

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 21, 2024

8:30 AM

Police and Fire Headquarters, Community Meeting Room

### School Community Relations Committee

*Chairperson Winnie Chang*  
*Vice Chairperson Sandy Dimitris*  
*Board Member Erin Anding*  
*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 its Regular Meeting on Friday, June 21, 2024 commencing at 8:30 a.m. Members of the public may participate in person but are also able to participate 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.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 5 - Board Member Anding, Board Member Lam, Chairperson Chang, Board Member Nadal and Board Member Slesnick

**Absent:** 3 - Board Member Goodman, Vice Chairperson Dimitris and Board Member Watson

**A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

A motion was made by Board Member Lam, seconded by Board Member Anding, that this motion be Approved on Consent Agenda . The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Yeas:** 5 - Board Member Anding, Board Member Lam, Chairperson Chang, Board Member Nadal and Board Member Slesnick

**Absent:** 3 - Board Member Goodman, Vice Chairperson Dimitris and Board Member Watson

A-1 [24-7691](#) School Community Relations Committee Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2024.

Attachments: [SCRC Minutes\\_5.17.24](#)

**B. PUBLIC COMMENT**

**C. NEW BUSINESS**

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

Chairperson Winnie Chang announced the updates on behalf of School Board Chair Rojas and Marlene Hernandez. A copy of the revised school board item H-3 was shared reflecting a reminder of the upcoming sales tax holiday from July 29th to August 11th, 2024. Chairperson Chang also announced that summer school in Miami Dade County Public Schools has been off to a good start. Summer 305 is being hosted for five weeks and breakfast and lunch are provided for students that attend.

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

D-1 **Update on Armbrister Park (Facilitated MDCPS and City Staff)**

Aillette Rodriguez shared that she had informed Governmental Affairs Manager, Mr. Fernando Weiner, that the district doesn't have a joint use agreement in place with the City of Miami for the use of Armbrister Park, so there were no details she could share regarding the project. Lina Santiago shared that the City of Miami is preparing to renovate the park adjacent to Carver Elementary Middle School. The design plan includes the new two-story community center with 10,000 square feet of recreation. Lina will share the link Fernando provided with the board for the members to review.

**D-2 Update on Phillips Park Use Agreement (Facilitated by City Staff)**

Aillette Rodriguez informed the board that the use agreement discussion was transferred over to their Governmental Affairs and Land Use department, which is basically facilities that will be entering into negotiations and an agreement, the goal is to complete that by the end of the summer for Phillips Park. Lina added that Fernando and the City Attorney's Office are beginning to update the agreement with the school district, and they have received updates from the Parks department as to what they would like included in the agreement. In collaboration with the City Attorney's Office, Fernando will incorporate Park's additions and update the board as they get closer to drafting the agreement. Chairperson Chang would like the board to see the draft of the agreement once it is prepared.

**D-3 Update on Similar Advisory Boards in other Municipalities (Facilitated by City Staff)**

Chairperson Chang recalled the email board member Goodman received from the Pinecrest Mayor's Education Advisory Council to attend their meeting held on May 21st, to introduce possible collaboration and flow of ideas between the existing committees, which was shared with Fernando to share with the board members. Due to the late notice of the invitation, Chairperson Chang couldn't attend, but still wishes to communicate with other committees like the SCRC in different municipalities to foster a communicative relationship. Last meeting, Douglas Clark from the School Board Office of Intergovernmental Affairs volunteered to assist with the request since members of their staff attend a variety of meetings such as those in the Village of Miami Shores, the Village of Pinecrest, Cutler Bay, Miami Lakes, and more. Fernando noted the number of municipalities that have boards similar in function to the SCRC: Village of Pinecrest, Village of Miami Shores, Miami Lakes, Cutler Bay, Palmetto Bay and Miami Beach. Lina shared the schedule for the municipalities board meetings:

Miami Shores: Meet on the third Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Miami Lakes: Meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Cutler Bay: Meet on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

Palmetto Bay: Meet the last Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Aillette added that Palmetto Bay is the only one that has a hybrid option, so they may be able to provide a Zoom registration link to attend remotely. All others mentioned take place in person. Aillette also shared that she attended the last Pinecrest meeting, and Dr. Nancy Lothar just retired from being the chair of the SCRC for Pinecrest, which is the mayors EAB. However, Dr. Lothar did mention, once they get a new chair, they're looking forward to inviting different members of SCRCs throughout the district again. That may be in the second meeting of the school year.

