

Classical High School Community Association (CHSCA) Meeting Minutes

May 22, 2025 / 5:30pm / VIRTUAL

CHSCA meeting

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

Jen welcomed new CHSCA Board member Aubrey Johnson. Patrick Breen (parent '27) is rotating off the Board, having served since 2020. Andrea Mazie and Sarah Zurier remain on the Board but may change positions or cycle off as new members join. Jen asked parents to approve the following CHSCA Board slate:

- Jennifer Ortiz, President (parent '26)
- Aubrey Johnson, Vice President (parent '28)
- Andrea Mazie, Treasurer (parent '28)
- Sarah Zurier, Secretary (parent '28, alum '88)

The slate was unanimously approved. And Patrick Breen will continue his service as Meet and Greet consultant—thank you, Patrick. Contact us at classicalparents@gmail.com to get involved.

2. Ms. Christina Toro (English Language Arts teacher): Culture Night

Ms. Toro introduced annual Culture Night, which brings families together to celebrate the diversity of Classical students. It will take place on Thursday, May 29 from 6 to 8pm, featuring performances, activities, and a potluck. Student government leaders are organizing potluck food donations and will receive proceeds from dinner sales. She asked CHSCA to provide cutlery/paper goods and to encourage parents to volunteer at the event.

Andrea will pull together existing materials and purchase additional on behalf of CHSCA. Sarah will put the word out via CHSCA email. Ms. Toro noted that performances are free, and dinner is available for purchase. Parents can show up to volunteer at 5:30pm. Patricia McLaughlin noted that word has gone out over Classical High School Alumni Association social media.

3. Sarah Zurier + Jennifer Ortiz: Parent Engagement

Sarah shared the results of the CHSCA survey, asking parents about discussion topics and speakers for future meetings. There was general support for weekday CHSCA meetings, virtual or in-person. Regarding timing, Jen pointed out that Classical admin prefer in-person meetings to start no later than 6pm, due to

staffing needs for opening the building. Parents are most interested in learning about Guidance, closely followed by academics, applying to college, test prep and summer opportunities. We will reach out to Mr. Harding to join us in 25/26. One parent pitched the idea of inviting seniors and parents of seniors to share their knowledge with parents who are newer to Classical.

Sarah also encouraged parents to check out [SurveyWorks 2024](#) to see results from RIDE's survey of parents, caregivers, students, teachers, and admins. Jen noted that Vice Principal Nicole Mathis leads the School Improvement Team (SIT) and is interested in learning more about parent engagement. Jen noted that another idea for a 25/26 CHSCA meeting is "Navigating Classical" for new parents, from signing up for online tools to learning how to find resources at Classical and PPSD. We have 3 out of 4 topics on hand for 25/26. Feel free to propose a fourth!

Jen and Aubrey shared information about SIT, Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and District Wide Advisory Council (DWAC). Jen noted that it's helpful to hear from parents across pre-K to 12th grades. Jen welcomes parents to get involved with SIT—contact classicalparents@gmail.com or nicole.mathis@ppsd.org for more information.

4. *Andrea Mazie: Treasurer's Report*

There is \$2100 in the CHSCA bank account. It is available for projects that come up, like Culture Night. CHSCA doesn't do fundraising, but the CHSAA welcomes donations to support Classical, and they have an alum who matches donations dollar for dollar. The funds come from asks like support for the teacher breakfast. There are some residuals coming in from past merch sales. How can we get the word out about the CHSAA fundraising match? CHSAA funds teacher projects and supports student team fundraisers. Andrea suggested sharing the CHSAA giving opportunity periodically over the year (401 Gives, etc). Noted that the alum is interested in supporting just about anything Classical. Ms. McLaughlin noted that CHSAA's new endowment has surpassed \$1 million. The grant program is a great success. Andrea brought up the idea of funding collaborative projects for Classical and other Providence public high schools. Patricia welcomes all ideas that support Classical students. She also offered to reach out to alumni speakers for CHSCA (senior and alumni wisdom). Sarah noted that alumni are very interested in seeing and setting foot in the renovated building. CHSCA and CHSAA have a similar challenge: getting contact information for communications.

5. *CHSCA Co-President Jen Ortiz closed the meeting at 6:55pm.*

Minutes prepared by Sarah Zurier, CHSCA Secretary