

# City of Coral Gables

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



## Meeting Minutes

Friday, September 15, 2023

8:30 AM

2151 Salzedo Street, Coral Gables, FL

Police and Fire Headquarters, Community Meeting Room

### School Community Relations Committee

*Board Member Erin Anding*  
*Board Member Winnie Chang*  
*Board Member Sandy Dimitris*  
*Board Member Joshua Goodman*  
*Board Member Ana Lam*  
*Board Member Andrew Nadal*  
*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, Sept. 15, 2023, 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: 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

Meeting called to order at 8:33 a.m.

## ROLL/QUORUM CALL

**Present:** 8 - Board Member Anding, Board Member Lam, Board Member Chang, Board Member Goodman, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Nadal, Board Member Slesnick and Board Member Watson

### A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

School Community Relations Committee Meeting of August 18, 2023.

**Attachments:** [Cover Memo](#)  
[SCRC Aug. 18 Draft Minutes](#)

**A motion was made by Board Member Goodman, seconded by Board Member Slesnick, that this matter be adopted. The motion passed by the following vote.**

**Yeas:** 6 - Board Member Anding, Board Member Lam, Board Member Chang, Board Member Goodman, Board Member Slesnick and Board Member Watson

**Absent:** 2 - Board Member Dimitris and Board Member Nadal

### B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

**Marlin Ebbert:** Stated that she was one of the first members of the School Community Relations Committee during the 90's. Inquired about the percentage of residents that attend Coral Gables Preparatory Academy; there has been information indicating it's thirteen (13) percent. Board Member Goodman will provide written details of amounts. According to Board Member Goodman, the percentage rate is incorrect. The correct amount is twenty-two (22) percent. Interest in investigating the percentage of families sending their children to private schools versus to public schools. The Villagers organization might be able to provide a grant to Coral Gables Preparatory Academy. Ms. Ebbert requested to be added to the mailing list.

**Sam Joseph:** Fourteen (14) percent is still an accurate number for Coral Gables Senior High. This will be true for the majority of schools in the feeder pattern that are part of the magnet program. Somerset Academy is part of the schools in this committee's overview and it's important to include them for funding purposes. Almost all public schools within Coral Gables feeder pattern are Title 1 thus receiving free lunch.

## C. NEW BUSINESS

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

Board Chair Rojas provided updates:

It has been a very hot summer and some of the older schools such as Coral Gables Senior High have had air conditioning issues. Everyone is working cohesively to remediate this situation utilizing temporary chillers. There have been issues procuring repair pieces.

Items proffered:

- Revised H-4: Miami-Dade County Public School Board Endorsement and Celebration of October 2023 as National Principals Month. (Co-Sponsored).
- Revised Replacement B-3: Request approval of Resolution No. 23-045 of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Florida House of Representative Daniel "Danny" Perez.
- Revised H-2: Proposed Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) 2024 State Legislative program priority - State funding for programs to serve Pre-K 3 students.
- Revised H-3: Miami-Dade County School Board endorsement of Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, as national custodial worker's recognition day.
- Revised Good Cause H-12: Comprehensive parental component to inform and address red flag warnings and the consequences of violent threats to schools, students, and staff.

Centennial Celebration for Gables Prep. - Principal spoke with Board Chair, and they will have multiple celebrations throughout the year. Working on the auditorium currently. Board Member Dimitris brings up the Eagles Nest Fund gala at the Biltmore Hotel on Saturday, Sept. 16. The City is a Silver Eagles sponsor of the gala. Board Chair Rojas will be speaking at the event and will present a proclamation at a School Board meeting once the auditorium has been completed.

The school year is off to a good start; there are 600 new teachers, however, this number is still short. There is a need for additional teachers. Board Member Watson inquired on the teacher's starting salary; it is in the low \$50K. Board Member Slesnick mentioned to circle back on the substitute teacher pilot program discussed during spring's School Community Relations Committee workshop. Kelly Services will be taking over substitute teacher registration. Board Chair Rojas will be looking into what the new steps and requirements would be.

Miami-Dade Public Schools have become the 3rd largest school district within the United States.

