



COBIS Meeting AGENDA
Monday, October 24, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Via Zoom

1. Welcome
2. Approval of COBIS Minutes of 10-27-21 Zoom Meeting
3. Treasurer's Report..... Edith Ysada
4. Discussion on COBIS Elections & FAANS representation
5. School Accreditation recognitions
6. ISSF Updates
7. FAANS *(including Legislative updates)*
8. New Business

CONGRATULATIONS to EDISON PRIVATE SCHOOL for their acquisition and expansion of a new Campus getting ready to open this January. The 12-acre “EDISON PRIVATE SCHOOL WEST CAMPUS” is located in Port Richey, on the West Coast of Florida.



Council of Bilingual Schools (COBIS)

Meeting Minutes October 27, 2021

COBIS MEETING MINUTES October 27, 2021

Proposed Minutes provided by
Maggie Jimenez-Foyo, COBIS Secretary

Members Present:

Champagnat Catholic School – Isabel Alonso
Champagnat Catholic School – Nuria Sanchez
Edison Private School – Margarita Jimenez
Schoolhouse Preparatory – Dr. Jillian De Villiers
Highpoint Academy – Alicia Casanova
Highpoint Academy Coral Way – Alicia Casanova
Jose Marti School (27th Ave Campus) – Milagros Beovides
Jose Marti School (32nd Ave Campus) – Edith Ysada

Guest(s):

Member(s) Absent:

Call to Order

- The COBIS Fall meeting was called to order at **6:04 p.m. (ZOOM MEETING)**

Business

The Financial Report presented by Treasurer; Edith Ysada- The balance of statements as of 10/27/2021 (\$10,372.85) The total includes all dues for this year, minus all service fees. Ms. Ysada recommended the changing of banks due to all the service fees incurred at the present bank City National. The bank is small and does not offer online services and branch locations are limited.

Motion 1:10.21 Edith Ysada motion to allow her to acquire information from different banks for the purpose of reducing the cost of fees. Report back the best options Secoded by Dr. Jillian De Villiers

Motion Adopted

- Christmar school did not deposit their refund check. Ms. Ysada has been trying to reach the school to get confirmation of receipt of the check. Margarita Jimenez stated that the school buildings are for sale. It is assumed the school is closed. Ms. Ysada will consult with the accountant for the next steps to take.

Financial Report accepted by all.

Minutes

Margarita Jimenez reviewed minutes 09/23/2020)

2:10.21 Edith Ysada motion to approve minutes Secoded by Dr. Jillian De Villiers

Motion Adopted

FAANS

Ms. Casanova provided FAANS update.

1. James Herzog is () requesting information from all agencies for a 2 million project bill. It must include student enrollment and total enrollment of Scholarship students. All members provided information and Ms. Casanova will submit the information to Mr. Herzog.

2. Ms. Casanova reviewed all Implementation of Key Bills from 2021

- SB 52 Dual Enrollment- 15.5 million additional funds
 - HB 1159 regarding Add-On Endorsement
 - HB 131 regarding Educator Conduct (Tougher Guidelines)
If an employee has committed a crime law enforcement must notify the school within 48 hours. If the crime is towards a child, the employee must be Terminated.
 - FAANS still pushing for an increased rate for VPK
 - Scholarships are getting strong and they have all scholarships have been blended into FES.
 - FAANS always working in protecting private school autonomy.
- (Ms. Casanova provided all attachments.)

ISSF

- ISSF will be limiting their events.
- Both the "Leadership Series" and the "Star Awards" will be held virtually.
- All videos are in the ISSF Website. All Schools will be charged one fee for both
- The Star Awards provided a slide presentation of all winners for all schools.
- The Geography Bee will be cancelled for this school year.
- ISSF is providing a free video of Dr. Moreno Stress and Anxiety presentation.
- Ms. Casanova navigated through the issfschools.org to show all the different that webinars are available.

Accreditation

The dates for the 2022 Accreditation visit are as follows:

ALL schools up for re-accreditation in 2021/2022 need to submit the "NIPSA-Self -Study" at least two weeks before their scheduled visit.

