

# City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way  
Coral Gables, FL 33134  
[www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com)



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 27, 2021

8:30 AM

405 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33134

## School Community Relations Committee

*Chairperson Ariel Fernandez*  
*Vice Chairperson Sam Joseph*  
*Board Member Erin Anding*  
*Board Member Winnie Chang*  
*Board Member Sandy Dimitris*  
*Board Member Carmen Manrara Cartaya*  
*Board Member Cecilia D. Slesnick*  
*Board Member Jennifer Ward Sando*  
*Board Member Sharon Watson*

The School Community relations Committee will be holding its Regular Meeting on Friday, August 27, 2021, 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/89581198854>). 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: +1 929 205 6099 Meeting ID: 895 8119 8854.

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.

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:40 a.m.

## ROLL/QUORUM CALL

Board Member Anding attended virtually as a member of the public.

**Present:** 7 - Slesnick, Watson, Dimitris, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez and Board Member Ward Sando

**Absent:** 2 - Manrara Cartaya and Anding

Attachments: [Attendees Log](#)

## A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

School Community Relations Committee Meeting of June 18, 2021.

Attachments: [Cover Memo.docx](#)  
[Draft SCRC June 18 Minutes.pdf](#)

This Matter was approved on the Consent Agenda.

## B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

## C. NEW BUSINESS

### C-1 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Update (Facilitated by Mari Tere Rojas, School Board Member)

- Good start to the school year, everyone happy to be back in the schoolhouse.
- To deal with academic regression caused by COVID, a robust summer program called Summer305 was offered.
- Requiring maximum social distancing of 3ft to 6ft where possible.
- Mandatory masks with some exceptions.
- New quarantine process of 10 days regardless of COVID test.
- Quarantined children will be able to Zoom into the classroom.
- Limited visitors allowed at schoolhouses.
- More information at [backtoschool.dadeschools.net](http://backtoschool.dadeschools.net).
- There is a new school bus tracker.
- Virtual school option currently closed due to high demand.

Board Member Watson makes a motion that the School Community Relations Committee stands with Miami-Dade County Public Schools and their decision to mandate masks in schools with the exception of students with medical exemptions. Motion is seconded by Vice Chairperson Joseph and is unanimously passed by committee.

**Yeas:** 6 - Dimitris, Joseph, Fernandez, Slesnick, Watson and Board Member Ward Sando

**Absent:** 3 - Chang, Manrara Cartaya and Anding

### C-2 September Meeting Date (Facilitated by Naomi Levi Garcia, Staff Liaison)

Due to conflict with the Sept. 17 Ethics Training a motion was made by Board Member Chang to move the SCRC meeting to Sept. 24, seconded by Vice Chairperson Joseph. The motion passed. A request was also made for the committee to get a tour of the Police & Fire Headquarters at the end of the Sept. 24 meeting.

**Yeas:** 7 - Slesnick, Watson, Dimitris, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez and Board Member Ward Sando

**Absent:** 2 - Manrara Cartaya and Anding

**C-3 Discussion regarding extending an invitation for Mayor Lago to attend a future SCRC meeting (Facilitated by Jennifer Sando, Board Member)**

- An invitation will be extended to Mayor Lago for his attendance at the October SCRC meeting (Time certain).
- An item will be added to the September meeting so that the committee can discuss a list of topics to prioritize for when the Mayor attends in October.
- Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes.
- Members of the public are encouraged to email questions prior to the October meeting to [scrc@coralgables.com](mailto:scrc@coralgables.com).

**C-4 Discussion on Family Day-care Home (Facilitated by Ariel Fernandez, Chair)**

- Allowed by state law and City zoning code section 3-204.
- Alberca day-care not yet opened as they have not met all requirements.
- This is the first and only application submitted to date.
- State recently passed home-based business preemption legislation that limits the City's ability to regulate.

**C-5 Update on staffing changes in schools (Facilitated by Sam Joseph, Vice Chair)**

**Attachments:** [Admin Appointments SY21-22 SCRC Schools.pdf](#)

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

**D-1 Election of SCRC Chairperson**

Board Member Watson nominates Ariel Fernandez to continue his role as Chairperson, Board Member Dimitris seconds. The motion passes.

