

CORAL GABLES SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda
Friday September 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							Mayor Cason
Mary Snow						P							Vice Mayor Quesada
Aileen Ortega	p	P	P	P	-	P							Commissioner Keon
Samuel Joseph	p	P	P	P	-	P							Commissioner Lago
Greg Blackburn	p	A	E	P	-	P							Commissioner Slesnick
Nan Markowitz	p	P	P	P	-	P							City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark
	p	P											Commission-as-a-whole

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

STAFF:

Naomi Levi, Government Affairs Manager

GUESTS: Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Jaques Bentolila, Milica Milisic, Greg Bush, Orlando Alonso, Craig Leen, Stephanie Throckmorton, Rosa Maria Barbara

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 8:32am.

II. ROLL CALL

All members were present including new member Mr. Greg Blackburn. A quorum was present.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. School Improvement Projects (SIP) Updates

- The Coral Gables Senior High track and field are open to the public as long as the CGSH and Ransom Everglades are not using it.
- New playground is being installed at Coral Gables Prep.

B. Special Needs Initiative

- The City Attorney discussed inclusionary opportunities, newly passed legislation, and Commissioner Sosa's desire to contribute funds to create an autism center in the City of Coral Gables.

- Committee members and guests discussed the need for state funding for special needs, specifically job training and education and treating the movement as a grassroots effort or civil rights issue.
- Nature Links presentation by Greg Bush.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Open Seat

- The board discussed the open seat on the Committee, which is a Commission-At-Large appointment.
- Resumes will be reviewed and the Committee will make a recommendation at the October meeting.

B. SCRC “Summer in Review”

- The Committee reflected on the events that took place over the Summer break and brainstormed ways to improve upon them for the future and to build upon the momentum.
 - Office Depot Sack Pack Giveaway Event
 - “Little Carver” Sack Pack Drop-off with the Police Chief
 - District 6 Candidates Forum
 - Coral Gables Prep Walk Thru with Stakeholders

C. Crossing Guards

- The need for a crossing guard at Coral Gables Prep and Carver Elementary was discussed
- Naomi informed the Committee that the budget includes seven crossing guard positions but only two are filled.
- The Police Dept. is working hard to fill these part-time positions.

D. Coral Gables Senior High

- Sam raised Commissioner Slesnick’s serious concern over Coral Gables High School receiving a “C” ranking and her request for the Committee’s support in helping the school.
- The Committee discussed meeting with the principal, mentorship programs, CUT scores and how student success is measured.
- Important to note that the bar was raised for the 2015-2016 school year and it was the first time that the Florida Standards Alternate Assessments (FSAA) were administered.

E. Teacher Wish lists

- A spirited discussion ensued regarding teacher “wish lists” (non-mandatory requests for school supplies, cleaning supplies, etc. sent home by teachers).
- Meeting attendees shared personal experiences and consensus seemed to be that these lists are unwelcomed and seem to be getting longer.
- Committee asked for reinforcement from the District that additional contributions, beyond a student’s individual supply list, are not mandatory.

F. Computer donations

- Committee asked for guidance on how to donate computers to schools
- Comcast may be able to help
- District will follow up with information

MDCPS Issues & Questions

- CGPA Walk-thru Information Request- pending
- Enrollment data for SCRC schools from 2011-2016- website provided*
- CGPA, Sunset, and “Little Carver” (2014-2016)- website provided *
- GOB Bond/Construction Schedule for “Little Carver”- Construction will be completed before Winter break

* http://intergovaffairs.dadeschools.net/pdf/federal/local_compacts/Municipality_Data_Reference_Sheet.pdf

G. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 am.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be on October 21, 2016 at 427 Biltmore Way.