

# Classical High School Community Association (CHSCA) Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2024 / 5:30pm / IN PERSON with Spanish translation available at new library

## CHSCA meeting

1. *CHSCA Co-Presidents Patrick Breen & Jennifer Ortiz:*

Welcome & thank you for coming!

Patrick and Jen asked parents to approve the following CHSCA board slate:

- Patrick Breen and Jen Ortiz, Co-Presidents
- Andrea Mazie, Treasurer
- Sarah Zurier '88, Secretary

The slate was unanimously approved.

2. *Det. David Perez, Sgt. Clifford Torres, SRO Daniel Hernandez, SRO Alex Diaz, Providence Police Department:*

SRO presence at Classical

The SROs (School Resource Officers) serve a number of roles on and off the Classical campus. Classical does not have an assigned SRO, but SRO Hernandez (Central) and SRO Diaz (Providence Career and Technical Academy (PCTA)) maintain a presence at Classical and are resources for the Classical community. Their work includes making sure school property is safe when students arrive, de-escalating student conflicts, communicating with administration, connecting students with helpful resources, advising on social media/internet safety, and serving as liaisons with social workers and parents. They also are available to students off-campus at Providence Recreation programs, school sports events, school social events, and the Providence Police Explorer Program. If parents/admin want to request a dedicated SRO at Classical, they can contact the Police Department.

*Assistant Principal Michael Marino* joined the discussion to emphasize how much the administration values the work of the SROs. He said that the officers who serve as SROs are good at working with students and in the school environment.

Parents asked about the types of issues that draw SRO engagement, what SROs do, etc. The discussion turned to social media and internet safety. Sgt. Torres shared how he was able to determine that a recent school shooting rumor pertained to Connecticut, not Providence, schools. He provided guidance about relaying information about threats posted on social media (take a screenshot, note the

date/time/user name, and get this information to Providence Police). In response to a parent question about the ransomware attack on the Providence School District, Sgt. Torres recommended that parents have students change their passwords now and any time when they learn their data may be vulnerable. He also recommended opting for two-step verification for logins. VP Marino added that there are quarterly grade-level community meetings that discuss issues such as internet safety.

3. *Assistant Principal Dr. Nicole Mathis:*

Annual Title I Presentation

Title I of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act ensures that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

Classical receives about \$250,000 - \$300,000 in Title I funding each year, and it must be used for specific items, such as but not limited to field trips, college visits, curriculum materials, afterschool tutoring, professional development, stipends for afterschool teachers, and the student behavior interventionist.

Parents have the right to receive information about professional qualifications of staff. Principal Barr strives to fill all vacancies with certified teachers and certified subs. If your child is taught for 4+ weeks by a non-certified teacher you can ask for that information.

Beyond the administration, there are other resources for parents. The PPSD's Parent Engagement Center is located at 379 Washington Street. CHSCA Co-President Jen Ortiz is a representative on the Parent Advisory Committee.

Classical's [School/Parent/Student Compact](#) lays out expectations.

There was a brief discussion of early student pick-up policy (send a note with the student to share with the Front Office when they arrive at school, and try not to schedule pickups less than 30 minutes before dismissal).

Dr. Mathis also talked about other ways in which Classical's positive school culture is promoted ([4Cs](#), student superlatives, student government).

4. *Classical High School Alumni Association Board Member Jen DiBiasio '83:*

How CHSAA supports CHS

Ms. DiBiasio is a graduate of the class of 1983, [CHSAA](#) board liaison to the school, and a frequent substitute teacher at Classical. She explained how alumni raise funds to support needs and initiatives at the school. CHSAA receives grant

applications from teachers and admin staff and is preparing to announce the latest group of grants next week. Dr. Mathis emphasized that the Alumni Association provides funds to support a variety of programs, from yoga classes to field trips to supplies to facilities.

Parents asked about CHSAA and CHSCA fundraising. Co-President Breen explained that CHSCA is a non-profit but doesn't raise funds. CHSCA recommends that community members who wish to support CHS donate directly to the Alumni Association. Parents asked if students can seek funds from CHSAA to support their ideas. Dr. Mathis said that students can discuss grant ideas with their teachers who can apply directly.

#### 5. Other business

Dr. Mathis mentioned that progress reports are coming out soon and asked for a show of hands for parents' preferences for in-person or virtual conferences with teachers. The majority of parents indicated in-person, though Dr. Mathis warned of long lines to get face time with teachers. She also mentioned that parents can call the guidance staff to request appointments with teachers any time.

Parents asked about CHSCA social gatherings like past happy hours at Moniker and Wild Colonial. Those are in the works—send an email to [classicalparents@gmail.com](mailto:classicalparents@gmail.com) if you would like to help. These events may include teachers and/or the Alumni Association.

#### 6. CHSCA Co-President Jen Ortiz: closing remarks and reminders

- a. Sign up for [Remind](#) (daily announcements) and for the [CHSCA email list](#).
- b. Next CHSCA meeting on 12/17 to include planning for teacher appreciation in January
- c. 2025 CHSCA meetings 1/15 (guidance), 3/19, 5/21 (culture night, voting for 2026 board)
- d. **Contact us at** [classicalparents@gmail.com](mailto:classicalparents@gmail.com)

*The meeting concluded at 6:45pm.*

*Minutes prepared by Sarah Zurier '88, CHSCA Secretary*