April 1, 2022	Jose Marti Schools (2)	COBIS
April 8, 2022	Schoolhouse Preparatory	COBIS, COGNIA, NIPSA
May 6, 2022	Brito Miami Private	COBIS, COGNIA, NIPSA

Jose Marti School will only apply for the COBIS Accreditation

Additional COBIS Business

Governor De Santis requesting special session for the removal of mask and vaccine mandates.

Ms. Casanova reviewed with all schools the safety procedures for COVID in all COBIS schools.

All COBIS Schools are keeping a strict mask protocol and have procedures in place if closure is needed.

Adjournment

- The COBIS Fall meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

COBIS TREASURER'S REPORT

October 19, 2022

Financials provided by
Edith Ysada, COBIS Treasurer

COBIS 2022				
	Ending Balance 2021			\$ 13,782.08
Checks	Date	Check #		
		1245 Voided Check		
		1246 Sotolongo and Associates	\$ 125.00	
		1247 Citi Master Card	\$ 259.21	
	Total Checks:		\$ 384.21	\$ 384.21
Service Fees				
	18-Jan	Month of January	\$ 19.29	
	18-Jan	Month of Jan Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	15-Feb	Month of February	\$ 18.91	
	15-Feb	Month of February Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	21-Mar	Month of March	\$ 19.02	
	21-Mar	Month of March Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	15-Apr	Month of April	\$ 19.33	
	15-Apr	April Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	1-May	Month of May	\$ 18.96	
	14-May	May Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	14-Jun	Month of June	\$ 18.93	
	14-Jun	June Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	15-Jul	Month of July	\$ 18.97	
	15-Jul	July Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	16-Aug	Month of August	\$ 18.94	
	16-Aug	August Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	15-Sep	Month of September	\$ 18.94	
	15-Sep	September Paper Statement Fee	\$ 10.00	
	Total Service Fees:		\$ 261.29	\$ 261.29
Deposits				
	Total Deposits:			\$ -
Total Checkbook Balance		As of 09/30/2022		\$ 13,136.58

Discussion on COBIS Elections and
FAANS Representation
for the school year 2023-2024.



Nominate NURIA SANCHEZ as the new COBIS “Executive Director” to attend FAANS Meeting starting in the Fall of 2023.



ISSF

Leadership Series



Various seminars are offered annually to educator leaders from both public and private schools. The seminars feature outstanding presenters in their field. The Leadership Series offers opportunities for advanced professional learning and/or in-service credit for Administrators and Teachers.

INFO ON LEADERSHIP SERIES #1 - 9/28/22

INFO ON LEADERSHIP SERIES #2 - 10/26/22

INFO ON LEADERSHIP SERIES #3 - 12/2/22



ISSF

"Star Awards"

Ceremony and Luncheon



We will once again be having an in-person "STAR AWARDS" LUNCHEON to honor our "Star Students." Over 800 guests are expected to attend. Gold medals are given to those students selected from each member school for their outstanding achievements in numerous areas.

ISSF "STAR AWARDS LUNCHEON"

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Location: Doubletree by Hilton Miami Airport Convention Center

Address: 711 NW 72nd Ave. Miami, Fl 33126



Geography Bees

ISSF coordinates two annual Geography Bees for Middle School and High School Students of our member schools..

Students compete in teams in a round robin competition for First, Second and Third place trophies for the schools and Medals for each team member. These awards are presented during the annual "Star Awards" Luncheon.

2023 GEOGRAPHY BEES:

- **Middle School: Tuesday, February 28, 2023**
- **High School: Tuesday, March 7, 2023**
- **Location: Coral Gables Women's Club**
- **Starting time: 8:30 a.m.**

(Details to follow)



ISSF

Administrator's Holiday Luncheon



ISSF celebrates the Holidays through its annual "Holiday Luncheon" for Administrators of its member schools. This social event offers members an opportunity to socialize, share and have fun with a "Holiday Raffle" that takes place that day.

