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P a r e n t
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T e a c h e r
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O r g a n i z a t i o n

Report to School Committee

May 21, 2018

Respectfully submitted by Attia Linnard, President and Leila Hooper, Vice President

MISSION STATEMENT (UPDATED)

The Weston Public Schools Parent Teacher Organization (Weston PTO) is an all-volunteer, parent-run, non-profit organization committed to enhancing and enriching the education of our children and fostering a sense of community within our schools. We seek to keep parents connected and informed by facilitating a closer relationship between school and home and serving as the communication link between the two. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to strengthen the Weston Public Schools' capacity to provide the highest quality education possible for all students. We strive to do this by:

- Providing educational programs spanning all grade levels, ranging from science and math related speakers and hands-on activities, nature explorations, author visits, and artist performances.
- Facilitating communication and supporting our schools and students through PTO volunteers serving as school chairs, room parents, and class parents/advisors.
- Streamlining important communication through Westword, our weekly email newsletter, which contains school-related news and updates and information about upcoming programs and events at school and within the community.
- Hosting various Parent Coffees and Forums within each of the five schools throughout the year.
- Sponsoring and planning Parent Education events and speakers.
- Organizing Community Outreach drives that support local charitable organizations, while affording students an opportunity to practice social responsibility and compassion for others.
- Offering our membership, a directory of students, families, and faculty/staff.
- Coordinating volunteers for school events and providing supplemental supplies and resources.
- Hosting numerous faculty/staff appreciation events in every school throughout the school year. Our annual budget is raised solely through membership dues.

We urge all families with children attending the Weston Public Schools to join as PTO members each school year. Each membership helps augment our children's school experience and supports our educators in fulfilling their vision. Parent involvement is a fundamental part of what makes a school community rich and robust. We take great pride in the strength of our PTO and encourage you to learn more about our programs and get involved in any of the many volunteer opportunities that work with your interests and schedule.

MEMBERSHIP & BUDGET

- Membership is down to 797 members. We had 820 members in 2016-17, 826 in 2015-16, 855 members in 2014-15, and 895 members in 2013-14.
- Although the absolute number of members continues to decline along with student enrollment, the percentage of families who join PTO remains relatively consistent at 64%.
- Income went up this year to \$40,549 from \$39,300 last school year and \$40,125 in 2015-16.

PTO SCHOOL CHAIRS

- Total budget (all 5 schools): \$13,227
- Responsibilities:
 - Recruit and lead Room and Class Parents
 - Help organize Parent Coffees and Back to School Nights
 - Plan and execute Faculty/Staff appreciation events
 - Plan and Execute Community Building events (3 elem. schools)

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

- Budget: \$4,200
- Responsibilities:
 - Produce PTO School Calendar and Directory
 - Publish weekly *Westword* newsletter
 - Update PTO website and Facebook page
 - Disseminate information on PTO events and efforts through Town Crier and other PTO vehicles

PARENT EDUCATION

- Budget: \$4,500
- Responsibilities:
 - Identify and bring in speakers on topics and themes of interest to our membership and school community. This year speakers focused on Simplicity Parenting, Mindful Parenting. PAC and PTO also collaborated on bringing in educational expert, Sarah Ward

CREATIVE ARTS COUNCIL

- Budget: \$2,200
- Responsibilities:
 - Work with administration and curriculum specialists to align performances with curriculum goals whenever possible
 - Source and preview prospective performers
 - Manage booking and logistics for performers
 - Oversee Authors Program

SCIENCE & MATH COUNCIL

- Budget: \$2,500
- Responsibilities:
 - Work with elementary curriculum specialists and high school Department Heads to understand the vision of STEM/STEAM
 - Facilitate WEEFC grants to fund SaM events and programs
 - Work with faculty to design and execute student mentoring, internships, field trips, and science fairs
 - Build network of STEM professionals in the community who are interested in facilitating enriching experiences for WPS students

COMMUNITY OUTREACH/DONATIONS

- Budget: \$3,000
- Responsibilities:
 - Plan and execute donation drives at all 3 elementary schools for UNICEF, Bristol Lodge, Cradles to Crayons, and Hope and Comfort
 - Host and organize New Family Ice Cream Social in late August
- PTO Donations: METCO Scholarship- \$2,000

Book/Game Fund

- Budget: \$3,000
- Responsibilities:
 - Work with Curriculum Coordinators in elementary schools to select, fund, and deliver STEM themed books to every single K-5 classroom
 - Work with Math Curriculum Coordinator to select, fund, deliver math board games to each K-5 classroom
 - Work with Grade Leaders and Principal at Middle School to fund and deliver board games for Advisory and Hale Groups at the Middle School

GREEN

- Budget: \$250
- Responsibilities:
 - Work with PTO Board to green PTO events
 - Work with schools to work towards a more sustainable WPS

