

October 3, 2017

Dear Sauganash School Community,

As you may know, discussions about dissolving our PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and instead establishing a PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) began several years ago at Sauganash Elementary. Encouraged by members of our PTA and our LSC (Local School Council), we researched this change over the past months and decided to establish our own PTO. We have bylaws to govern the PTO and have received approval from the IRS for nonprofit status (501c3). This has been an extensive process and we are excited to announce a special meeting on **November 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** in the school cafeteria where a formal vote will be taken to dissolve the PTA and utilize our new PTO going forward. This letter serves as a 30-day notice of the PTA dissolution vote meeting.

In order to vote you must be a member in good standing, including payment of 2017-2018 school year membership dues (\$5), as of the date of the special meeting. If you have joined, please attend! If you have not yet joined and would like to participate, PTA memberships will continue to be available until the meeting date. Please send your name, email, cell phone number and your child's name and grade or your affiliation (teacher) along with \$5 to the PTA mailbox.

We want all parents to be informed when making this important decision and hope the following information will be helpful:

The PTA is a national organization with affiliations on the state and local level. While the PTA has a long, history of advocating for students, the PTA also has extensive bylaws and requires local leadership to comply with their requirements under their charter. In addition, the Illinois PTA requires over \$4.50 membership fee per member to be paid to them yearly.

A PTO is not affiliated with any state or national organization, but independently supports its school. There is a network of PTO units and resources available to assist in running individual organizations, but each PTO governs itself and writes its own bylaws. The PTO does not have to collect membership dues, but if it chooses to do so, 100% of the membership dues collected will be kept by the PTO to benefit our school.

Given the changes in funding across the country and specifically in Chicago, we feel a need to simplify our operations, have flexibility in our fundraising efforts. We feel that becoming a PTO will be a great benefit to our school. We are excited and optimistic about this change.

Please become a member if you have not yet and attend our meeting on **November 8, 2017**. There will be a formal vote so if you are a member, please attend! Please direct any questions to [sauganashptaprez@gmail.com](mailto:sauganashptaprez@gmail.com).

Sincerely, Marcia Shapiro and the PTA Board