RESERVE THE DATE: Friday, December 2, 2022 (location TBA)

ISSF LEADERSHIP SERIES

Webinar #2

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

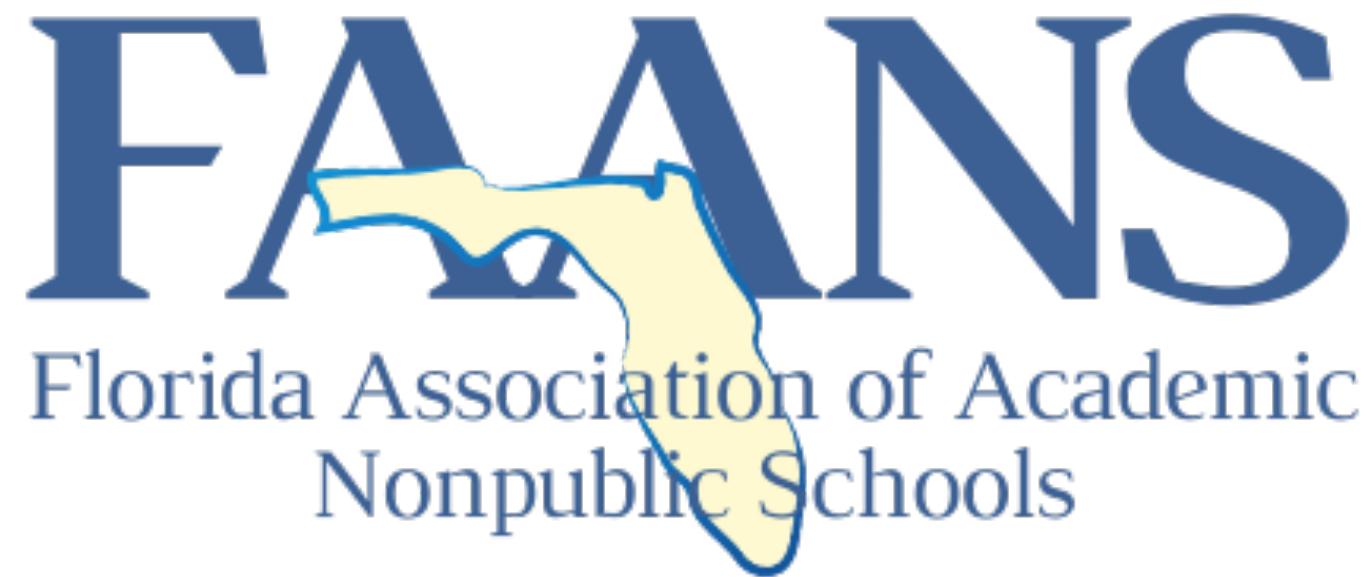
“Elevating Your Lessons” with
TONY VINCENT

	October 26, 2022
Alexander Montessori	Anne Becton Olga Fuentes Ismary Hassun Virginia Vaca Michael Aupont
Biltmore School	Gina Romero Duarte Sofia Romero Ana Seane
Blessed Trinity	Jean Paul Russo Ryan Foley Kinga Adamczyk Vanessa Clark Susy Del Riego
Brito Miami	Christina Rajo
Cushman School	Jesse Jordan Kyllene Carter: Rachael Lackenmier: Chantal Franzosa Melissa Martin
Edison School	Margarita Jimenez Vanessa Castillo
Florida Christian	Patricia Perez Lisa Pericles Daniel Carp Jeannine Stemmer Daisy Valdes
Gulliver	Carow Williams Christine Cuesta Christy Acosta Payam Hendi Rick Cruz
Highpoint Academy	Monica Torres Melissa Gonzalez Annelisse Castillo Ileana Callejas
Miami Christian	Chris Cuadra Lorena Morrison
Our Lady of the Lakes	Gisis Mora
Schoolhouse Prep	Jillian De Villiers Cynthia Martinez Christine Kopp
St. Stephens Episcopal	Valeria Rodriguez Katherine Mohr Sheryl Palumbo Jenny Diaz Chase Piper
Temple Beth Am	Melissa Greenstein



