

CORAL GABLES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

JANUARY 13, 2009

Coral Gables Police Department

Coral Gables, Florida

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

MEMBERS

Andrew Yagoda	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald Slesnick, Jr.
Joan Reitsma	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Victor Shabanah			P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager David Brown
Pat Kiel	P	E	P	P	E	P	E	A	Crime Watch
Barbra Harley	E	E	P	P	P		E	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera
Doug Austin						P	E	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Vacancy	P	P	P	P	*				PMS
Humberto Miret	A	P	P	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. M. DeJong, and Recording Secretary Anna Garcia

GUESTS:

JoAnne Gans, Principal of Coral Gables High School
Anna Rodriguez, Principal of Ponce de Leon Middle School

RECORDING SECRETARY: Anna G. Garcia

There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Excused Absence: It was noted for the record that no excused absences were turned into the secretary. A motion was made by Andrew Yagoda to excuse Barbra Harley from the November 2008 meeting. Vice-Chairperson Joan Reitsma seconded the motion.

Vacant Positions: Discussion ensued regarding the two vacant positions at this time. Principal Gans informed the committee that Dr. Nestor Diaz will be the representative from Coral Gables High School. At this time, Dr. Miret has not yet submitted his letter of resignation which is needed. Everyone welcomed Dr. Diaz and his 23 years of experience. Principal Ana Rodriguez mentioned that she is submitting a letter from the regional office approving her to be the representative from Ponce de Leon Middle School. Once the secretary receives the letters of resignation and appointment then she will turn it over to the commission.

Education Compact: Discussion ensued regarding the compact and that no major changes were made. Chairperson Korge stressed that she would inquire about the University of Miami's tutoring style which could accommodate tutoring/teaching styles at Ponce de Leon Middle to enable participating students to have more meaningful tutoring.

Minutes: A motion was made to accept the November 17, 2008 minutes with one minor change. Motion was made by Victor Shabanah and seconded by Andrew Yagoda. Motion was accepted and passed. The December 16, 2008, minutes were presented. Andrew Yagoda made a motion to accept and approve the minutes. Barbra Harley seconded the motion.

Informed Families: The committee members were invited to attend on Thursday, February 26, 2009, from noon to 1:00 pm the Lunch and Learn at Informed Families. The luncheon will be held at 2490 Coral Way. If you are planning to attend, kindly RSVP at www.informedfamilies.org. The topic for the February lunch is Media Literacy For Safety, Healthy, and Drug-Free Kids. The guest speaker is Dr. De Peter DeBenedittis. He is a dynamic person who talks about how the message we see and hear in the media are not always the messages being delivered.

Showcase Coral Gables High School: The Coral Gables High School is being videotaped to be shown during the Realtor Open House. This is an easier method to showcase the school instead of inviting each realtor to the school. In the past, the event would take place at night and entailed busing the realtors to the schools within the city. Due to budget constraints, videotaping the school would reduce cost and be a more effective way to showcase the school.

Grant: Ponce de Leon Middle School received a \$40,000 grant in order to assist the school with its Magnet Program. This will allow more training to be available for the teachers who teach the Magnet Program.

FCAT: It was mentioned that there are 35 days before the FCAT is administered again. Administration is currently focusing on 90 students. These students are being motivated through tutoring. These students were divided into different groups in order to assist them in passing the FCAT. FCAT Weekend Camp has been initiated where they review science, reading, and math on a rotation schedule Monday through Friday from 3:45 to 4:45 pm in the Media Center. Also an incentive program has been created for those students who are attending every day. Principal Rodriguez mentioned that she is confident that the tutoring will work. In addition, Acosta Farms has been paying for the tutoring and transportation expense that the school has incurred.

Coral Gables Police Department: The Youth Resource Unit was very busy during the month of December in collecting, organizing, and distributing the donated toys to various organizations. The Police Athletic League, Police Explorers, and the Fire Explorers assisted the Youth Resource Unit personnel in the collection. The organizations that received toys were Barnyard and Community Partnership for the Homeless. The leftover presents were given to Amigos for Kids. Sgt. DeJong mentioned that next year any left over presents would be handed over to Amigos for Kids.

Coral Gables High School Budget: Discussion ensued regarding that the budget has worsen and due to the absence of Mr. Humberto Miret who was an assistant principal, it is known already that a replacement will not take place. There are two assistant principals currently handling discipline when needed. There is no additional money in the system.

City Projects Update: None

Next Meeting Dates: The SCRC will meet again on February 10, 2009, at 6 PM at the Youth Center's 2nd floor conference room.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna G. Garcia-Recording Secretary