



Dear Westford Elementary School Families,

August, 2015

Welcome to the new WEPTO (Westford Elementary PTO). As the new co-presidents, please allow us to introduce ourselves. Kim Koehr has been an SBC (Site Based Coordinator) at Robinson for three years. She is Ethan, Aidan and Avery's mom (currently 2<sup>nd</sup> grade/1<sup>st</sup> grade/Pre-School). Kerry Shyjan has been an SBC at Nab for three years. She is Michael, Danielle, & Jack's mom (currently 5<sup>th</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/2 year old).

The exciting announcement regarding the newly restructured WEPTO – moving away from a big, 6-school PTO organization and moving to a smaller, more intimate, school PTO model **will provide schools' the opportunity to make THEIR PTO work better for them.**

*It is important to note, that a positive change is sometimes a SLOW change. It is perfectly acceptable for the 2015-2016 year to be year of introspection, observation, and maintaining status quo, as the schools' PTOs work to map out the best plan for their organizations.*

Areas for consideration might be:

1. What will our mission be?
2. Will it have a financial, fundraising focus? Will it have a community building, social focus? Will the focus change from year to year, as the needs of the school change?
3. How much fundraising do we want to do?
4. What would the fundraising schedule look like?
  - a. All fall fundraising?
  - b. Fundraising throughout the year?
5. What type of fundraising do we want to do?
  - a. Easy – Invest In Your Child
  - b. Moderate – Gift Wrap/Selling of Consumables
  - c. Labor Intensive (with benefit of social impact) – movie nights, community picnics, etc.
6. How will the funds be utilized?
  - a. Arts and Education Programs
  - b. Technology Funds
  - c. Funding school project
7. What types of Arts & Education Programs do we want?

To keep the newly empowered PTOs focused and motivated in helping their organization with this change, we have outline a theme, objective and goals for the 2015-2016 year.

***Theme for 2015-2016: Patience, Togetherness, and Children:*** We will have patience as we explore what the new structure means for our PTO. We are in this together and will share ideas and experiences so that we can grow together. We will remember that our work is about the children. Remember, a positive change is sometimes a slow change.

***Objective for 2015-2016:*** To help PTOs create a plan for how they want to operate within the new WEPTO structure.

***Goals for 2015-2016:***



- Help PTOs create a fundraising plan
- Help PTOs execute fundraising ideas
- Help PTOs decide how to budget their fundraising money
- Help PTOs communicate to their community how the changes to the WEPTO organization affect their community
  - Monies raised go directly to school PTO
  - Need for volunteers has increased
- Help PTOs decide what types of Arts and Education Programs they want
- Help schedule Arts & Education Programs
- Continue to support the PTOs social events
- Make WEPTO an easier organization to run

We are looking forward to working with you during the 2015-2016 academic year.

Best wishes,

Betsy Mettes: WEPTO treasurer, Kim Koehr and Kerry Shyjan: co-presidents