AGENDA for September 20, 2022 FAANS Meeting

- 9 a.m. Welcome, Introductions, and Housekeeping
Review and approval of Minute from the January meeting
Commissioner Manny Diaz – tentative time slot (video)
Adam Emerson, Executive Director, Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice
Financial Report
Membership & Standards Committee Report
- 10 a.m. Abby Ivey, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Articulation, Division of Florida Colleges (video)
Brooks Rumenik, Deputy Director, Office of Safe Schools (video or in person)
Craig Damon, Executive Director of FHSAA
Cassandra Jackson, VPK Program and Policy Manager, DEL (video)
- 11:30 a.m. Andrew Warnock, Operations and Management Consultant II, DCF
FAANS Charter & Bylaws; purpose of FAANS lunch discussion
- Noon Lunch and presentation from Catapult
- 1 p.m. Amy Graham, VP, Policy Innovation and Empowerment, SUFS
David Struh, Director, Foundation for Florida's Future
- 2 p.m. Legislative Committee Report, James Herzog, Director of Legislative Services (video)
FAANS Charter & Bylaws discussion
Code of Ethics
Other Business
- 3 p.m. Adjourn





FAANS Meeting Notes

Orlando

September 20, 2022

Commissioner Manny Diaz welcomes the group. States he will continue advocating for School Choice throughout the State, etc.

Adam Emerson. Executive Director of the Office of Independent Edu and Parental Choice. He's been a Charter School Champion for over 15 years.

- The outlook for Choice in the State is extremely positive. The new Commissioner is totally supportive.
- The dollars will be following the child. Creating more portability and more options for families are being prioritized.
- There are not modifications on the table to modify any of the Standards for Step-Up/AAA.

Howard Burke. The Legislative Committee will be working on how to fund James Herzog's salary for lobbying and legislative initiatives since there are not enough funds currently available in the FAANS Budget for this.

FAANS Standards. Discussion on upcoming revisions to the FAANS Standards. We need to think about what FAANS' mission is and what is the nature of FAANS. Membership & Standards Committee will be working on these revisions to present to members at the Spring Meeting.

Abby Ivey, Asst. Vice-Chancellor (FDOE) see Agenda for full title)

Dual Enrollment Overview - Section(s.) 1007.271, Florida Statutes.(see photo of slide)

Students in Grades 6 to 12 qualify. Min 3.0 unweighted high school GPA.

Private School Articulation Agreement for dual enrollment for private school students.(See photo) section 1011.62

There's a concern that College tuition being requested by the Colleges and schools not being reimbursed. This has been an ongoing problem. The language of the bill prohibits prohibiting charging schools for upfront materials. The Statute is sent on tuition being charged upfront.

Typically 30 days after enrollment before each term, request for reimbursement needs to be submitted (3 times year instead of once a year like before).

Meeting Notes prepared by
Alicia A. Casanova,
COBIS Pres.

A clear rule still needs to be developed to provide clarity to private schools.

Brooks Rumenik - Office of Safe Schools (S. 1001.212, F.S.). Primary focus is prevention and preparedness planning.

Craig Damon, Executive Director of FHSAA.

Explained problem taking place with children enrolled in both FLVS-Flex and the statute being taken advantage of.

Brenda Dickinson is now working with

Damon to try to define the language so that kids can't take advantage of this.

We want to make sure that public/private are not separated.

If we get separated it would be extremely expensive., especially because of our geography in Florida. Damon is trying to help private schools.

Cassandra Jackson, VPK Program & Policy Manager. (Slide presentation will be shared.)

VPK requirements are transitioning to a completely new system this year with a lot of changes being implemented.

FAST definitions (on slide)

Administration requirements: www.floridalearning.com/vpk/fast

Star Parent Report results must be provided to families within 7 days of each progress monitoring administration.

State Board of Education Rules. 6M-8.620 was approved by the State Board of Education on August 17, 2022 and it is fully effective.

Renaissance System Support 1-800—338-4204.

