

PSO Meeting Agenda and Minutes

1/23/2026

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.

In attendance: Mary Tysor, Catherine Barber, Heather Alexander Dahl, Lauren George, Andal Radha Krishnan, Sheila Hall, Edith Napoleon, Nicole Luijer, Renee Smith, Douglas Haskovec, Tracey Ledoux, Candace McCaddon, Karine Schepers-Cheng, Devin Weiss, Nadia Ali, Lyndsey Ray

- Welcome and reading of mission - Karine
 - Opened at 8:20 am with introductions of/to new parents
- Opening prayer - Catherine
- Old business - Karine
 - Reminder of PSO officers for 2026-2027: Catherine Barber (President), Candace McCaddon (Secretary), Nicole Luijer (Treasurer)
 - Reminder from Renee: To share information about events, photos of events, etc. – email globe@stcathmont.org to share in the Globe biweekly newsletter!
- Treasurer's report and current budget - Candace
 - Current balance: \$3,510.94
 - The largest expense to date was for Fall Fest, but still under budget!
 - Please remember to inform the Treasurer of in-kind donations so we can keep track of expenditures. The form for in-kind donations can be found on the PSO page of the SCM Parent Portal.
 - Please submit receipts for expenses using the reimbursement form on the PSO page of the SCM Parent Portal.
- PSO Committee reports and upcoming events
 - Friends of the Arts - Tracey, Jaime
 - The Christmas concert was very successful.
 - It was effective to keep the sales in the hall.
 - It would be helpful to have better microphone coverage.
 - More chairs are needed!
 - Montessori moment: The concert is an opportunity for younger audience members to experience a balance of freedom and movement with respectful quiet and attention.
 - Friends of Athletics - Nadia, Kristin
 - Both basketball teams have progressed to the play-offs!
 - Co-ed flag football and soccer will start in the spring.

- Track starts in February.
- Friends of the Atrium - Laura, Mary, Catherine
 - Dominican Study Group: January 29. Focus on “welcoming the stranger,” with guests Sr. Carol Mayes and Sr. Maureen O’Connell.
 - A project to create new table cloths for the Atrium is under way!
- Friends of the Garden - Candace, Devin
 - Concentration has shifted from Japhet to Timberside campus.
 - Gardening days are primarily on Friday mornings. No experience is needed!
- Friends of the Library - Mercedes, Jazmin, Hailey, Nicole
 - Book fair sales surpassed last year’s total!
- Book Club - Edith, Angela
 - The next meeting is January 30. The book is “Dream School” by Jeffrey Selingo. SCM’s college counselor, Sarah Lewis, will be part of the discussion. Breakfast provided by The Nest.
- Faculty and Staff Appreciation - Mary
 - February 25: Chili lunch for faculty and staff; be on the lookout for sign-up to bring chili and/or fixings.
 - May 29 (last day of school): Luncheon. Many volunteers will be needed!
- Sociables
 - Daddy – daughter dance (Lower EI through AC): February 7
 - Mother – son kickball: February 8
 - Lunar New Year: March 1.
 - Holi: February 22.
- Steps 4 Students - Nadia
 - Steps 4 Students will be on February 14. This is an archdiocesan fundraiser (5K/1K race); 100% of SCM participants’ donations support the school’s general operating budget.
 - The week before (9-13), the committee needs volunteers to assemble the t-shirt/race packets; Nadia will send an email requesting volunteers.
 - The High School will host a pancake breakfast after the race to raise funds for their activities. RSVP to help the students prepare the right amount of food!
- Announcements and new business
 - SCM’s Adolescent Community and High School have been awarded Recognized status by AMI. This is a huge accomplishment!
 - Only seven AMI schools in the U.S. have Infant through High School; St. Catherine’s is the first and only school in the U.S. to be Recognized by AMI.
 - Everyone is encouraged to attend the following events featuring Upper School students for a fuller picture of the Montessori educational trajectory:

- AC portfolio showcase: May 21. Everyone is encouraged to attend to see the culmination of AC students' work.
- Senior Capstone night: April 30. High school seniors present their capstone work.
- Commencement: May 15. Incredibly moving event!
- Question about Japhet: Could it be a site for community events? Yes, depending on the event, purpose, etc.; more discussion is needed this summer to determine what is possible and when!
- Shout-out to Renee and Jocelyn on The Globe! In particular, the infusion of beautiful images and writing about Montessori and Dominican values has elevated the publication. Kudos!
- Adjournment at 9:37 am - Karine

Submitted by Catherine R. Barber, PSO Secretary
January 23, 2026