

CORAL GABLES SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda
Friday December 16, 2016

Coral Gables City Hall
1st Floor Conference Room
Coral Gables, Florida

MEMBERS	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul. 24	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	APPOINTED BY
Ruth Martinez	p	P	P	P	-	P		P	P				Mayor Cason
Mary Snow						P							Vice Mayor Quesada
Aileen Ortega	p	P	P	P	-	P		P	P				Commissioner Keon
Samuel Joseph	p	P	P	P	-	P		P	P				Commissioner Lago
Greg Blackburn	p	A	E	P	-	P		A					Commissioner Slesnick
Nan Markowitz	p	P	P	P	-	P		P	P				City Manager Swanson-Rivenbar
	p	P											Commission-as-a-whole

Theresa

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
- = No meeting

STAFF:

Naomi Levi, Government Affairs Manager

GUESTS: Craig Leen, Stephanie Throckmorton, Iraida Mendez-Cartaya

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Naomi Levi, Government Affairs Manager

The following represents a summary of the items discussed during the Committee meeting.

○ **MEETING AGENDA -**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:39am.

II. ROLL CALL

A quorum was present. Mary Snow had an excused absence due to maternity leave and Greg Blackburn had an unexcused absence.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- School Improvement Projects (SIP)
 - Iraida is working on scheduling school site visits in the New Year
 - Sam will work on the first few Commission memos in order to update Commission on Committee's progress with SIPs
 - Coral Gables Prep has requested advice from Historic Preservation on restoration of auditorium doors
 - Committee will hold off on providing SIP updates as we are now down two members and may need to reassign projects once again
 - Financial Literacy
 - Paul Kothari interested in volunteering with SCRC in helping to achieve Financial Literacy Initiative
 - Sam met with Ms. Caranza, lead teacher for finance academy at Coral Gables Senior High, who told him the one piece they are missing is community partnerships
 - Internships/Mentorship
 - Sam met with Beacon Council too and believes SCRC is ready to meet with staff from MDCPS about internships with Beacon Council + Chamber of Commerce
 - Trade + logistics considered one of the highest paying most popular jobs in Miami-Dade
 - School Libraries Initiative
 - Clarification for Nan- facilitate donation of books from Mayor Cason, Commissioner Slesnick and others
 - Help with resources for school libraries
 - Nan will collect inventory then work with MDCPS staff on pairing books with schools
 - Iraida will help target school libraries that need most help/support
 - Naomi will send Committee an email about what the Digital Alliance needs from each school i.e. number of computers etc.
- Gables Point Plaza
 - Nan requested that someone from Planning come talk about project on Grand Ave. across from Carver and discuss traffic impacts at an upcoming meeting
- Parking at Coral Gables Prep
 - Aileen raises issue of meter maid who guards parking lot across the street from school
 - Views it as "pointless"

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Ruth Martinez tenders resignation
 - Sam announce Ruth's resignation, she is moving back to Virginia with her family
 - She will help the SCRC stay close to Women's Club- Ms. Swain is the best contact moving forward
 - She'll be back for the Children's Festival on February 4th and SCRC can have a table

- West Lab
 - The board was informed for the first time that West Lab has been converted to K-8 school
 - The school will be grown slowly over time, currently sixth grade classrooms are housed in the media center
 - FCIAC will be looking at Homework policy at West Lab at School Board's request, and looking for methods to communicate policy to the public.
 - Recommendations will be brought back to School Board in February- SCRC would like to hear from West Lab after that.

- Ponce de Leon Middle
 - The City Attorney served as Principal-for-a-day at Ponce Middle and noticed some issues at the school, including a hazardous tree limb in the spill-out area being supported by a chain and overgrown trees around the perimeter of the school.

 - Craig asked Iraida if the tree limb on campus could be addressed and Naomi will look into whose responsibility it is to trim perimeter trees. Also mentioned that if the school wanted to install an awning within its Campus that City would be okay with it (per ACM Iglesias)

 - During his visit he also found out that Principal Chang won Principal of the Year for the Central Region. The SCRC would like to honor Principal Chang at an upcoming Commission Meeting and asked Iraida to coordinate her appearance.

 - Finally, during the CA's visit Principal Chang requested a garbage pit in front of the school. Naomi will look into this request.

- Discussion regarding ways to improve committee
 - More board members? Should we have an eleven member board (1 for each school and chair)

- Volunteer Coordinator since we have so many community members interested in participating?
- A general “business” card with a blank line to write in name and number?
- Changing committee meeting schedule?
- Adding Computers to SIP?
- Monthly reporting on SIP starting in January- increased accountability to Commission

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:31am.

The next meeting will take place on January 20, 2016 in the first floor conference room of City Hall.