Policy Questions: VPKFAST@oel.myflorida.com

CLASS - Classroom Assessment Scoring System. Measure effectiveness of classroom interactions. In 2019, HB 419, revamped the VPK accountability system

VPK Accountability - VPK Provider Performance Metric for the 23/24 school year.

James Herzog

- Jennifer Canady, Wife of Supreme Court Justice |Justice Charles Canaya, private school background. (Lakeland Christian School).
- School safety Training - we're trying to get funding. We've had five of our goals passed but not safety yet.

Amy Graham - Step Up For Student

Scholarship Program Numbers:

- For the income based programs: 272,046 student applications for this year.
- For the FES and Florida Tax Credit Scholarship: 241,950 submitted applications.
- Enrollment numbers for both programs: 175,501. Applications still coming in daily.

- FES: 86,790 applications started. 81,300 submitted applications. 61,668 awarded students in FES.
- They're still working on supplemental funding.
- Waiting list is ongoing but that list should be reduced in the next few weeks.
- Students being funded with FTC before could not take FVHS without paying for those courses. This has changed. Amy will be looking into it with FVHS.

Alexis - The Heritage Foundation.

- Why wasn't Florida ranked number 1 .
- DeSantis said he wanted to modernize the scholarship program including creating an account where parents can use the money for a host of other options. The Governor committed to working on this.
- Amy - She's been hearing from the Senate (SB 48) side component of converting everything to an ESA (Education Savings Account)
- They're working on removing August, 2022.
- 2,042 private schools responded (reported) :
- Total enrollment of 314k students and 53% were either on FTC or FEO.
- 84,884 seats available for students. They all had room for new students:
- 41 students per school average.
- Participating private schools are operation at a 78% capacity.

David Struh, Director - Foundation for Florida's Future - Advocating for Educational Choice.

- They mainly are a legislative lobbying arm representing choice for students and families.
- Jeb Bush remains Chairman of the Board.
- They're supportive of the ESA and looking at possibility that ALL students throughout Florida have all choices possible.
- KAHN Academy - private online school based in Arizona. Children sometimes do well in a remote environment. They're looking at the hybrid model.
- They're trying to get rid of the wait list . Family should have unlimited access to funds to cover all services their child needs.

Next FAANS Meeting: Wed., March 22, 2023. Hotel Duval Tallahassee

FAANS Legislative Report September 20, 2022

Attachment –



FAANS Legislative Report for September 2022 Meeting

Respectfully Submitted by James Herzog, Director of Legislative Services

Introduction: Major factors impacting next year’s Legislative Session will grow clearer once the November 2022 election cycle is completed. Depending upon the results, the following legislators are expected to preside as leaders of their respective chambers:

- Kathleen Passidomo, R, Naples – Senate President- Designate; and,
- Paul Renner, R, Palm Coast – House Speaker-Designate.

Analysis: It will be important to discern where Senate and House leaders stand on issues of significance to nonpublic schools. To this end, the following background information is offered.

<p>*In her Aug. 23, 2022 memo, Senate President-Designate Passidomo wrote:</p> <p>“Senate Republicans have delivered the largest expansion of school choice in our state’s history. We have delivered education gains for our K-12 students and are proud to have the No. 1 state University system in the country. We’ve delivered teacher pay raises, put more money in the classroom and prioritized keeping our students safe.”</p> <p>*Link: https://floridapolitics.com/archives/551330-kathleen-passidomo-lays-out-senate-gop-message-for-midterms/</p>	 <p>Kathleen Passidomo, Senate President- Designate</p>
<p>In an article dated Sept. 22, 2021, House Speaker-Designate Renner was quoted as follows:</p> <p>“I think choice is really about, not just the building you’re in, but about making sure that every child gets a customized education,” Renner said, adding that each student learns differently. “We need to make sure that we’re continuing to evaluate students every year and that we’re customizing their education to best suit their individual needs.”</p> <p>+Link: https://news.wfsu.org/state-news/2021-09-22/state-representatives-choose-rep-paul-renner-as-the-next-speaker-of-the-florida-house</p>	 <p>Paul Renner, House Speaker- Designate</p>

Senate President-Designate Passidomo is Catholic and an attorney by trade. She and her husband John have three children.

