

SCRC Meeting Minutes

Date: July 18, 2025

Time: 8:30 AM

Location: Coral Gables

Roll Call:

- Winnie Chang
- Cecilia Slesnick
- Sandy Dimitris
- Andy Gomez
- Mary Palacio
- Sam Joseph

Guests:

- School Board Chair, Mari Tere Rojas
- Marlene Hernandez, School Board Chair Assistant
- Cristina Nevarez, Director of Education at Kristi House (invited by Sam)
- Ailette Rodriguez, MDCPS Governmental Affairs Liaison
- Miguel Rias, resident

Excused:

- Shaaron Watson
- Joshua Goodman

A. Approval of Minutes:

- Motion to approve by Andy Gomez, seconded by Sam Joseph. All approved.

B. No public comment

C. New Business

Chair Winnie Chang goes around the room and has everyone introduce themselves to the board.

C.-1: Mari Tere Rojas provided an update, highlighting the recent challenges faced by students and emphasizing the board's priorities: safety and security first, followed by academic excellence. For the sixth consecutive year, the school district has maintained its A rating. She recognized the efforts of teachers and administrators, noting that every school in Coral Gables is A-rated except for Ponce, which has improved from a C to a B. MSCPS increased the number of A-rated schools by 11% this year, ranking 8th out of 67

districts in Florida and being the largest district. The graduation rate for public schools in Miami-Dade County for the 2023/2024 school year is 91.8%, an increase of 1.5%. Board Member Gomez inquired about the percentage of students graduating from two-year versus four-year institutions, to which the School Board Chair responded that she would provide the information later. She also mentioned that she would recognize principals at an upcoming commission meeting, as discussed with Mayor Lago

C.-2: Introduced Chelsea but didn't get the chance to in person because she was sick.

C.-3: Board Member Slesnick is reappointed as board as a whole - Chang motions, Joseph seconds. Winnie Chang was renominated as Chair and Cecilia Slesnick nominated as Vice Chair.

D. No Old business

E. Ongoing Business

E.-1: Continuation of the education compact. Board goes over line by line to draft the compact.

Next meeting will be August 15

Adjourn at 10:21