Members of the public may join the meeting via Zoom at (<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83893614478>). In addition, a dedicated phone line will be available so that any individual who does not wish (or is unable) to use Zoom may listen to and participate in the meeting by dialing: 305-461-6769 Meeting ID: 838 9361 4478.

To speak on an Agenda Item, please "Raise your Hand" or send a message to one of the meeting hosts using the Zoom Platform. If you joined the meeting via telephone, you can "Raise your Hand" by pressing *9.

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CALL TO ORDER

Workshop called to order at 8:35 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Board Member Lam, Board Member Chang, Board Member Goodman, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Nadal and Board Member Slesnick

Excused: 2 - Board Member Anding and Board Member Watson

DISCUSSION ON THE SCRC'S STRATEGIC VISION FOR EDUCATION IN CORAL GABLES.

The SCRC members present along with several members of the public discussed what goals should be set for the current academic year and the future. Members discussed requesting a community survey that is specific to educational needs.

The History Tours were discussed and Chairperson Chang volunteered to follow up with the museum. Board Member Slesnick recommended using the monies that are currently allocated to these tours to fund school programmatic costs by providing \$5,000 per school as a starting point. If the board chooses to go this route at a future meeting, they will need to pass a resolution requesting that the Commission revise the original resolution No. 2019-76 which allocated these funds.

Regarding funding, it was stated that there are eight schools within the city boundaries with roughly 1,566 Coral Gables resident students and that a possible request would be for an annual investment of \$60,000 a year. A portion of this would be funded through the monies currently allocated for the History Tours.

Board Member Goodman presented a PowerPoint from the Gables Education Initiative. Members of the public suggested requesting for a full-time position in the city to be created focusing on education and that it is important to understand what the community needs and wants are.

There might need to be a change in focus on the perception of having children attend public schools. Public schools are perceived as inferior to private schools.

Final goals discussed:

- Request a study or a community-based survey through the Commission.
- Follow up with the Coral Gables Museum on the status of the History Tours so a decision on the funding can be made.
- Look at possibly funding some programmatic projects through a grant based process.

Board Member Goodman to draft language for a resolution requesting the educational needs community survey. Resolution to be discussed at the next SCRC meeting.

Next School Community Relations Committee meeting will be on: Nov. 17 at 8:30 a.m.

Attachments: [Updated SCRC Coral Gables Principals Programmatic Needs Assessment](#)

Materials provided by Board Member Goodman.

Attachments: [Gables Education Initiative 2023 - Provided by Board Member Goodman](#)
[Coral Gables Schools Enrollment Data - Provided by Board Member Goodman](#)

ADJOURNMENT

Workshop adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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