House Speaker-Designate Renner is Christian and a retired Navy Commander. He served in Operation Desert Storm in 1991 and Operation Enduring Freedom in 2011. He is married and his wife’s name is Adriana. The couple has no children. During his designation ceremony last fall, Renner spoke about his background as the son of a pastor and a schoolteacher.

Seeking New Champions: Due to term limits and other reasons, several key legislators who had served as sponsors for FAANS priority initiatives have left the Florida Legislature. FAANS will thus likely need to make a concerted effort to rebuild effective working relationships with legislators and aides. One promising development on the horizon was the election results from House District 50 as excepted from an article below.

*“**Jennifer Canady**, the wife of Florida Supreme Court Justice **Charles Canady**, defeated Lakeland City Commissioner **Phillip Walker** in HD 50 by a 64%-36% vote. The Polk County district, centered on Lakeland, is analogous to the pre-redistricting House District 40, where Republican Rep. **Colleen Burton** is termed out after eight years in the House.

The Representative-elect’s background is in education. She has taught at the Lakeland Christian School for 15 years, where she now leads STEM and robotics programs, and taught fifth grade at Carlton Palmore Elementary and Cleveland Court Elementary.”

*Link: <https://floridapolitics.com/archives/550623-josie-tomkow-re-elected-jennifer-canady-and-brad-yeager-win-first-term-after-central-florida-gop-primaries/>

Draft Goals for 2023 Session: During its April 25th conference call, the FAANS Executive Committee discussed the two following preliminary goals for 2023:

Providing School Safety Training – For many years, public schools have had steady access to Florida taxpayer funds for hardening the physical security of campuses and promoting other safety measures. The Legislature allocated \$230 million for the 2022-2023 fiscal year alone. Meanwhile, most nonpublic schools receive no State security funding whatsoever.

- A \$500,000 budget bill will facilitate safety training for nonpublic school administrators and other community stakeholders via in-person and online workshops.
- Training sessions will foster ongoing conversations and effective working relationships between school communities and local law enforcement officials.
- The project will promote free or low-cost resources for schools such as the State’s FortifyFL app for reporting suspicious activity and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) security and vulnerability assessments.

Analysis: The Legislative Budget Request (LBR) prepared by the Florida Department of Education earlier this month calls for a \$22,000,000 increase in school hardening funds for districts. This would bring the total line item to \$42,000,000. The following rationale was cited:

“New schools are opening every year and many of those are charter schools that own or lease facilities in shopping centers, churches, and other properties that are not adequately secured to enhance student safety.”

Furthermore, the LBR calls for a total of \$4,000,000 in security funding for Jewish Day Schools.

“This request continues the state’s support to help protect religious freedom in Florida and increase the safety and security of Florida’s Jewish Communities. These funds will continue to be used to provide funding for security guards for approximately 13,000 students, staff, parents, and bus drivers on the campus of Jewish Day Schools across the state.”

*Link: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20174/urllt/FinalGreenbook.pdf>

Leaders at other faith-based schools are expected to advocate for security funding during the 2023 Session. For this reason, it may be helpful for FAANS to consider expanding its security goal.

Securing Dual Enrollment Scholarships – In recent years, school choice advocates had to spend costly political capital to fight annual budget battles for the popular Gardiner Scholarship Program. FAANS is in a similar position with the Dual Enrollment Scholarship Program. Even though the program benefits private, homeschool and public school students alike, FAANS is the main advocate.

- The Florida Department of Education should adopt an administrative rule to clarify that costs shall not be passed along to the student or the school the student attends.
- Colleges and universities should be barred from invoicing schools for reimbursed courses.