**E. ONGOING BUSINESS**

**E-1 General Updates**

Samuel Joseph shared administrative changes within the public schools with Chairperson Chang and Governmental Affairs Manager Fernando Weiner to share with the rest of the board. Ailette corrected that Ponce de Leon Middle received an interim principal not an assistant principal. A board member shared that Coral Gables Prep now has a full-time music teacher. Ty Gabriel from Stemtree in Coral Gables re-introduced himself to the board and shared that the K-12 STEM education center located on Aragon and Galiano recently opened approximately six weeks ago and teaches science, math, and computer coding with an emphasis on computer coding. They also specialize in robotics and electrical engineering. The center has a proprietary curriculum and offers in-person after school and summer camp services. The center is looking to collaborate with PTAs for the upcoming school year. Mr. Gabriel is currently soliciting subcontractors to provide transportation services from the school to the center. He asked if the board had any recommendations for drivers or nonprofit contractors that are children and/or education centered to please share them with him.

Chairperson Chang announced that the city has begun a new plastics recycling program for clear bags. Clear Ziploc bags and other clear plastics of that sort can be deposited at the Youth Center, The Adult Activity Center, and Parking and Transportation office located on Minorca. Lina will share the flyer regarding the plastics that can be deposited and the locations. Board member Nadal mentioned that the Navy Band will be performing at the Biltmore for the 4th of July Celebration and asked the board members to show their support if they are interested.

## F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson Chang reminded the board that their workshop will be held in August, the Friday after school begins. Chairperson Chang advised the board that they have reached their quota for meetings this year, so they may not have a July meeting and instead focus on the workshop in August to later resume regularly scheduled meetings in September. Board member Lam mentioned the History Miami project to be discussed at the July meeting if one is held, otherwise, it can be discussed at the September meeting. She wanted to ensure that it provides enough time to propose a field trip. Lina and Fernando will work to ensure that History Miami confirms attendance for the September meeting. Chairperson Chang proposed that the next SCRC meeting be August 16th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m., and the September meeting be held on September 20th, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. Board member Nadal made a motion to not have a meeting in July, board member Anding seconded the motion, agreement across the board.

Board member Nadal wished for clearer marketing of events and on signage at these events. Lina mentioned that she could discuss with the Communications and Public Affairs team better ways of marketing certain events, such as mentioning them in the e-news. The board wishes to become more involved in the community relations aspect of their duties, and asked to be informed of educational courses or anything going on within the community so that they may advocate and spread the word to those interested.

Aillette shared that the parent academy is hosting a series of summer webinars for parents, which are for those transitioning to Kindergarten, Middle School and High School. She mentioned that she will share the link with Governmental Affairs Manager Fernando Weiner to share with the board ([parentacademymiami.com](http://parentacademymiami.com)). Aillette also shared that as the new school year begins, they are always looking for volunteers, mentors, internship providers, and partners to help schools and students.

F-1 Next SCRC Meeting - Friday, July 19, 2024 | 8:30 a.m.

**F-2** Join a local PTA or subscribe to their newsletters using the following links:

**Sunset Elementary**

<https://www.sunsetpta.org/membership>

**Coral Gables Preparatory Academy**

<https://coralgablespreppsa.membershiptoolkit.com/whyjoin>

**GW Carver Elementary**

<https://gwcarverelem.memberhub.com/store?category=PTA%20Memberships-%20JOIN%20TODAY>

**GW Carver Middle School**

<https://carvermiddle.memberhub.com/store>

**Ponce de Leon Middle School**

<https://ponceptsamemberhub.memberhub.com/store>

**Coral Gables High School**

<http://gablespta.org/join/>

**International Studies Preparatory Academy High School**

<https://ispa-pta.com/join-pta/>

**West Lab -**

<https://www.westlabpto.org/pen>

**F-3** Fewell Park Native Planting - Friday, June 28, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

**F-4** Sensory Friendly Fourth of July Celebration - Thursday, July 4, 2024 | 7:00 p.m.

**F-5** Gables Gallery Night - Friday, July 5, 2024 | 6:00 p.m.

**F-6** Jurassic Garden Adventure - Friday, July 12, 2024 | 10:00 a.m.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

### **NOTE**