

Classical High School Community Association (CHSCA) Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2025 / 5:30pm / School Library

1. **Welcome!** Jennifer Ortiz, CHSCA President

Jen started the meeting and introduced “Navigating Classical.”

2. **Canvas:** Michaela Keegan, Executive Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Providence Public School Department and Brian Baldizar, Assistant Principal

michaela.keegan@ppsd.org | brian.baldizar@ppsd.org

Canvas on PPSD website: <https://tinyurl.com/3y3xayzx>

Ms. Keegan and Mr. Baldizar discussed Canvas, an online learning management system and digital classroom hub. They answered parents’ questions about:

- maintaining separate logins for your Classical students and your work (if you are also an educator)
- getting a code to set up the account: via your student or FACE office.
- how teachers are learning this new system
- the importance of reaching out to teachers, Guidance, and/or Admin when you have questions about your student
- how teachers can choose “view as student” interface
- rollout of new grading policies and relaying to longterm substitute teachers
- how substitute teachers access Canvas
- how parents can use Canvas and/or Skyward as a “bottom line” to get information
- how attendance is recorded and how reporting can be amended

3. **Skyward:** Youa Hang, Parent Engagement Specialist, Providence Public School Department
youa.hang@ppsd.org

Skyward on PPSD website: <https://tinyurl.com/2ukvx3dz>

Ms. Hong discussed Canvas, a platform for viewing grades, report cards, and attendance.

4. **CHSCA Updates:** Jennifer Ortiz, CHSCA President

Jen introduced members of the CHSCA Board, all parents of ‘28:

- Aubrey Johnson, Vice President
- Sarah Zurier, Secretary
- Scott Slater, Board Member
- Bianca Slater, Board Member
- Andrea Mazie, Treasurer

Later in the meeting, she introduced School Ambassador Marta Correa.

We welcome parents to join the board and/or get involved in projects, such as:

- merch design/sales: online store in the works (!)

- concessions sales at athletic events
- communications: meeting minutes, website, social media, e-news (Mailchimp)
- Teacher Appreciation Breakfasts
- Culture Night

Reach out to us at classicalparents@gmail.com.

5. Title I and Parent Engagement: Dr. Nicole Mathis, Assistant Principal
nicole.mathis@ppsd.org

Title I presentation: <https://tinyurl.com/5n7d7uwe>

Vision of a Classicalite: <https://tinyurl.com/4c7wy6nr>

Parental Involvement Policy: <https://tinyurl.com/rnhvd3ep>

Dr. Mathis presented on Title I, a federal program that provides financial assistance to schools with high numbers or high percentages of low-income families. At Classical, Title I funds support curriculum materials/licenses, field trips, transportation, tutoring, workbooks, a behavior interventionist, afterschool teacher stipends, and professional development. She also shared "Vision of a Classicalite" and the school's Parental Involvement Policy.

Dr. Mathis and Mr. Baldizar addressed additional parent questions about:

- parents' right to know about substitute teachers
- how substitute teachers access platforms like Canvas
- nurturing while guiding students towards more independence, and allowing students to make mistakes along the way
- ParentSquare, a tool that allows Classical and PSD to message parents:
<https://tinyurl.com/yt6vyjct>
- Daily Messages which are posted to students and broadcast each morning. Parents can sign up as well: <https://tinyurl.com/yc6knbef>

6. Additional discussion

Parents raised additional questions about:

- threats to SNAP benefits and how to help Classical families
- donating to support Classical: Classical High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) raises funds, and donations are matched. Teachers and admins can apply for CHSAA grants. Parents can reach out to teachers about classroom needs.
- paper shortages and rising cost of digital materials
- how students can sign up for StudentSquare to receive Daily Messages by asking Advisory teachers for QR code

Jen Ortiz closed the meeting at 7:00pm

Minutes prepared by Sarah Zurier, CHSCA Secretary