

PSO Meeting Agenda and Minutes

9/26/2025

The mission of the Parent Service Organization (PSO) is to enhance and support the educational environment of St. Catherine's Montessori by building community through family involvement and service.

Attendees: Mercedes de Alvear, Vy Collett, Nicole Luijer, Nicole Holub, Sophia Trieu, Catherine Barber, Tracey Ledoux, Mary Tysor, Stephanie Landis, Lindsay Tucker, Laura Haskovec, Devin Weiss, Lyndsey Ray, Renee Smith, Edith Napoleon, Nadia Ali, Candace McCaddon, Karine Schepers-Cheng, Petra Lirk

- Welcome and reading of mission - Karine
 - The meeting opened at 8:18 AM.
- Opening prayer - Catherine
- Treasurer's report and current budget - Candace
 - This year's (25-26) budget has been adjusted to reflect rising costs (particularly food). The total budget is \$4,675.
 - The school will pay for the volunteer appreciation breakfast (Spring, 2026), so the funds previously allocated for this event were redistributed to other PSO meetings.
 - There was clarification that the PSO budget supports the work of the volunteers; PSO expenditures are typically for food and supplies for events and meetings (not for school supplies or materials).
 - Each committee chair provided a short summary of their typical expenses.
- PSO Committee reports
 - Friends of the Arts - Tracey, Jaime
 - Friends of Athletics - Nadia, Kristin
 - All families/students are encouraged to attend games. This is a great way to observe the school's Montessori-aligned approach to sports.
 - Friends of the Atrium - Laura, Mary, Catherine
 - November 14 and December 12: Work days
 - Friends of the Garden - Candace, Devin
 - October 18: Fall Gardening Day. An email will go out to announce the details.
 - Additional education days TBD.
 - Japhet work days on select days (see Globe).
 - Friends of the Library - Mercedes, Jazmin, Hailey, Nicole
 - Book Club - Edith, Angela
 - Top survey topics: General parenting, screens/tech, teens and Montessori

- Schedule
 - October 31: First book will be “When you wonder, you’re learning.”
 - January 10: “Dream school” - finding the right fit for college
 - Third book TBD.
 - Faculty and Staff Appreciation - Mary
 - There will be three main events: breakfast and chili lunch (fall) and the faculty-staff appreciation luncheon and dessert soiree (May).
 - Parent Potlucks - Tracey
 - Ambassadors - Mary
 - Summer playdates for new families
 - Fall Fest - Jonica, Michelle
 - October 25 potluck
 - Spring Fling - Nicole, Briseida
 - SCM on a Whim - Molly
 - Sociables - Molly, Ami
 - October 7: Sign-up breakfast ~ sociable tickets will be sold here first!
 - Sociables range from small gatherings to large events. Parent organizers host and sponsor, and interested families buy tickets.
 - Steps 4 Students - Nadia
 - February 14: fun-run fundraiser; parent/family attendance is encouraged.
 - Volunteers will be needed for packet assembly.
 - School t-shirt
 - Works of Mercy - Mary
 - School supplies drive (summer) and PJ drive (November/December) support children at Casa de Esperanza.
 - More information will be forthcoming closer to the PJ drive, but note that monetary donations (in the form of a gift card) are accepted in addition to PJ donations.
- New business
 - Budget approval for 2026-2027.
 - The same budget (\$4,675) is proposed for 26-27.
 - Motion made by Mary Tysor to approve; Devin seconded.
 - The vote to approve the 26-27 budget was unanimous.
 - Other upcoming events
 - October 2: Supporting the whole adolescent (parent education event)
 - October 3: Blessing of the animals
 - October 10-11: Montessori Journey
- Old business - none
- Adjournment - Karine ~ 9:45 AM

Submitted by Catherine R. Barber