

City of Coral Gables

405 Biltmore Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134
www.coralgables.com



Meeting Minutes

Friday, March 11, 2022

8:30 AM

Police and Fire Headquarters, Community Meeting Room A

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, March 11, 2022, 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/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: 786 635 1003 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

Meeting called to order at 8:39 a.m.

ROLL/QUORUM CALL

Present: 5 - Watson, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez and Anding

Absent: 2 - Slesnick and Manrara Cartaya

Excused: 2 - Dimitris and Board Member Ward Sando

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

School Community Relations Committee Minutes of January 28, 2022.

Attachments: [Cover Memo](#)
[Minutes - SCRC Jan. 28](#)

A motion was made by Board Member Anding, seconded by Vice Chair Joseph, that this matter be approved. The motion passed by the following vote.

Yeas: 5 - Watson, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez and Anding

Absent: 2 - Slesnick and Manrara Cartaya

Excused: 2 - Dimitris and Board Member Ward Sando

B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

C. NEW BUSINESS

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

Francys Vallecillo, Chief of Staff presented updates on behalf of School Board Member Mari Tere Rojas.

Ms. Vallecillo gave a brief recap of the School Board Member's Town Hall Meeting, at Ponce de Leon Middle School. Mayor Vince Lago, Chairperson Ariel Fernandez, and Board Member Sharon Watson attended.

Ms. Vallecillo updated the SCRC on the following items:

- Adoption of the M-DCPS' budget, public hearings will take place July and September.
- School Board Member Rojas recognized Ms. Unethia Fox - M-DCPS Teacher of the Year at the March School Board Meeting.
- The School Board Member proffered an item to recognize – World Down Syndrome Day on March 21, 2022.
- Spring Recess to take place March 19 to March 27, 2022.
- The April School Board Meeting will take place on April 13, 2022.

The SCRC requested the following from the School Board Member's Office:

- Vice Chairperson Sam Joseph requested a list of Teachers of the Year and Rookie Teachers of the Year in the Coral Gables area, Ms. Vallecillo has provided said list to Chairperson Ariel Fernandez who will provide to SCRC.
- Staff Liaison Naomi Levi Garcia requested information regarding the School Board's Concurrency Review Process to share with Commission.

C-2 Update on ABC February Meeting (Facilitated by Sam Joseph, Vice Chairperson)

Vice Chairperson Sam Joseph attended the February Attendance Boundary Committee (ABC) meeting and provided the SCRC with an update.

The Vice Chairperson stated that Frances S. Tucker Elementary School will become a district wide Magnet school starting next school year (2022-2023). Offering programs in STEM, environmental science, dance, and other magnet strands. Vice Chairperson Joseph stated that he would not like Tucker to become like West Lab Elementary in terms of enrollment and accessibility to Coral Gables residents.

Chairperson Ariel Fernandez requested a report containing the current enrollment data for Tucker Elementary School, specifically what percentage of the population are Coral Gables residents.

The Chairperson also requested that official enrollment data for every school in Coral Gables be shared with the SCRC bi-annually (February and October) when School Board conducts their snapshot.

Dr. Eric Acosta clarified that Tucker Elementary will remain a boundary school with magnet strands which is different from West Lab Elementary which is a county wide magnet school. Dr. Acosta reiterated that the magnet status of Tucker Elementary and West Lab Elementary are not comparable.

D. OLD BUSINESS

E. ONGOING BUSINESS

- E-1 General Updates (Facilitated by Naomi Levi Garcia, Staff Liaison & Solanch Lopez, Secretary)

Staff Liaison Naomi Levi Garcia provided an update on the resolution the SCRC brought to Commission on March 8, regarding the Madeira project and the advised status of Coral Gables Preparatory Academy.

Chairperson Ariel Fernandez brought to the attention of the SCRC an issue of two loaded guns found by children in a tree at Salvador Park, which neighbors St. Philip's Episcopal Church and School. The Chairperson requested a Coral Gables Police Officer join the SCRC to engage in a school safety conversation.

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- F-1 Next SCRC Meeting - Friday, April 8, 2022

Questions/Comments: scrc@coralgables.com

- 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://coralgablesprepptsamembershiptoolkit.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://gablesptsa.org/join/>

International Studies Preparatory Academy High School

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

West Lab -

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

- F-3 Farmers Market - Saturdays 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- F-4 Bike & BBQ - Sunday, March 20 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- F-5 My Squad Fishing - Wednesday, March 30 - 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.
- F-6 Keep Coral Gables Beautiful's Plogging at Matheson - Saturday, April 2 - 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

NOTE