

1. Letter of Intent

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Via Hand Delivery

September 3, 2009

Mr. Eric Riel, Jr.
Planning Director
The City of Coral Gables
427 Biltmore Way, 2nd Floor
Coral Gables, Florida 33134

Re: Gulliver Academy – Zoning
Our File No.: 05L-263
Property: 12595 Red Road

Dear Mr. Riel:

Our office represents Gulliver Schools, Inc., the owner of the referenced property more commonly known as Gulliver Academy. Gulliver Schools has 5 campuses but only Gulliver Academy is within the City limits of Coral Gables. Gulliver is revising its previously approved Master Campus Plan to accommodate anticipated future needs.

The total site area of the Gulliver Academy is +/- 18.8 acres or +/- 820,000 square feet. The current building area is +/- 84,500 square feet. Under the proposed revised Master Plan approximately 22,875 square feet will be demolished and eventually a total of 116,446 square feet will be added, of which 24,450 square feet the City approved under a previous Master Plan submittal. The request results in a total of 69,7121 square feet of new construction spread out over a number of years.

The proposed revisions are a 38,140 square foot gymnasium/auditorium, classroom buildings totaling 58,370 square feet, a baseball field house and a 28,200 square foot natatorium (indoor pool building) to replace the existing swimming pool and related buildings.

Mr. Eric Riel
September 3, 2009
Page 2

Gulliver Academy is home to 1162 students from pre kindergarten through 8th grade. The City imposed this student enrollment cap in 1998 and none of the proposed revisions to the Master Plan will result in an increase in student enrollment.

The plans for a gymnasium will relocate the existing outdoor basketball courts to the indoors and the natatorium will relocate an outdoor pool indoors reducing potential for noise from athletic games to disturb neighboring residences. Parking will be increased with restriping and paving of existing parking at the north end of campus and parking is proposed under the gymnasium. Neither outdoor lighting nor an amplified sound system is proposed for the athletic fields.

The current hours of operation for the school are from 7:15 am to 7:00 p.m. Early morning drop-off starts at 7:15 and runs through 8:30 a.m. Classes start for grades 5-8 at 8:00 am, at 8:10 am for grades 1-4 and at 8:20 for pre kindergarten, junior and senior kindergarten. Dismissals range from 2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. for the kindergartens, 2:45 – 3:15 p.m. for 1st grade; 3:00 – 3:15 p.m. for grades 2-4; and 3:20 – 3:45 p.m. for grades 5-8. Gulliver Academy currently employs three (3) Coral Gables off duty police officers to assist with morning drop off and four (4) off duty police officers for the afternoon pick up. After school care is available until 6:00 pm and most after school athletic events conclude by 6:30 pm and non athletic after school events conclude by 7:00 p.m. The exception to this would be drama productions that would end around 8:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Attached is a list of scheduled Special Events at the Academy campus.

Should you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Laura L. Russo

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Enclosure

Exhibit "A"

2009-2010 Academy

AUGUST

8/19/09: Parent Association – Welcome day event; parents welcome: about 25 parents new parents; Library day event, parents welcome: about 50 parents

SEPTEMBER

9/1/09: Grades 5/6 & PCMS - Back to School Night after school event for parents: about 200 attendees

9/3/09: Grades 7/8 Back to School Night after school event for parents: about 200 attendees

9/9/09: LS back to school night; after school event for parents: about 200 attendees

OCTOBER

10/30/09: Grades 7/8 Halloween Dance evening event for students - parents will drop off and pick up MS Halloween Costume Contest

NOVEMBER

11/10/09: MS & PCMS Open House: Prospective Parents – Library day event - about 150 attendees

11/12/09: Grade 8 Parent Meeting at Prep / 7:00 p.m.

DECEMBER

12/3/09 Holiday Marketplace day event - parents invited: about 200 attendees

JANUARY

1/9/10: Grades 5-8 Admissions testing day event - parents drop off and pick up applicants

MARCH

3/17/10: Grade 6-8 Science Showcase day event - parents invited: about 50 attendees

APRIL

4/22-24/09: Drama Spring Production – H7 after school event: about 100 attendees

MAY

5/6/10: Grade 6-WORLD EXPO day event - parents invited: about 50 attendees; Thespian Banquet