

**CORAL GABLES SCHOOL COMMUNITY RELATIONS COMMITTEE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2016 – 8:30 A.M.
CITY HALL
CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA**

MEMBERS	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul. 24	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	APPOINTED BY
Ruth Martinez				P	-	E	E	P	P	P	P		Mayor Cason
													Vice Mayor Quesada
Aileen Ortega				P	-	A	P	P	P	P	E		Commissioner Keon
Samuel Joseph				P	-	P	P	P	P	P	P		Commissioner Lago
David Bianchi				P	-	P	P	P	P	A	P		Commissioner Slesnick
Nan Markowitz				P	-	P	P	E	P	P	P		City Manager Swanson-Rivenbar
Dana Peterson										P	P		Commission-as-a-whole

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

STAFF:

Naomi Levi, Government Affairs Manager

GUESTS: Dr. Jaques Bentolila Sgt. Dench, Sgt. Walker

RECORDING SECRETARY:

Naomi Levi, 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 8:34am.

II. ROLL CALL

All members were present except Aileen Ortega, who had an excused absence. A quorum was present.

III. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Nan moved to approve the minutes from January 15, 2016 and Ruth seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. MDCPS/Public School Issues: Homework

- Dr. Bentolila was not prepared to discuss this issue; however, following the last SCRC meeting Ms. Mendez-Cartaya provided the committee with research used to develop the MDCPS homework policy.
- Sam summarized the District’s research for the committee and stated that it was inconclusive.
- Sam posed a question to the committee: now that we know what the research says, do we want to make a statement as a committee to echo what we’ve been hearing from parents? (parents who have attended SCRC meetings would like to see a reduction in homework rather than the elimination of homework).
- Sam stated that based on his own experience, his 1st grade daughter receives about 2 hours of homework per day.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. MDCPS Staff Report

- School populations at Carver Elementary, Sunset Elementary and Coral Gables Prep were discussed.

	Carver	Sunset	CG Prep
October 2014	442	838	1117
Current	399	717	1117

- The committee was told to look online for school climate surveys in order to address questions about class size and school demographics.
- School budgets were generally discussed: 100% of a school budget is tied to student population but the majority of a budget is devoted to employee salaries.
- The difference between a magnet strand and magnet school was discussed e.g. Carver elementary has an Italian magnet strand and West Lab is a magnet school.
- Teacher evaluations were discussed and the committee asked Dr. Bentolila to provide additional info on the VAM score, and grading instruments for teachers.

B. School Security

- School Police Sergeants Walker and Dench were present to answer questions about the recent lockdowns at Carver Elementary and Tucker Elementary
- City of Miami, City of Coral Gables and School Board Police responded to the lockdowns.
- The lockdown was caused by a gun that was shot off of school grounds but the bullet entered a portable.
- Once the lockdown is initiated everyone “freezes”, doors are locked, and a perimeter is set up.
- The first priority is to secure the campus and protect everyone inside, the second priority is to communicate with parents through Connect Ed or DadeSchools App.
- Parents will be granted access once the lockdown is lifted
- There is a countywide initiative by school resource officers to provide presentations about proper lockdown procedures.

VI. PUBLIC HEARING

Several members of the public attended the meeting and discussed their experiences with excessive homework and asked questions about lockdown procedures.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:38 am.

Next Meeting:

Next meeting will be on March 18, 2016