- The current \$18,050,000 line item for dual enrollment scholarships should be maintained or increased. ***Note:** the LBR from the FLDOE calls for a \$21,550,000 line item during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. ***Link:** <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20174/urlt/FinalGreenbook.pdf>

Other Issue of Significance: School choice advocates are expected to call for the expansion of education savings accounts. **The FAANS Executive Committee discussed this idea during its April conference call and recommended a neutral position.**

School choice leaders are saying that day's post-Pandemic landscape means that parents are demanding more options than ever to meet the academic needs of their schoolchildren. The conversion of state scholarship programs into Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) will allow parents to tailor services to meet their child's unique needs and abilities.

- Allowable uses will include nonpublic school tuition and fees, tutoring and providing digital devices and Internet access.
- To accommodate this expansion, per-pupil funding will likely need to increase.

Analysis: Here are the biggest questions that FAANS has with the anticipated ESA proposal:

- How can Florida promote sufficient funding for tuition and fees under the ESA model?
- How can the considerable accountability measures that are already in place at most nonpublic schools be better conveyed to the general public?
- How can the excellent academic results achieved at most nonpublic schools be better conveyed to the general public?

SCHOOL SAFETY: A **SHARED** RESPONSIBILITY



COBIS Schools must prioritize safety at all times!
Discuss safety reminders including: student drop-off and dismissal procedures, required drills including “Active Shooter” drills, safe staircases, warning signage, strangers on Campus, student allergies, etc.

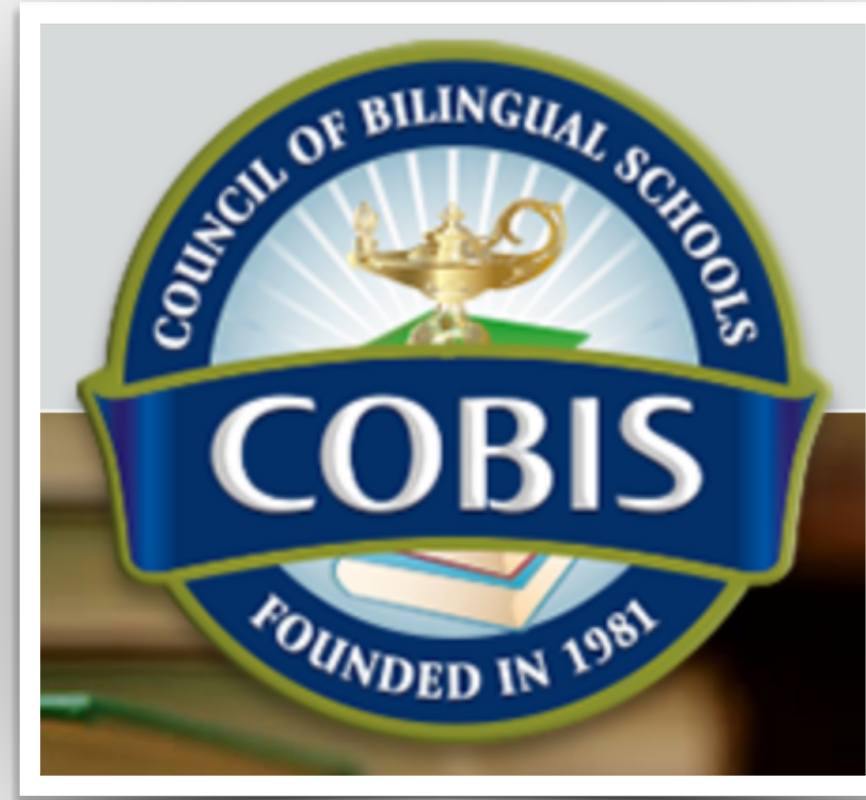
Happy Holidays

A graphic featuring a banner that says "HAPPY HOUR" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. To the right of the banner are two drinks: a martini glass with an olive and a beer mug with foam. The banner and drinks are surrounded by radiating lines, suggesting a bright or festive atmosphere.

**Tuesday, December 13, 2022
6:00 p.m. at “Novecento in Doral”**



**Let's get together to celebrate the
Holidays and recognize Isabel Alonso for
her years of service to the Council of
Bilingual Schools.**



Hope you have a safe and successful School Year!

*Thank
You!*