

Colorado Classics Association Spring Meeting
April 26, 2025
Minutes

After informal socializing over bagels and coffee, the business meeting began at 10:11 AM.

In attendance were: Helen Vickery (Boulder High School, CCA Co-President); Jackie Elliott (CU-Boulder, CCA Vice-President); Carole Newlands (CU-Boulder, CCA Co-President); Elizabeth Bowman (D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, CCA Secretary); Amy Rosevear (Cherry Creek High School); Victoria Kalman (Fairview High School); Emma Halverson (Rocky Mountain School of Art and Design); Pierre Habel (D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, retired; CCA Communications Director); Amanda Sherpe (Mullen High School, CCA Treasurer); Zach Herz (CU-Boulder); Kristjan Johnson (Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Denver); Ian Oliver (Regis College); Reina Callier (CU-Boulder); Isabel Köster (CU-Boulder); Curtis Lyle (Twin Peaks Classical Academy); Firdaus Jones (Augustine Classical Academy); Tommy & Rosie (unaffiliated).

Meeting agenda

- I. **Welcome and introductions:** Carole and Helen welcomed all and thanked everyone for joining. All in attendance introduced themselves.
- II. **Approval of 10/5/24 meeting minutes:** Pierre moved to approve. Jackie seconded. The motion passed with 11 votes in favor and 2 abstentions. Approved minutes will be posted to the CCA website.
- III. **Acknowledgements:** Carole thanked several individuals for their contributions this year.
 - A. Tyler Lansford for creating CCA letterhead (which has already been put to use!).
 - B. Pierre Habel for his continued dedication to the Latin advocacy projects begun two years ago.
 - C. All CCA officers for their support during a busy and challenging year.
- IV. **Officer election:** Reina Callier was elected to succeed Carole as postsecondary Co-President beginning June 1. Congratulations Reina and thank you for taking this on!
- V. **Teacher of the Year Presentation:** Congratulations to Amanda Sherpe, CCA Teacher of the Year! Helen presented the award and noted especially the high marks given Amanda by the principal at Mullen for her work and dedication, particularly with her success in the advanced Latin classes. Thank you to Amanda for her many years of service to CCA and to the recent Latin advocacy projects as well. Congrats Amanda!
- VI. **Updates on Latin advocacy from Pierre**
 - A. Review of work done so far:

1. The CCA advocacy video project published the full-length video and six shorts in October. Videos are posted to YouTube (note the short, accessible link!): <http://tinyurl.com/ccaYouBelong>.
 2. The full-length video has received 289 views. Numbers show that the full length video has reached audiences more successfully than the six shorts.
 3. Chalkbeat published an [article summarizing the state of Latin programs](#) in Colorado in February 2025.
 4. CCA followed the video publication with an email campaign to school administrators upon request by Latin teachers. Schools included were Boulder High School, Cherry Creek High School, D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School, Fairview High School, and Loveland Classical Schools (elementary). A follow-up letter cited the Chalkbeat article. Pierre received positive responses, and recent YouTube viewership spikes likely reflect this targeted campaign.
 5. Pierre has shared the video with SCS, ACL, CAMWS, and NCLG; Andrew Carroll is adapting CCA's letter for similar advocacy efforts in Connecticut.
- B. What's next:
1. Efforts to support the revived Latin program at Doherty High School and the continuation of the longstanding program at Fairview
 2. Pierre has joined ACL's Vision and Advocacy Task Force to collect, build, and streamline access to advocacy tools
 3. Further avenues include: restoring Latin teaching certification at CU-Boulder; reviving Latin programs at the community college level; creating a guest teacher pool to support current Latin teachers and perhaps help new teachers gain footing and experience; strengthening connections and networking among CCA members

- VII. Discussion re: how to support Latin at Fairview High School:** please see tinyurl.com/Latin4FHS for documentation which Pierre provided at the public Fairview budget meeting which he and Jackie attended earlier in the week. A lengthy discussion noted the difficulties presented to opening and maintaining a dialogue with Fairview and BVSD administrators. Ultimately it was concluded that the next steps needed to involve more advocacy to parents to garner more community support. Discussion highlights:
- A. Repeated emphasis on parents as our best advocates. Jackie and Pierre both noted that a parent was among the most effective voices at the recent meeting.
 - B. Amy commented that Latin I numbers often go up over the summer as new students enroll. Counselors are excellent resources and allies in drawing students to Latin.
 - C. Curtis added that peer-to-peer advertising is often most effective. Recruiting students to recruit more students is often among our strongest tools.
 - D. Kristjan was enthused by a recent conversation with a student regarding the power of Latin to make you good at anything. The student was convinced!

VIII. Advocacy to the CU-Boulder School of Education: Carole has a letter ready to go for the incoming Dean urging that the Latin teaching certification program be reinstated. Jackie recommended that we send that letter sooner rather than later. Carole is hoping to arrange a meeting with the new Dean in the fall. Victoria added that Boulder M.A. students are always welcome to sit in on her Latin classes to get a taste of a high school classroom and setting.

Close of business meeting

Special Presentation: “How to Run a Roman Consular Election”, Isabel Koster (CU-Boulder)

Highlights are noted here; please see the included handout from Isabel for much more detail!

In this highly informative and thoroughly delightful talk and activity, Isabel demonstrated how teachers may run mock consular elections in their classrooms.

The full-length activity can be done in 40-50 minutes and demonstrates powerfully how profoundly hierarchical and deeply weird ancient Roman elections really were. Students gain practical exposure to an electoral process that perpetuates a societal system in which those at the top make the decisions.

Isabel highlighted that we have extant Roman election *dipinti* in abundance and that their text is usually very accessible for student readers. Despite such evidence of active campaigning—including by those who were neither in the running nor eligible to vote themselves—estimates of actual voter turnout remain exceedingly low.

Isabel split those in attendance into five voting blocks of increasing size. The “candy-dates” were introduced: Twix, Three Musketeers, Snickers, and Milky Way. Voting blocks were instructed to confer among themselves to choose one candy-date to endorse.

Isabel encouraged campaigning and bribery during the conferral period. She furthermore let it leak partway through that time that voting block 1 was leaning Twix ...

Votes were cast!

- Block 1: Twix!
- Block 2: Twix!
- Block 3: Snickers!
- Block 4: Snickers!
- Block 5: Twix, despite Jackie’s vehement disagreement!

Twix wins! Isabel noted that in all likelihood actual voting would have ceased after Blocks 1 and 2 in this case.

Isabel’s suggestions for post-election reflective thinking:

- 1) What does this election system say about societal priorities? Wealthy voices count for much, much more!
- 2) The 1st consul elected often assumed he had the “popular mandate”; 2nd consular elections had the potential to be rather more chaotic and fun.
- 3) A subsequent in-class popular vote might provide a useful compare/contrast!

Isabel concluded the election by encouraging all voters, regardless of societal import and influence, to consume the candy-dates with vim and vigor—not an inappropriate end, given the actual violence perpetrated upon actual candidates at various times throughout Roman history.

Thank you Isabel for a stimulating discussion and very good time!

Meeting conclusion: 12:00 PM, with thanks to all for making the trip!