

CORAL GABLES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 15, 2008
Coral Gables Police Department
Coral Gables, Florida

D J F M A M A S O N APPOINTED BY:

MEMBERS

Andrew Yagoda			P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald Slesnick, Jr.
Joan Reitsma	**	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Victor Shabanah							P	P	P	City Manager David Brown
Pat Kiel	**	A	E	E	P	E	P	P	P	Crime Watch
Barbra Harley	**	P	P	P	E	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera
Charles Terry	**	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Lili Diaz	**	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	PMS
Harold Cole	**	E	E	P	A	P	P	P	P	CGHS
Debbie Korge	**	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers

A = Absent E = Excused P = Present * = Resigned ** = no meeting

STAFF:

Lt. Brian Lawrence
Sgt. Melissa DeJong
Recording Secretary Anna Garcia

A=Absent
P= Present
E=Excused

GUESTS:

Sharon Watson, CGHS PTSA
Bianca Calzadilla, Assistant Principal Ponce de Leon Middle School
Anna Rodriguez, Principal Ponce de Leon Middle School
Humberto Miret, Assistant Principal of Coral Gables High School

RECORDING SECRETARY: Anna G. Garcia

The meeting was called to order by Chair Korge at 6:05 pm. A quorum requirement was met by 6:05PM.

November 20, 2007 Minutes : One minor change was made to the November meeting which was sited by Member Andrew Yagoda to add a sentence regarding the comparison reports regarding the high schools that are similar to Coral Gables High School. Vice-Chairperson Joan Reitsma so moved a motion to approve the minutes with the change noted.

Excused Absence: Barbra Harley and Pat Kiel asked for an excused absence due to medical reasons that cannot attend. Member Harold Cole made a motion to approve the absence and seconded by Member Andrew Yagoda. Motion passed.

Education Compact Report: Chairperson Korge expressed after the November 20, 2007, she met with Linda Brown, Ray Dommerfelt, and Cathy Swanson in December about the technology needs

for Coral Gables High School and Ponce de Leon Middle School and in general about the Educational Compact. The computer/technology questions that the committee had will be answered in the upcoming months after Linda Brown researches it. Chairperson Korge expressed that both schools should provide to the students with the latest technology available.

The Education Compact should be brought forward to the city commission at the February meeting in which the Chairperson will attend. Principal Gans expressed that the Coral Gables High School replaced 100 computers through the Refresh Program with new computers. Shortly the school will receive 90 laptops for the teachers to utilize. The Refresh Program through the Miami-Dade School Board replaces the old computers with new computers as technology changes. In addition, the school is being wired in order to obtain wireless capability.

Vice-Chairperson informed the committee that she met with Mari Molina, Director of the Business Improvement District, regarding the use of empty retail space to display student art. At that time Ms. Molina did not have any information that she could give Joan Reitsma. The use of empty retail space can be used however the insurance part of it is the main issue. The owner of the building obviously has insurance but will it cover students using the not rented space Sgt. DeJong mentioned that she would be attending an insurance workshop through the city and she would ask at that time about the technicalities about the use of empty retail space.

Ponce de Leon Middle School: Member Lili Diaz mentioned that students finished taking mid-term tests and this week make-up have been scheduled. Also the school is preparing itself for FCAT testing. Tutoring for those students in need of additional learning time, tutoring has been implemented. Also an annual Peace Parade will take place in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King.

Ponce de Leon Middle School Events: Tutoring has been established in order to prepare the students for the FCAT. Science, Read and Math tutoring will be available on Saturday's from 8 am to noon.

FCAT Dates: February 4 through 8, 2008 writing segment will be administered and one March 10 to 14, 2008.

Coral Gables High School Recognition: Member Harold Cole expressed that 1967 Coral Gables Cavaliers was named Team of the Century by the Florida High School Athletic Association, as part of its 100 years of Florida High School Football Celebration. Coach Kotys, who coached four different teams at Coral Gables High School was also honored. These teams made it to the national championship games. The best name team ever was the 1967 Cavaliers under the coaching of Coach Kotys. Member Harold Cole stated that it was a tremendous honor to accept this award on behalf of the Coral Gables High School. This information will be emailed to Secretary Anna Garcia to be hopefully included in the next E-News Newsletter. Member Cole will forward the information again.

In addition the girls Soccer Team won the championship and Member Cole expressed that he was so proud of the teams accomplishment.

Coral Gables High School International Bacculerate Program Up-Date: Oral testing began and additional testing will commence during the month of May. Secondar school reform vote will take place during the month of February which will allow students with the choice of more electives. In addition the students will be able to participate in a "Career Academy". Career Academy will allow

the student to participate in a full internship, non payment, of course. This will be available at the next school year. School administration is currently looking for businesses who would like to participate in the Career Academy by adopting our students. In addition the district has applied for a District Grant in the amount of \$100 million dollars has part of the small learning community.

Coral Gables High School Building: The front of the building will be painted however not the back of the building at this time. Colors were approved by the City of Coral Gables. In approximately two years the building will be repainted in its entirety. The fences were redone and replaced with green color fences which look great.

Ponce de Leon Middle School Up-Date: After school tutoring began for those who need the extra assistant in passing successfully the FCAT. Students will participate in the new developed program called S.W.A.T. (students working towards their academic target). Children in this program focus on their natural academic strength and how to maintain them. On January 26, 2008, the official Spring Training Camp will commence for all of the students in the area of Writing, English, Science, Reading, and Math. Special Education students will be able to obtain FCAT tutoring in the morning. Who need extra assistant in the successful passing of the FCAT. Tutoring program have been scheduled and implemented. On January 31, 2008, a Curriculum Fair will give the incoming sixth graders what is expected of them.

Membership: School officials who represent the school are appointed by the City Commission and solely the member can request to be replaced. Information will be emailed by Secretary Garcia to the members.

City Commission Update: None

City Projects Update: See Educational Compact above.

Projected Meeting Dates: The SCRC will meet again on February 12, March 18, April 22, and May 20, 2008. All meetings will take place on a Tuesday, and at the Youth Centers' 2nd floor conference room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna G. Garcia
Recording Secretary