

Classical High School Community Association (CHSCA) Meeting Minutes

December 16, 2024 / 5:30pm / virtual format

CHSCA meeting

1. CHSCA Co-President Jennifer Ortiz: Welcome & thank you for coming!

Jen welcomed parents and community members to the meeting. She was joined by CHSCA Secretary Sarah Zurier '88 and translators Luis and Pedro.

The Classical teachers' breakfast is coming up in January 2025, on a date to be determined. Last year's January breakfast was a great success and gave teachers and administration a nice welcome back to school. CHSCA will share a SignUpGenius form so parents can sign up to volunteer at the event and/or to provide food, drink, and supplies.

A representative of the [Taylor Hooton Foundation \(THF\)](#) will visit Classical on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and Ms. Roberts has more details.

2. Patrice Roberts (Health/Phys. Education teacher): Taylor Hooton Foundation visit
Ms. Roberts introduced herself. She teaches Health and Physical Education as well as CPR certification for seniors, and she enjoys bringing guest speakers to Classical. Two years ago, Doug Hooton of THF spoke with students in every grade about steroids, energy drinks, and supplements and how they impact the body. She feels that it is an important message. In anticipation of the January visit, Ms. Roberts has worked the visit into her curriculum.

Brian Parker of THF will be at Classical all day Wednesday, January 15 and will speak at the in-person CHSCA meeting at 5:30pm. Ms. Roberts and CHSCA will make sure he has lunch and snacks throughout the day.

Ms. Roberts shared her email address: patrice.roberts@ppsd.org

Translators Luis and Pedro invited parents to use the chat to request Spanish translation.

3. Patricia McLaughlin, Executive Director of the [Classical High School Alumni Association \(CHSAA\)](#): CHSAA update

Ms. McLaughlin thanked CHSCA for the opportunity to present and offered appreciation on behalf of CHSAA's board and members for CHSCA's work. Fundraising season wraps up at the end of the year, and the alumni have been very generous. CHSAA organized a two-day photo/video shoot at the school and is planning to share it in January to show alumni recent renovations and how the school has changed. CHSAA completed the fall grant round and will launch a new grant round due in January. Teachers will be able to apply for grants to support new initiatives, field trips, and other programs for the students. One generous alum will match every gift to CHSAA dollar for dollar through December 31. She welcomed questions and invited parents to contact her at [info at classicalalumni.org](mailto:info@classicalalumni.org) or (401) 383-6471.

Jen noted that a parent requested translation. The presentation was repeated and translated. The translators continued to provide translation through the rest of the meeting.

4. CHSCA Treasurer Andrea Mazie: Treasurer's Report

Andrea reported that CHSCA's account balance stands at \$1773, no change.

5. Administration Report (presented by Jen)

Jen shared an update on behalf of Principal Barr. He will schedule a "coffee with the principal" in January. The Library will move back to its original location over break, and the resource room will move into one of the Library classrooms. Mr. Barr is seeking an organization to talk to the students about suicide prevention and mental health. Jen noted that several ninth grade parents are concerned with math classes and that Mr. Barr is exploring options with the school department.

6. Open discussion

Jen asked Sarah to introduce the 9th grade math issue. Sarah said that several ninth grade parents have been talking about options for accelerating math classes and invited other parents to discuss.

Ms. Solmaz Behtash (parent) said that she has been speaking to several parents of ninth grade students interested in getting more advanced math classes into the curriculum so 9th grade students who start in Geometry can finish with Calculus BC at Classical. There are several ideas such as combining classes, creating honors classes, enrolling in math classes outside of Classical. She invites parents to get involved and is working on setting up a meeting with Guidance Head Scott Harding, perhaps a morning meeting.

Jen asked if she had reached out to the District's [FACE office \(family and community engagement\)](#), as this may be a district-level project rather than specifically Classical.

Ms. Anna Kuperman (teacher/parent) noted that there may have been Algebra II and Geometry honors classes in the past but that these classes have since been cut. She doesn't know if there is similar demand at the other high schools. She suggested that the parents identify contacts at the [school department](#) and at [RIDE](#).

There was general conversation about how curriculum changes in the middle schools impacts high school curricula.

Solmaz asked if the goal is to ensure that students have the opportunity to take two years of calculus before they graduate, or if the goal is to offer more advanced instruction each year.

Jen relayed a comment in chat: many students take precalculus in summer after sophomore year. Jen noted that pre-calc is offered at CCRI. Another parent added that it is also offered at URI.

Parents who wish to stay follow up with Solmaz about 9th grade math can email her at solmazbehtash@gmail.com. On Jen's suggestion, she will contact Math Lead Ms. Dunbar.

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

- a. Next CHSCA meeting is 1/15 with Taylor Hooton Foundation. There will be snacks for parents too—please join us.
- b. Save the date for CHSCA meetings on 3/19 and 5/21.
- c. Contact us at classicalparents@gmail.com
- d. Sign up for the [CHSCA email list](#).
- e. Have a great break—and thanks for joining us. Our website is classicalparents.org.

The meeting concluded at 6:15pm.

Minutes prepared by Sarah Zurier '88, CHSCA Secretary