



Dear Sauganash School Parents and Teachers and Staff,

A group of us have recently incorporated the Friends of Sauganash Elementary School PTO, a Parent Teacher Organization that stands as its own 501c3 charitable organization. We now have an approved PTO and we would like to dissolve our relationship with the IL PTA, however, that decision is made by the membership. We need each of you to participate to help support our school, but first we wanted to give you some information.

**Why did we start a PTO?**

A PTO is a stand-alone charitable organization. We are free to fundraise with fewer restrictions and do not have to abide by the rules of the IL PTA Charter.

**Does CPS know how much money our Parent Organizations raise?**

Currently the IL PTA may know how much we raise, as does the IRS. A PTO reports to the IRS. CPS does not have access to PTA or PTO financial records. We are not required to inform CPS of our parent teacher activities.

**What happened to our PTA?**

We still have our PTA. We have to follow the rules of the IL PTA and 25% of our members must vote to dissolve the Sauganash PTA. We must give the IL PTA 30 days notice. They have an opportunity to present to our members before we all vote. First, we need to do a membership drive see attached.

**Why dissolve our PTA?**

We do not have to dissolve our PTA. Some schools operate both a PTA and a PTO. We would be required to pay PTA dues and have many more volunteers to operate both entities.

**What about the officers that were just elected to the PTA?**

Those officers are now the officers of the PTA and PTO Board and we will be adding a few people too. You will be hearing from all of us shortly.

**How will this be different from the past operations of the PTA at our school?**

We still plan to sponsor the many fun school events that we have in the past as long as we have volunteers like you to assist. However, given the additional CPS budget cuts, we need to be positioned to fundraise to support our school. A PTO is a better vehicle in which to do so.

**Who is a member of our new PTO?**

All parents, teachers and guardians and staff are automatically members, welcome to attend meetings and to vote on current and new bylaws and Decisions.

**Do we have to pay dues?**

Rather than charge you a nominal fee, we would rather have you make a donation during our fall Annual Fund Drive. A PTA requires that we charge you dues that we then pay to the IL PTA; a PTO does not have that requirement. We have decided not to charge dues this year.

**When will the new PTO Meet?**

We will be notifying you of meetings via our enews letters and Friday Folder communications. Please come to our meetings, we really need involved Members.

**I want to volunteer but am not sure what I should volunteer to do? How do I get started?**

Please let us know you are interested and we will find you! Whether it's from home or at a special event, we need your help! Look for emails, check our web site; there will be many opportunities to pitch in.

**I signed up to volunteer for something on organization day, does that still stand?**

YES Carrie Frieswyck, a volunteer parent has taken on the role of helping match volunteers with events and she has all of the information from organization day.

**So tell me again, why should I join the PTA?**

We need you to join the PTA and come to the meeting where we vote to dissolve. We are still an operating PTA and are required to have our current membership attend our November 8 th meeting and vote. If we do not have the adequate number of members available to vote, we will have to delay our plans and have a revote. Please join and attend.



**SAUGANASH SCHOOL PTA MEMBERSHIP FORM (2017-18)**

**\$5 Per Member**

<b>Primary</b>	<b>Member:</b>
First Name:	Last Name:
Phone:	Email:

<b>Additional Member:</b>	
First Name:	Last Name:
Phone:	Email:

<b>Child/Children Enrolled at Sauganash</b>	
<u>Name (first &amp; last)</u>	<u>Grade</u>

**Total Number of Memberships \_\_\_\_\_ at \$5 each = Total Due \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

*Cash accepted. Please make checks payable to **Sauganash PTA**. Place forms & payment in a **sealed** envelope & send to "PTA Mailbox: Main Office"  
We are not responsible for lost items. Questions? Please contact Tracy Mayer at [sauganashmembership@gmail.com](mailto:sauganashmembership@gmail.com)*