

CORAL GABLES SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
Meeting Agenda
Friday, December 15, 2017

427 Biltmore Way
2nd Floor Conference Room
Coral Gables, Florida

| MEMBERS | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | APPOINTED BY |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------------------------|
| Ariel Fernandez (appointed in Sept.) | | - | | - | P | P | P | | | | | | Mayor Valdes-Fauli |
| Mary Snow | P | - | P | - | E | P | P | | | | | | Commissioner Quesada |
| Aileen Ortega | A | - | A | - | P | A | E | | | | | | Vice Mayor Keon |
| Samuel Joseph | P | - | P | - | P | A | P | | | | | | Commissioner Lago |
| Carmen Manrara-Cartaya | P | - | P | - | P | A | P | | | | | | Commissioner Mena |
| Sandy Dimitris | P | - | P | - | P | P | P | | | | | | City Manager Swanson-Rivenbark |
| Theresa Rice | P | - | P | - | P | P | A | | | | | | Commission-as-a-whole |

A = Absent
E = Excused Absence
P = Present
- = No meeting

STAFF:

Naomi Levi Garcia, Government Affairs Manager

GUESTS: Mayor Valdes-Fauli, Lisa Senior, Parmalyn Jacob, Adriana Lima, Gabriel Guazzo, Ruth Martinez, Suzette Ruiz, Iraida Mendez-Cartaya, Mari Tere Rojas.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Naomi Levi Garcia, Government Affairs Manager

The following represents a summary of the items discussed during the Committee meeting.

-MEETING AGENDA -

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Theresa and Aileen were absent. All other members were in attendance and a quorum was present. **Ariel made a motion to approve the November meeting minutes, the motion was seconded by Mary and passed unanimously.**

III. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Charter School Policy & Practice Review
 - MDCPS has 125 Charter Schools, very friendly to Charters. There are 4-5 district managed schools. The District only manages the “back end” they do not do the hiring.
 - The only true municipal Charters are in Aventura, Miami Shores and Hialeah.
 - Mayor discussed “hidden tax” of private school education.
 - Very unhappy with physical condition of Coral Gables Senior High.
 - Unhappy with craft section kids going to Tucker.
 - Unhappy with 16% of students going to West Lab and difficulty of purchasing seats.
 - GOB Project at CGSH is back in design phase to figure out how to spend \$11 million. Sam reiterates request for a town hall meeting and better communication from District to stakeholders.
 - Academica discusses its process- takes 1 ½ year to open a charter school. Needs approval by MDCPS. Non-profit governing board has to approach Academica as first step. Finding a suitable facility is often a challenge.
 - Somerset, which is operated by Academica, has been in Coral Gables since 2010 and has a certificate of use capped at 260. They are a K-5 and an A school, STEM designated. Percentage of residents and siblings is very high.
 - Representative Rojas discusses meeting that was had with Principal Costa, Region, Sam, etc. regarding CGSH marketing efforts and spreading the good word about the school, showcasing talent programs.
 - PTSA emphasizes the issue is not the quality of education it’s the condition of the facility “perception is reality”.
 - Should city avail itself of charter school option? Carmen frames discussion.
 - Usually municipalities will contract with a management company to run charter, but in some cases a municipality will run the school. Having a School District serve as the management company is also an option.

Charters have to be county-wide unless they are municipal charters. They can have geographic preferences.

- Sam says members should brief their commissioners on this conversation.

IV. ONGING BUSINESS

- a. Commission update on School Improvement Projects
 - SCRC is on board with presenting an update to the City Commission for first meeting in January.

V. Adjournment

Meeting ended at 9:40am. The next meeting will be held on January 19, 2017.