**C-2 Election of SCRC Chairperson**

A motion was made by Board Member Dimitris, seconded by Board Member Slesnick, that Board Member Chang be reappointed as Chairperson. The motion passed by the following vote.

**Yeas:** 8 - Board Member Anding, Board Member Lam, Board Member Chang, Board Member Goodman, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Nadal, Board Member Slesnick and Board Member Watson

**C-3 Election of SCRC Vice Chairperson**

A motion was made by Board Member Slesnick, seconded by Board Member Nadal, that Board Member Dimitris be reappointed as Vice Chairperson. The motion passed by the following vote.

**Yeas:** 8 - Board Member Lam, Board Member Chang, Board Member Goodman, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Nadal, Board Member Slesnick, Board Member Anding and Board Member Watson

**C-4 Approval of 2022-2023 SCRC Annual Report**

**Attachments:** [Draft SCRC Annual Report 2022-2023](#)

A motion was made by Board Member Goodman, seconded by Board Member Dimitris, that this matter be approved. The motion passed by the following vote.

**Yeas:** 8 - Board Member Chang, Board Member Goodman, Board Member Dimitris, Board Member Nadal, Board Member Slesnick, Board Member Anding, Board Member Lam and Board Member Watson

**Items C-5 and D-1 are related.**

**C-5 Discussion regarding possible workshop to discuss supplemental funding for area schools in more detail (Facilitated by Winnie Chang, Chairperson)**

Board Member Goodman requests school enrollment numbers from the past ten (10) years.

A discussion takes place on scheduling a possible workshop or if this item should simply be the only item of the next SCRC meeting agenda. Timing is a factor as members will already need to attend the mandatory ethics training scheduled for Sept. 29.

Aillette Rodriguez-Diaz, Miami-Dade Administrative Director provided additional feedback regarding various funding programs offered by other municipalities. These include grants, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU's), and donations.

Estelle Lockhart from GW Carver Elementary PTA stated that she is supportive of the workshop/meeting during October; this will encourage transparency and enough notice to allow the public to participate. Important to think big and consider a five (5) to ten (10) year strategic plan in terms of what education can look like in schools.

Board Member Goodman motion to cancel the Oct. 13 meeting and hold a workshop on the strategic vision for education in Coral Gables during that date instead. Board Member Lam second, motion passed.

**D. OLD BUSINESS**

**D-1 Continuation of discussion regarding supplemental funding for area schools from the City of Coral Gables to address deepening budgetary pressures on public schools (Facilitated by Winnie Chang, Chairperson)**

**Attachments:** [Updated SCRC Coral Gables Principals Programmatic Needs Assessment](#)

**E. ONGOING BUSINESS**

**E-1 Notice Pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-245 (Facilitated by Solanch Lopez, Acting Staff Liaison)**

Members request to get a copy of the staff report once it is available.

Project: 4241 Aurora Street  
School: Coral Gables Senior High School

**Attachments:** [4241 Aurora Street Architectural Plans 8-25-2023 Updated v1.1](#)  
[4241 Aurora Street Statement of Use 8-25-2023 Updated v1](#)

E-2 General Updates (Facilitated by Solanch Lopez, Acting Staff Liaison)

**F. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

F-1 Next SCRC Meeting - Friday, Oct. 13, 2023 | 8:30 a.m.

Questions/Comments: [scrc@coralgables.com](mailto:scrc@coralgables.com)

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

F-3 International Coastal Cleanup - Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023 | 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

F-4 Clubhouse Hours at the DEI Clubhouse - Every Monday | 3 to 7 p.m.

F-5 School Board Chair Rojas' Office Hours - Thursday, Sept. 21 & Oct. 5, 2023 | 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.

F-6 Parks Pollinator Palooza - Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023 | 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

F-7 Fewell Park Invasive Plant Removal - Monday, Sept. 25, 2023 | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

F-8 My Squad - Pasta Making & Vision Boards - Wednesday, Sept. 27, 2023 | 6 to 9 p.m.

F-9 Paws in the Pool - Sunday, Oct. 1, 2023 | 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

**NOTE**