

# **School Community Relations Committee (SCRC) Meeting**

## **Minutes**

**Date:** May 8, 2026

**Time:** 8:35 am

**Location:** Coral Gables- Police and Fire Building – 2151 Salzedo Street

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

### **B. ROLL CALL**

- Winnie Chang- present
- Cecilia Slesnick- present
- Sandy Dimitris- ***No longer a Board Member-needs to be removed from the first page of the agenda***
- Joshua Goodman -present
- Samuel Joseph-present
- Ana Lam -absent
- Mary Palacio-Pike-present
- Miguel Vias-absent
- Jeff Kerzer- present

### **C. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – April 17, 2026**

All in favor of approving Minutes for meeting held on April 17, 2026.

### **D. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Comment read by Ms. Valladares:

- Coral Reef is cutting 8 periods to 6 periods. What can be done to protect the very successful programs and the educators who teach them?

Board members mentioned directing this person to the South Region office where staff would be able to provide comments.

Details for Teacher of the Year were discussed and ways for the city to show appreciation.

Such as a “goodie-bag”.

### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

## **E-1 Discussion with Senator Calatayud**

- Senator Calatayud introduced herself to the team. Among other details she mentioned that her passion is education advocacy. Also provided comments related how the money is being funded for education and early childhood education.
- Working in coalition with other senators who deeply care about these issues, so that strategic and impactful investments are made for the well of the children.
- Also working on workforce housing, however, this is to be signed by the governor.

Chair Chang mentioned that funding and budgeting are a big concern, thus impacting teacher retention.

Board member Goodman inquired about what is the legislation related to the AP model of curriculum in Florida.

- Senator Calatayud provided comments and further indicated that there is no contemplation within the legislature to remove AP, ACE or IV in its existing structure.

Board member Goodman had another query: possibly creating a vertical separate funding vouchers; keeping separate buckets of money allocation.

- Senator Calatayud provided comments on how the monies are being allocated.
- The Senate wished to continue to maintain full autonomy of school districts to choose what courses they need and what advanced courses are being offered to students.
- Provided comments related to the SB112- Autism support education programs.
- Senator Calatayud and her counterparts are looking to be supportive and prioritize matters where needed.

Board member Joseph provided his comments on his concern of children's safety.

- Senator Calatayud further indicated that on many of the concerns mentioned she is taking the lead from the school district. Feedback is crucial so she can communicate concerns to the district.

Chairperson Chang thanked Senator Calatayud for her time. She further reiterated how vested the members of the SCRC are, and the number of hours they volunteer not only in this meeting but in so many school events all to benefit the children.

## **E-2 Miami-Dade County Public Schools Update (Facilitated by Mari Tere Rojas, School Board Chair)**

Chair Rojas was unable to attend; however, Chief of Staff Marlene Hernandez was present and advised all the items proffered by Chair Rojas:

- **B-2-Item:** Resolution No. 26-021- Of the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, recognizing Amigos for Kids. This organization has been dedicated to the prevention of child abuse.
- **H-2- Item:** Matters related to the Comprehensive Integrity – Based Selection and Appointment Process for the Next Superintendent of Schools Discussed at the Scheduled School Board Workshop on Tuesday, April 14, 2026. Several actions that were approved were mentioned.
- **H-3-Item:** School Board Endorsement of May 1, 2026 as School Lunch Hero Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- **H-4-Item:** School Board Endorsement of Tuesday, May 5, 2026, as National Teacher Day and May 4-8, 2026, Teacher Appreciation Week in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.
- **H-5-Item:** School Board Endorsement of the Month of May 2026 as Mental Health Awareness Month and Thursday, May 7, 2026, as National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Board members discussed how important awareness is, especially related to children’s mental health.

## **E-3 Disability Board Recap (Facilitated by Mary Palacio-Pike)**

- Disability Board Summit will be held on May 13 in Key Biscayne; several municipalities will participate.
- Coral Gables’ website is expanding their resources for disabilities. It’s not finalized; useful information will be added.

## **F. OLD BUSINESS**

### **F-1- Literacy Fest Discussion (Facilitated by Samuel Joseph)**

- Saturday, May 16 – beginning at 11:00 am in front of the Youth Center. SCRC will have a table.
- Board members decide which member will be in attendance to the event and what give-away items can be displayed and distributed.
- All literacy laureates have confirmed their attendance.
- Event details were discussed.
- This event has been promoted through social media. Several city officials have confirmed that they will be reading to the children.
- 45 different vendors are expected to be part of this Literacy Fest.
- It is important to consider honoring paraprofessionals for next year. They go above and beyond to assist the teachers and students.

## **G. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board member Slesnick commented on her concerns related to school zone speed, noting that not all drivers pay attention to their speed. She suggested that implementing a universal sign to clearly alert drivers they are entering a school zone would be a great and safe concept.

Board member Goodman inquired if language on the School Guide is finalized and approved.

Aillette commented that the School Board has language and will review for a final run with the school principal.

Education Compact documents have been provided to the district. This item can be further discussed in the next upcoming meeting.

Liaison Granell provided comments on Phillips Park:

- Phillips Park should be ready by next school year.
- There have been concerns regarding the JUA (Joint Use Agreement), currently in the process of reviewing school's feedback on the City's comments. Currently in the negotiation process.

Aillette requested a red lined JUA so that her legal department review edits to document.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Next meeting: June 5, 2026.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:01 am