

CORAL GABLES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

March 18, 2008

Coral Gables Police Department

Coral Gables, Florida

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

MEMBERS

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

A=Absent
P= Present
E=Excused

GUESTS:

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

RECORDING SECRETARY: Anna G. Garcia

The meeting was called to order by Chair Korge at 6:12 pm. A quorum requirement was met by 6:13PM.

Minutes: Member Harold Cole made a motion to approve the minutes with minor changes noted. Motion was seconded by Member Barbra Harley. Motion carried approving the February 12, 2008 meeting minutes.

Excused Absence: Charlie Terry's family member requested an excused absence again and Lili Diaz requesting an excused absence because her son had surgery. Motion was made by Joan Reitsma and seconded by Member Harold Cole.

Unexcused Absence: Joan Reitsma was not present at the meeting February meeting because she noted the wrong date on her calendar. She is requested that her unexcused absence be changed to excused. Member Harold Cole made a motion and it was seconded by Member Pat Kiel.

Education Compact: The Miami Dade School Board kiosk has been installed at the Youth Center as stated in the Education Compact. There has been numerous numbers of people using the kiosk at the center.

Student Art Work: The art work maybe displayed on the windows only. Sgt. DeJong will ask Insurance and Safety if there are any concerns or issues to take into consideration when using the empty facility.

Black Out Day: Principals from Coral Gables High School and Ponce de Leon Middle School mentioned that they thanked the outstanding Coral Gables Police Officers for their services on that day. The response, professionalism, and support displayed from the officers were noticeable and recognized. These officers made a chaotic situation run as best that it could under the circumstances. The shut-down system is in place however the parents coming to the school makes things difficult. A lack of parking spaces is a problem; however, with the influx of parents coming to pick up their children make things more difficult. However at Ponce de Leon Middle School, reported that they were organized when releasing the students to the parents. Coral Gables High School administration is concerned about the influx and the out of control parents. This will be discussed further and a plan of action will be developed for any future emergency. Members asked if students are allowed to use their cell phones. Overall, teachers continued to teach and students continued to participate, students were taking tests– things were running as usual stated Principal Gans. She was very impressed with the calmness of the students and the teachers. Principal Rodriguez mentioned that while Ponce de Leon Middle School was in lockdown, policies in placed were followed and everything ran smoothly. One negative factor was that there was too much chattering on the school radios which will be re-evaluated for any future events. In addition, the Coral Gables High School and Assistant Principals will be taking an on-line Homeland Security Course along with an examination at the end of the course.

Coral Gables High School Remodeling: The front of the building will be painted with new color theme. The interior of the school will be painted with a rich terracotta color. Administration is excited about the paint colors that will make the school look so much better. Mr. Miret is in negotiations with the painters regarding painting the sides of the building. Painting should be completed by June 30. New fencing will be installed shortly in three sections of the school. In addition, the computer lab at Coral Gables High School is being rewired and more new computers have been ordered which is a positive step forward.

FCAT: The testing has begun and more to discussed at the next meeting for both schools. At this time Coral Gables High School reported that the students had completed the writing portion of the examination. Make-up sessions are taking place and will be completed on March 25, 2008. During the nine weeks of school, students will be taking a test every day. Both schools noted that this year the FCAT was very difficult. FCAT results will be received sometime in June.

Budget Cuts: Members asked if the Miami-Dade School System have any mechanism in place asking for donations from businesses. Members suggested that perhaps the PTA can notify parents that the school is in desperate need of toner, paper, and staples. A request to the parents can be done through the PTA; donate either supplies needed or money. Vice-Chairperson Reitsma suggested that the PTA needs to get creative in asking for donations. Principal Gans reported that the after-school and Saturday tutoring have been eliminated at this time. In addition, ordering of any office supplies have ceased. Principal Rodriguez mentioned that she has not hired as many substitute teachers in an

effort to reduce expenses. Both principals don't know how much of a budget cut will occur but she will bring more information to the next months meeting.

Metrorail Area: Member Harold Cole mentioned that through Crime Stoppers many ideas were discussed in order to combat the crime in the Metrorail Area with the Coral Gables High School Interact Club, the club will undertake this project. The club members will focus in educating and making students understand the importance of reporting crime. For any crime being reported and the conviction, the possibility of money is a major reward for a student. Also the Gun Program is in effect which provides \$1000.00 to the person who brings forward a weapon. Confidentially is kept and no records are kept for the protection of the person reporting the crime or the turning in of a weapon.

Ponce de Leon Middle School: Tutoring will be available at the Youth Center for the next school year. The tutoring will be provided by Ponce de Leon Middle School faculty members. The seventh graders are challenged to design the Red Ribbon National Slogan for this year.

International Baccalaureate Program Up-Date: Ponce de Leon is still waiting for the letter from Geneva stated that Ponce is the newest I.B. Program in Miami-Dade County. Ponce de Leon Middle School received 700 applications which doubled from last year for the I.B. Program. Out of the 700 applications received, 470 applicants qualified and accepted.

City Commission Update: None

City Projects Update: See Educational Compact above.

Next Meeting Dates: The SCRC will meet again on April 22, 2008, at Ponce de Leon Middle School starting at 6 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna G. Garcia
Recording Secretary