

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, February 21, 2020

8:30 AM

War Memorial Youth Center, 405 University Drive, Classroom 222.

Meetings are held every third Friday of the month.

### **School Community Relations Committee**

*Chairperson Ariel Fernandez*  
*Vice Chairperson Sam Joseph*  
*Board Member Erin Anding*  
*Board Member Sandy Dimitris*  
*Board Member Carmen Manrara Cartaya*  
*Board Member Cecilia D. Slesnick*  
*Board Member Mary Snow*  
*Board Member Sharon Watson*

## CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to Order at 8:34 a.m.

## ROLL/QUORUM CALL

**Present:** 7 - Chairperson Fernandez, Vice Chairperson Joseph, Board Member Anding, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Manrara Cartaya, Board Member Slesnick and Board Member Snow

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Watson

**Attachments:** [Sign-In Sheet- 2.21.2020](#)

## APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Vice Chairperson Joseph, seconded by Board Member Dimitris, that this matter be Approved. The motion passed by the following vote.

**Yeas:** 7 - Vice Chairperson Joseph, Board Member Anding, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Manrara Cartaya, Board Member Slesnick, Board Member Snow and Chairperson Fernandez

**Excused:** 1 - Board Member Watson

School Community Relations Committee Meeting of January 17, 2020.

**Attachments:** [Cover Memo](#)  
[SCRC Meeting Minutes 1.17.2020](#)

## PUBLIC HEARING

- 45th Annual Friends of Carver Fundraiser Event on February 22nd from 7pm-11pm
  - Middle school raising funds for school auditorium
  - Elementary raising funds for internet improvements
  - Theme is 'Midnight Masquerade'
- February 22nd - Coral Gables Preparatory's Family Fun Day Carnival open to the public
- February 25th Mr. Rogers event at the Coral Gables Art Cinema hosted by the Community Foundation
- Sunset Elementary Seed Gala will take place on Sunday, March 1st
- Census discussion, how to get more information out to schools and parents. Board Member Dimitris serves on Commissioner Mena's Census Working Group and asks board members to share any thoughts/ideas.

## OLD BUSINESS

- 1 Update from Parking Department on Coral Gables Trolley use by students after school.

- Discussion of Queue order- Elderly and disabled will always be given priority.
- Equity for the students discussed- all equal.
  - Everyone on the trolley will be asked to disembark at the Douglas metrorail stop but students will be treated equitably along with all other passengers.
- New Trolley Building construction should be completed by June. This will lead to better frequency and less down time.
- Douglas Station construction is causing some issues.
- Trolley operations will be recorded in a Standard Operating Procedure to avoid confusion.

**2 SIP Committee Member Assignments Review (Facilitated by Ariel Fernandez, Chair)**

Item deferred to next meeting.

Attachments: [SIP Descriptions](#)

**3 Coral Gables STEM Afterschool Program Pilot Project Planning Report (Facilitated by Sam Joseph, Vice Chair)**

- Vice Chair Joseph will have a meeting with the Coral Gables library to discuss their STEM after-school programs.
- Possible pilot program in the fall.
- Looking for potential sites.

**4 Introduction of PTA Presidents to SCRC (Facilitated by Board Member Manrara-Cartaya)**

- Everyone is welcome to attend meetings.
- Have not heard anything from David Fairchild.
- Board member Watson can potentially take control of PTA project and outreach.
- Board members should provide schools with examples of what the committee can help with i.e. parking, events etc.
- Meeting room setup discussed. Layout will be adjusted so that all attendees have a seat around the table.
- Iraida suggests occasionally inviting principals to attend meetings.
- Vice Chair Joseph will make a list of schools to invite to future meetings.
- Board members will think about “their role” and how they can help feeder schools (those schools that serve Coral Gables students but that are not located within the City).

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**1 Coral Gables Preparatory Academy Roof Leak/Mold Issue Update (Facilitated by Iraida Mendez-Cartaya)**

- Principal says she is not aware of any mold issues.
- Central Region says there was no visible mold in the subject classroom upon inspection.
- Teacher of said classroom said there is no mold.
- Roof repairs expected to be completed in August.

**2 Parent Training: Public Schools 101/Advocacy Training (Facilitated by Guest Presenter Yesenia Correa, CGPA Parent)**

- Issue raised was that new parents need more information and access to news/events/activities taking place at their children's schools at each grade level. The solution proffered was to offer parents a "cheat sheet" at orientation.
- Board Member Dimitris will suggest making a calendar cheat sheet to principals.
- Board Member Slesnick will suggest putting those updates on the mass- text platform.

Attachments: [Parent Training Example Handout](#)

### 3 Coral Gables Family/School Events Showcase (Facilitated by Sam Joseph, Vice Chair)

- Taste of Carver Event (Facilitated by Estelle Lockhart & Moira Lertora Chawn, PTA)
  - Took place on Friday, January 24th
  - United Nations Style event.
  - Included parents, community and student volunteers.
  - PTA Funded the entire event.
  - 19 cultures represented.
    - Vice Chair Joseph suggest consulate tie-in and looking at a cultural grant for future years.
- Coral Gables Women's Center 6th Annual Children's Festival (Facilitated by Iris Sugui)
  - Grows every year.
  - This year included the Butterfly Garden sponsored by Capital One
  - Fire department participates with Fire trucks and obstacle course
  - Police department participated with K-9 unit

Attachments: [Presentation Coral Gables Women's Center Children's Festival 2020](#)  
[Presentation Taste of Carver Event](#)

## ONGOING BUSINESS

### General Updates (Facilitated by Solanch Lopez, Secretary)

- Update on School Crossing Guard position.
  - Human Resources had four interviews scheduled but none of the candidates showed up.
  - The position is being readvertised on the City's website.
- Update on Commission-As-A-Whole Appointment.
  - Winnie Chang was nominated and is on the February 25th Commission Meeting Agenda for approval.
  - Next SCRC meeting will have a full committee comprised of all nine members.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next SCRC Meeting - Friday, March 20, 2020

Summer Family Literacy Festival Planning Meeting - Monday, February 24, 2020

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting Adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

**NOTE**