

**CORAL GABLES SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Agenda**  
**Friday, February 16, 2018**

**427 Biltmore Way**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Coral Gables, Florida**

MEMBER S	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	APPOINTED BY
Ariel Fernandez (appointed in Sept.)		-		-	P	P	P	E	P				Mayor Valdes-Fauli
Mary Snow	P	-	P	-	E	P	P	P	A				Commissioner Quesada
Aileen Ortega	A	-	A	-	P	A	E	P	A				Vice Mayor Keon
Samuel Joseph	P	-	P	-	P	A	P	P	P				Commissioner Lago
Carmen Manrara-Cartaya	P	-	P	-	P	A	P	P	A				Commissioner Mena
Sandy Dimitris	P	-	P	-	P	P	P	P	P				City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
Theresa Rice	P	-	P	-	P	P	A	P	P				Commission-as-a-whole

A = Absent  
E = Excused Absence  
P = Present  
- = No meeting

**STAFF:**

Mitchell C. Zuriarrain – Community Recreation Administrative Assistant

**GUESTS:** Mari Tere Rojas, John Pace, Adolfo Costa, Erin Anding, Volker Anding, Iriada Mendez-Cartaya

**RECORDING SECRETARY:**

Mitchell C. Zuriarrain – Community Recreation Administrative Assistant

*The following represents a summary of the items discussed during the Committee meeting.*

**-MEETING AGENDA -**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

## II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mary Snow, Aileen Ortega, Carmen Manara-Cartaya . All other members were in attendance and a quorum was present. **Ariel Fernandez made a motion to approve the January meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously.**

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## III. NEW BUSINESS

### a. West Lab Expansion update

- Iriada explained to the committee that MDCPS and the City had meeting that addressed the City's concerns about the project, MDCPS will be sending the City updated documents so construction can begin again.
- Sam asked Iriada for an update regarding the additional seats for Coral Gables residents at the West Lab school, Iriada explained the school has been expanded to a K-8 and as a direct result of the MDCPS partnership with the City of Coral Gables there would be an additional classroom added per grade that would be dedicated directly for Coral Gables residents. The on average would add 22 Coral Gables students per grade level. Ariel Fenendez asked if this would limit Coral Gables residents to only 22 seats per grade, Iriada explained this would guarantee a minimum of 22 seats per grade.

## IV. ONGOING BUSINESS

- Sam discussed the possibility of doing a GOB only town hall and Like had been done by Mr. Perez, this would make both students and parents more at ease with the progress and updates from MDCPS. Iriada confirmed that a GOB town hall is in the works to occur for the district, once dates are confirmed they will be shared with the committee.
- Sam began a discussion on the events that occurred February 14<sup>th</sup> 2018 in Parkland, FL. The discussion began with explaining the sacrifice that teachers make and that schools should not be a place where parents should have to be fearful for their child's safety. Despite teachers and coaches putting themselves in harm way in certain occasions understanding on the parent's side and proper dissemination of information are paramount in scenarios like this. Iriada explained that through ConnectEd parents who have signed up for this will receive robo calls as well as texts messages

updating them on their child, but in order to prevent improper information being dispersed updates on the incident will not be sent.

- Iriada continued the discussion with explaining that most of the building and facilities through the county were built decades ago and designed for other purposes not necessarily shelter from firearms or other devices that are designed to inflict damage. She continued with stating that despite our best measures individuals who are mentally ill and desirous of doing damage will be hard to combat.
- School Board member Mari-Tere Rojas discussed an item she has proffered regarding the safety and security. Explaining the importance of being proactive and thinking ahead of time. Member Rojas initiated the Safety committee district wide, this committee is essential to represent stakeholders from different areas of the School district.
- **DISCUSSION ON DATE & TIME CHANGE OF MEETINGS**

**Sandy Dimitris motioned to move School & Community Relations Committee meeting from the third Friday monthly to the second Friday monthly from 8:30am to 10:00am. This was seconded by Ariel Fernandez and voted in favor unanimously by the committee.**

## **V. Adjournment**

Meeting ended at 9:58am. The next meeting will be held on March 9, 2018.