



City of Coral Gables

Agenda

School Community Relations Committee

Friday, March 21, 2025

B. Public Comment

C. NEW BUSINESS

C-1 Review of Riviera Country Club Site Plan Amendment

Jennifer and Craig from Planning and Zoning presented this item. Brief overview indicated below

- Riviera Country Club is planning a significant renovation project involving their tennis facilities. They are proposing to demolish the existing tennis center and build a new two-story facility in line with United States Tennis Association standards. The plan also includes updated parking, landscaping, and the addition of sidewalks, aiming to enhance the club's tennis services and create a premier facility. This proposal is scheduled for review and approval by the City Commission on March 11, 2025. Additionally, Henry S. West Laboratory School is within the required mailing radius for this project, meaning they would be notified about the proposal and any associated developments.

C-2 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Update (Facilitated by Mari Tere Rojas, School Board Chair)

- In another community Chair Rojas attended a reading parade; surrounding streets were closed, and the event proved to be very successful. It might be an idea to consider for future events in Coral Gables. Further discussions will be necessary to engage in a similar event within the Gables with children as a main focus.
- Thanked Samuel Joseph for his involvement in the community and especially with the Coral Gables Family Literacy events.

Proffered Board items below:

- B-5: Request Approval of Resolution No. 25-014 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, recognizing Mr. Alejandro Mendieta.
 - An amazing community leader who makes a difference in children's lives; he has received numerous accolades. Recently selected by South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce as Man of the Year in 2024.
- Revised H-1: Consideration for Additional Research-Based Strategies to be Implemented to Achieve Reading and Mathematics Success in the early grades for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third grade students.
 - It is crucial to focus on the lower grades so that children have a good learning foundation.
- Revised H 2: Feasibility of Developing and Implementing a Program for Miami-Dade County Public Schools) M-DCPS) Students who may wish to pursue a career as Air Traffic Controller Specialists.
 - The profession is deemed to be highly demanding and stressful due to the need for continuous decision-making and adherence to strict safety regulations.
- Revised H-7: School Board Endorsement of the Celebration of April 20-26, 2025, as Administrative Professionals week; and Wednesday, April 23, 2025, as Administrative Professionals Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS).
 - They are the backbone that keeps everyone in check; it is important to demonstrate how much they are appreciated and valued.

May 17 thru 21 – Alumni 305 week.

All Miami-Dade County Schools and the District offices will be closed beginning March 24 thru March 28 for Spring Break.

C-3 Update on the Coral Gables Family Literacy Festival (Facilitated by Sam Joseph)

Samuel Joseph attended via Zoom.

- This is the fifth year for the Coral Gables Family Literacy Festival, event will take place on May 17, 2025 – 11:00-3:00 pm. It is one of the premiere family events in the city.
- New aspects of the event are being proposed, such as honoring commissioner Jeannette Slesnick by naming Literacy Row in her name. Further details will be communicated to the team.
- Pre- Festival events with schools, ideas are still being reviewed and finalized such as Teacher of the Year and enrolling them in a ceremony along with Literacy laureate.
- Comic Fair/ trade/ barter books etc.
- Board members along with Sam Joseph provided additional names of individuals that might be a good addition to the nominee laureate list.
- Special Guest Presentation, ideas are welcomed.
- Book drop area, donate books to the Children's Trust and to the city via the library program. Will collaborate with the Rotary Club for their assistance in the booth and also inviting volunteers from the School Community Relations Committee is a nice way to get involved.

Chairperson Chang inquired about the location and additional details associated to Pre-Festival event.

- Depending on the number of attendees, there are several available venues such as the Coral Gables library, Coral Gables Country Club and Youth Center Theatre. This will be a fun family event. Timing is still uncertain based on school participation, still working on logistics.

Chairperson Chang further indicated that it is important to come up with a specific date and advertise soon to ensure many participants and guests.

Board Member Lam suggested having the Police Athletic League as volunteers.

Chairperson Chang wishes to discuss details on Literacy laureate.

- Criteria on selecting the Literacy laureate: Literacy Laureate is a broad term, general community who have been honored who do not live on the Gables. However, the focus is on individuals who reside within Coral Gables and mainly honoring the children who are doing great and important things associated with literacy.

Vice Chairperson Chang recommends adding a writing contest for next year.

- Junior Orange Bowl has had a writing contest and perhaps the team can work together.
- Code Mania involves many of the Coral Gables Schools.
- Consider starting the Literacy Laureate Nominee names much sooner in the year, January.

Chairperson Chang motioned to approve for Literacy Laureate:

- Two locals are Dr. Mireya Mayor and Frances Peebles- as local literary legend or the Laureate.
- Dr. Riley will be awarded posthumously and Captain D. Scott for the City Beautiful Literacy Laureate.

Board Member Slesnick recommends:

- Dr. Sandra Riley.

Fernando will provide names to Mayor, Lago for his office to process communications with the individuals.

C-4 Discussion on the Scope and Intent of History Miami Tours

- Deferred to the following meeting on April 25, 2025.

D. OLD BUSINESS

E. ONGOING BUSINESS

E-1 Education Compact Workshop

- Deferred to the following meeting on April 25, 2025.
- Autism flag raising scheduled on April 2, 2025.

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS