

# CORAL GABLES SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING

January 11, 2011

Coral Gables Police Department  
Coral Gables, Florida

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

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Sgt. Melissa DeJong

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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.

**Minutes:** No prior meeting minutes to approve. November minutes were not ready and there was no formal meeting in December.

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

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

The official grade for Coral Gables High School was announced in December as being an "A" school. This morning the City Commission recognized the school for its accomplishment in earning the A. The midterm exams for the high school begin on 1/12/11. On 1/19/11, "Crunch Time" for preparing for advanced tests begins. The school will really begin to focus on studying and preparing for FCAT, Advanced Placement and other tests that will start late in March. They will be conducting additional workshops, some on Saturdays in an effort to improve scores.

On 1/26/11 & 1/27/11 the school will host academy days. This event allows the students explore the academies to help them decide which academies they may want to enter. Each academy or special program sets up a display table showcasing the program and allows the students to discuss opportunities with the faculty that run those programs. There are also things such as dual enrollment program, AP classes, cooking academy, drama, accounting and many more.

Discussion on keeping the school in classroom size compliance, currently they are four over at the moment, but it is constantly changing because students transfer into and out of the school.

On 2/22/11-2/24/11, the SACS, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools is coming to assess the school; this is for renewal of a five year accreditation.

**Ponce Middle School (“PMS”):**

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

No report from Ponce Middle, due to representative's Excused Absence.

**Goals for the Committee:**

There was a lengthy discussion on goals and scope of the committee. A review of what was required of the committee, number of meetings, terms and function. There was discussion of having meetings less often than monthly.

We will try and promote the committee in the Enews, by adding contact information for the committee at the end of announcements that are published. Discussion of putting information about the SCRC on the City's cable channel 77. There was discussion of ability to put information monthly on city website, Coral Gables High newspaper and the PTSA for CGHS. The committee needs to get more specific information from schools as to how the committee can help.

The SCRC needs to get the information about the SCRC out and get more public input. This should make the committee more active.

The committee needs to develop concise reports to share positive news about the schools with the public. Discussion of whether the schools could develop short reports, such as video reports with positive news about their schools that could be submitted to Channel 77 to be played on the station. We need to use the different means of communication, such as the Coral Gables High text/hotline (786-586-0100), Crime Watch Text Hotline (274637) for more immediate concerns and the SCRC for less urgent matters. The committee agreed that we need to target the parents, not student in order to further the goals of the committee.

On 1/28/11, 8AM at the Youth Center there will be a Realtor Showcase. The city will highlight the benefits of the city. The schools will also participate both public and private schools.

The Chairman stated again would like to add Coral Gables K-8 Preparatory Academy and other schools to the scope of the committee.

Chairman Yagoda advised that he would work on a concise report about the committee that we could release to the various PTSAs.

Chairman Yagoda asked Devang Desai to put information on adopt a classroom together.

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

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

**Coral Gables Police Department:** Sgt. DeJong announced the birth of Brandon James Segovia to the recording secretary Jodi Segovia today.

**Next Meeting Dates:** The SCRC will meet again on February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 at Coral Gables High School.

*There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 PM.*

Respectfully Submitted,

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Sgt. Melissa DeJong