

# CORAL GABLES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

February 8, 2011

Coral Gables Police Department  
Coral Gables, Florida

MEMBERS:	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>O</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>J</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>APPOINTED BY:</u>
Andrew Yagoda	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Mayor Donald Slesnick, II.
Joan Reitsma	P	E	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Maria Anderson
Devang Desai		P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	City Manager Patrick Salerno
Pat Kiel	A	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Crime Watch
Barbra Harley	P	E	P	P	P	E	P	P	P	Commissioner Rafael "Ralph" Cabrera
Doug Austin	P	P	P	E	P	E	P	P	P	Vice Mayor William Kerdyk, Jr.
Janette Sierra	E	A	E	P	P	P	P	E	E	Ponce Middle School
Dr. Nestor Diaz	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	P	P	Coral Gables High School
Antonio Gonzalez	*	*	*	*	E	P	P	P	P	Commissioner Wayne "Chip" Withers

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

**STAFF:** Sgt. Melissa DeJong, Coral Gables Police Dept.

**GUESTS:** NONE

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Margo Berg

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*There being a quorum present the meeting was called to order at 6:06 by Chairperson Yagoda.*

**Excused Absence:** A motion to excuse the absence of committee member Janette Sierra was carried unanimously. Mr. Yader F. Lacayo was sent on her behalf to cover the meeting.

**Minutes:** The November 9, 2010, and the January 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes were approved.

### **Coral Gables Senior High ("CGSH"):**

<http://cghs.dadeschools.net/home.htm>

Computer based testing is coming from State. Two additional computer labs are ready, giving Coral Gables High 68 additional computer stations. Tomorrow, the District is hosting a training meeting on all procedures on FCAT testing and the end of course exam, including the computer base testing, at Hialeah- Miami Lakes. Coral Gables High hosting a couple of FCAT writing workshops on 2/18 and 2/26, this includes 10th graders. There will be half-day writing activities with a group of targeted 10<sup>th</sup> Grade students on 2/22 thru 2/28 to re-teach and clarify any writing deficiencies identified on the January writing assessment. The State has raised the bar. They need to get 4 points out of 6, instead of 3 out of 5, as it was before. The accountability of the school will be a challenge statewide. Articulation for 2011-12 began last Monday, in house, with 11th graders and half of the 10<sup>th</sup> graders. English teachers are an integral part of this process by walking their students to the Auditorium during class time. Orientation on subject selection for next year will take place. Four football players signed contracts with colleges. On 2/26 Coral Gables High is hosting a fundraiser for international causes expecting over 1,000 people. Coral Gables High anticipates collecting \$15,000 to \$20,000. 2/18 is Professional Development Day, hosting Student Meeting Conference expecting 700 teachers, open from 9AMto 5PM. Sgt. DeJong will send e-mail to Patrol Division reference the event on the 26th.

**Ponce Middle School (“PMS”):**

<http://ponce.dadeschools.net/>

This year 131, 5th graders qualified for Ponce Middle's IB Program. Ponce Middle is expanding incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Grade enrollment. Saturday school is up and running with 65 students attending voluntarily FCAT training classes; these students were chosen by their FCAT scores. They are students who with an extra push will be able to improve their scores. Ponce is doing pull- outs for Reading and Math. Two separate labs for students who are being pulled out for 40 minutes at a time from foreign language, P.E., music, etc. There is a beautification project this Saturday. Ponce is expecting 200 volunteers who will be working on landscaping from 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM. Students qualify to the IB Program based on their scores. There will be a two-day IB workshop in preparation for an IB evaluation visit. Ponce had 6th & 7th grade Articulation evaluation done. This IB evaluation is the second one with recertification every five years. Make-a-Wish Celebrity Softball Game with lots of celebrities will take place on 2/26 hosted by UM. Ponce has an intern in the Administrative Department getting a Master's Degree in FIU, who owns an IB School in Columbia. He has a lot of insight in the IB Program, and is being very helpful.

**Goals for the Committee:**

Concept of Adopt- a-Classroom Program is still active. In Coral Gables, there are several schools participating, Coral Gables Preparatory Academy, Coral Gables Senior High School, George W. Carver Elementary , Merrick Educational Center and West Lab Elementary.

Questions the committee discussed: Does the SCRC want to adopt a particular classroom? How does the SCRC gather financial support? How about a fundraiser? Should the SCRC make a contribution? The program starts by the teacher creating profile for the site. There is gap from teacher creating the profile on the site and the people knowing about it. Most money is in the elementary level. The SCRC should find a way of notifying the public of the program. E-News was mentioned. Is there a link between ComCast and the Gables Channel 77? Can the SCRC format a letter approved by the City outlining the object of the program to be disbursed through the commercial area? Can the SCRC use the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce? The Chamber of Commerce will give you 5 to 15 minutes to do a presentation and then they will review it and let you know if they agree to put it in the next month's agenda, as a speaker. Contact Arlene Martinez, Chairman of the Education Committee, she is already bringing this project to the Chamber. Can a public ad be placed through Channel 77? P. Kiel will check with Channel 77. There is also Coral Gables Radio station that could have an announcement made on. Chairperson will contact Arlene next week to get it on the agenda.

Last meeting the committee talked about contact PTA and newspapers and create a short statement –

Dear Residents: The City of Coral Gables School Relations Committee provides an alternative forum to resolve non-emergency issues concerning schools within the City limits and their neighbors. If you have a non-emergency concern in which the School Committee might aid in a discussion or a solution, please contact the committee via e-mail or telephone. Very truly yours, Andrew Yagoda.

The SCRC can pass this along, so we can be a sounding board to non-emergency issues concerning school within the City radius. Neighbors that have non-emergency issues can be resolved or discussed at the meetings. The committee will ask the Chief of Police whose e-mail address will be used for this. The statement will be for Ponce Middle and Coral Gables High only. The Chairman will re-word the statement and send it to Sgt. DeJong. Before there is a resolution amendment for the purpose of the committee, it needs to be discussed with the Police

Chief. There was discussion of whether the individual committee members wanted to talk to the Commission members who appointed them about a resolution amendment, for the changing the purpose of the SCRC or just to submit a resolution?

**Comments from Public in attendance:** There was no public in attendance.

**City Projects Update:** Nothing at this time.

**Coral Gables Police Department:** Margo Berg will be the Recording Secretary until the end of the school year as requested by Interim Chief Joseph McNichol. Sgt. DeJong will present the statement when completed by Chairman Yagoda to Interim Chief McNichol for approval.

**Next Meeting Dates:** The SCRC will meet again on March 8, 2011, at Coral Gables High School.

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margo Berg