

City of Coral Gables

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



Meeting Minutes

Friday, August 19, 2022

8:30 AM

Draft Minutes

Police and Fire Headquarters, Community Meeting Room

School Community Relations Committee

Chairperson Ariel Fernandez
Vice Chairperson Sam Joseph
Board Member Erin Anding
Board Member Dr. 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, August 19, 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: 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.

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CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 8:36 a.m.

ROLL/QUORUM CALL

Present: 7 - Slesnick, Dimitris, Joseph, Chang, Fernandez, Anding and Board Member Ward Sando

Absent: 2 - Watson and Manrara Cartaya

A. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

School Community Relations Committee Meeting of June 17, 2022.

Attachments: [Draft Minutes - SCRC June 17 Meeting](#)
[Cover Memo](#)

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

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B. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Stankiewicz is the PTA Capital Improvements Chair at Carver Elementary. Prior to the school break he met with School Member Mari Tere Rojas, Mr. Niccolo and Mr. Perez pursuant to the following topics:

- Were told that a six (6) foot fence would be installed around the school and roofs were to be repaired during the summer break. Thus far the school principal has not heard anything regarding the start of the fencing project.
- Roofing project is currently taking place during the weekends.
- Also need access control at the front gate of Grand Avenue, yet there have not been clear communications regarding this matter.
- Shade structure plan was pushed out; initially work should have been done last year and now due to contractor's issues the PTA is being told that it will take eight (8) months to complete the process.
- PTA has not received clear feedback on the paint schedule for the exteriors. Were advised this is not a priority.

Chairperson Fernandez toured Carver Elementary during the summer.

Vice Chairperson Joseph indicated he participated in the school's walkthrough and further advised this was very informative; he will speak with School Board Member Rojas on these issues and concerns to address the various school needs.

Jay Scott introduced himself as the new Safety Chair for the Carver Elementary PTA.

April Jones is the new PTSA President at Coral Gables Prep Academy. Mentioned there are many projects that were promised that have yet to be started. She is happy to learn more about what this committee does.

Sharon Watson indicated that this is the perfect time of the year to promote and join the PTAs.

C. NEW BUSINESS

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

Attachments: [District 6 Updates](#)

- C-2 Discussion on school safety and the recent active shooter drill at Coral Gables High School (Facilitated by Ariel Fernandez, Chairperson)

Chief Edwin Lopez expressed his gratitude to the Coral Gables Police and Fire Department for the numerous initiatives and partnership that have been put in place.

- An initiative which is in place is a single person response with no delay with respect to an active shooter training. This is essential because during critical incidents timing is very important.

- Have also been involved in implementing fire rescue response training to allow entrance to what is known as a "hot zone". Trained medical professionals will be present to mitigate medical situations such as blood loss as soon as possible.

- During the summer, established a Parent-Student reunification program during critical incidents as time is crucial. In addition, various local hospitals will have the ability to receive wounded individuals as a result of critical incidents; full scale assessments were done through the large-scale drill during the summer. This had plenty of collaboration and support from school administrators, students, local hospitals, Coral Gables police and fire departments. There are a multitude of safety layers to ensure the safety of the children.

- There are SROs at each school that are trained in crises intervention to address students that may be experiencing a mental health breakdown, officers have been trained in de-escalation skills to stabilize a violent situation.

- During the summer, Miami-Dade Police officers rolled out and amplified a Critical Care training to teachers, cafeteria workers, bus drivers, administrators etc. This type of training is important as civilians will know what measures to take in case there is an active shooter or in a critical situation; this training will add an additional layer of protection to our children and will help save lives.

- Officers have CPR and tourniquet kits with them, and some officers have received first responder and CPR and AED training. A few school personnel have been trained in this component but not all.

Eric Acosta's comments:

- There is someone on staff in every school who is CPR trained and will also have a medical care provider such as one (1) nurse who are in the building.

- Mr. Acosta will take into consideration with his superiors Chairperson Fernandez's recommendation to ensure the school district trains all staff personnel on emergency response.

- Board Member Anding makes a suggestion that these trainings take place during a mandatory Teacher Workday to increase the number of school personnel who receive it.

Chief Hudak's comments:

- An active shooter response changes with the ever-changing situations around the world. Employees are routinely receiving virtual and group training; these trainings are kept as simple as possible, however, incorporating different approaches based on school's needs and situations; thus, police are constantly training. Coral Gables Police Department has performed active shooter drills at various schools including University of Miami (UM), charter, religious and private school. Processes and procedures have evolved with time. Parents entrust the school system with their children; they need to do the same with the Police during these situations. There is a system and a plan in place and when worried and well-intentioned parents step in they become a hindrance in securing

medical attention for the children.