**Yeas:** 7 - Slesnick, Watson, Dimitris, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez and Board Member Ward Sando

**Absent:** 2 - Manrara Cartaya and Anding

**D-2 Election of SCRC Vice Chairperson**

Chairperson Fernandez passes the gavel to the Vice Chair. Chairperson Fernandez nominates Samuel Joseph to continue his role as Vice Chairperson, Board Member Watson seconds. The motion passes.

**Yeas:** 7 - Watson, Dimitris, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez, Slesnick and Board Member Ward Sando

**Absent:** 2 - Manrara Cartaya and Anding

**D-3 SIP Committee Member Assignments Review (Facilitated by Ariel Fernandez, Chair)**

Item is deferred to the Sept. 24 meeting. Vice Chair Joseph is to provide suggested changes to the existing list as one of the most senior members of the committee.

Attachments: [SIP Descriptions](#)  
[SIP Descriptions 2022 Updates Proposed by Vice Chair.docx](#)

**E. ONGOING BUSINESS**

**E-1 Discussion regarding Cavaliers Future Leaders Fellowship Program Recommendation (Facilitated by Ariel Fernandez, Chair)**

- Vice Chair Joseph suggests that the existing Page program be expanded to fold in this initiative.

**E-2 Update on Carver Crosswalks (Facilitated by Ariel Fernandez, Chair)**

- School Board Member Rojas provides a short update on the school year start including that no crossing guard was assigned on the first day of school. This is being resolved.
- Parents were letting students off on opposite side of Grand Avenue and having them cross on the green light.
- Mr. Raul Perez spoke, gave recap on School District position and August 16 meeting regarding the Carver crosswalks.
- Chair Fernandez relayed that he spoke to Coral Gables City Manager who stated that the City will work with the developer to try and ensure deliveries are restricted outside of school pickup and drop-off hours.
- District is waiting for traffic study from County.
- Naomi also sending Mr. Perez copy of site plan.
- Melissa DeZayas from Public Works to be invited to attend next meeting.
- Estelle Lockhart requests traffic study to be redone all together. Board member agrees.
- Commissioner Regalado's staff happy to facilitate request for new traffic study.
- Rebecca Carter, parent at Ponce Middle School requests an update on the sidewalks by the middle school. Brief update provided mentioning that this was discussed at the August 24 Commission Meeting and that staff is to return to Commission in six months with a conceptual design.

**E-3 General Updates (Facilitated by Naomi Levi Garcia, Staff Liaison & Solanch Lopez, Secretary)**

Updates requested by committee for the next meeting:

- Update on the lot across from Zamora Ave. by Coral Gables Preparatory Upper Academy.
- Update on the Artisan Market discussed at the August 24 Commission Meeting near Coral Gables Preparatory Lower Academy.

**E-4 Notice Pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-245 (Facilitated by Naomi Levi Garcia, Staff Liaison)**

Project: Doctor's Hospital Parking Lot  
School: Henry S. West Laboratory School

**Attachments:** [Staff Report - Doctors Hospital w attachments.pdf](#)

Project: Coral Gables Fire Station No. 4 & Park  
School: Sunset Elementary

**Attachments:** [08 24 21 CC - Fire House 4.pdf](#)  
[Exhibit C - 05 12 21 PZB Staff Report w attachments.pdf](#)  
[Exhibit E - PowerPoint Presentation.pdf](#)

Vice Chair Joseph makes a motion urging the City Commission to require a traffic study for Fire Station 4 that includes Sunset Elementary School, if one has not already been performed. Motion is seconded by Board Member Watson and is passed by committee.

**Yeas:** 6 - Dimitris, Joseph, Fernandez, Slesnick, Watson and Board Member Ward Sando

**Absent:** 3 - Chang, Manrara Cartaya and Anding

**F. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- F-1 2021 Biennial Boards & Committees Ethic Training**  
- Friday, September 17, 2021 - 9:00 a.m.  
- 2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134 - Community Meeting Room

Questions/Comments: [scrc@coralgables.com](mailto:scrc@coralgables.com)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**NOTE**