Chairperson Fernandez' comments:

- It's important to ensure police officers are familiarized with the school's layout.
- It's important to assure parents that an effective plan has been put in place to protect the children, however, for security purposes exact details of such plans would not be outlined.

Chief Lopez additional comments:

- As technology evolves, M-DCPS is also evolving and expanding the technology. Chief Hudak has a drone program in place for Coral Gables Police Department. This will facilitate having eyes not only on the ground but also from the sky. There is a robust Police Command Center in place. Monitors over 1,800 cameras in real time; these cameras are monitored 24/7 and we also have shot spotters which are military grade ballistic spotters; this allows police to know if a shot has been fired and will determine its exact location. Also, school buses are equipped with GPS device to allow for route tracking. The GPS platform used is a different system from the public/parent portal app.

Chairperson Fernandez additional comments:

- Posed a concern related to the low fence at Little Carver and gate near the bus area at Ponce Middle. Eric Acosta will research these matters. Schools have been asked to conduct a needs assessment and install higher fencing and gates throughout the district. Regarding Ponce, several years ago an attempt was made to erect a fence at this location, however, the neighborhood was against a six (6) to eight 8-foot fence; they felt the neighborhood would have the appearance of a jail. Thus, the city at that time prevented the project from moving forward. Since the community has changed and the world circumstances have changed as mentioned by Chairperson Fernandez, this might be an idea that can be revisited as children's safety is paramount. Mr. Acosta will speak with the Safety Officer and will re-open this concept.

Solanch Lopez reads statement and questions from Maria Palacio into the record:

"Good morning, I am a parent of a young adult with Autism who will be attending Coral Gables High School this fall. I am also the acting chair of the Coral Gables Disability Board.

I saw through different media outlets that Coral Gables High School had a full-scale active assailant drill on July 15 led by the Miami Dade County School Board Police that seemed to have involved real-life students. It was informed that the CG Police and Fire Dept. were also involved in this drill.

My questions are:

1. Did this drill have protocols explicitly targeting the special needs population? If so, which are these protocols? Were there any special needs students involved in the exercise?"

Major Arrebola responded on behalf of Chief Lopez who had to jump off the zoom.

- While special needs students who are on the spectrum did not take part in the drill, officers have targeted training that includes awareness.
- Adults with physical disabilities such as amputees took part in the exercise.
- As part of the planning process, schools will breakdown the number, types, and

location of their special population students so that the officers are aware when they arrive on site.

"2.To what extent were the Coral Gables police involved? I was informed that the CGPD was not actively involved, and it is my understanding that if a situation occurs, CGPD will be the ones attending the emergency and not the School Police Dept."

•CGPD was very involved and both departments respond when something happens including neighboring municipalities.

"This email and questions are meant to help better understand the steps taken to protect this vulnerable population and support and collaborate in any future endeavors in our City."

There was a question regarding who responds to those schools that border Coral Gables but are outside city boundaries. Resources are diverted in the best way possible. Even for those pockets that fall into the Miami-Dade jurisdiction Coral Gables along with all other neighboring municipalities would respond. There are mutual aid agreements in place to allow for this.

Attachments: [School Site Safety Discussion Questions Previously Discussed](#)

D. OLD BUSINESS

E. ONGOING BUSINESS

E-1 Notice Pursuant to Resolution No. 2020-245 (Facilitated by Solanch Lopez, Secretary)

- Surrounded by single-family. Keeping existing easement and making the alley part of their single-family property.
- Moving forward in September with the process and will have a neighborhood meeting on August 31 at 6 p.m. for further discussions.

Attachments: [Perez - Alley Vacation Amalfi and Rosaro Ave](#)

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The City will be launching a social club for teens with intellectual disabilities and autism called Teen Scene. Teen Scene is a new social community involvement club for teens 13-17 years old with intellectual disabilities and autism. The events will begin in October and will be held the last Thursday of each month (except in November when it will be held on December 1st) from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at Ruth Bryan Owen Waterway Park (3940 Granada Blvd.) Each month there will be different activities ranging from karaoke to photography to using STEM to make designs that light up. Visit www.playgables.com for more information.

F-1 Next SCRC Meeting - Friday, September 16, 2022 at 8:30 a.m.

Questions/Comments: scrc@coralgables.com

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

F-3 AAC Crime Watch Presentation - Aug. 24, 2022 | 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

- F-4 Downtown Community Cleanup - Aug. 25, 2022 | 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- F-5 My Squad Fishing and Upcycled Art - Aug. 31, 2022 | 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- F-6 Park(ing) Day - Sept. 16, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10 a.m.

NOTE

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