

BYLAWS

OF

West Somerville Neighborhood School

PTA

Somerville

, Massachusetts

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REGION: 3 DISTRICT 14 EIN: 04-3335651

SCHOOL NAME West Somerville Neighborhood School
ADDRESS 177 Powder House Blvd
CITY, STATE, ZIP Somerville, MA 02144

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this association is the West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA of Somerville, Massachusetts. It is a local PTA organized under the authority of the Massachusetts Parent Teacher Association Inc. (Massachusetts PTA), a branch of the National Congress of Parents and Teachers (National PTA). For convenience, the association shall be referred to in these bylaws as the WSNS PTA.

#ARTICLE II: PURPOSES

Section 1. The purposes of the WSNS PTA, in common with those of National PTA and Massachusetts PTA are:

- a. To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, places of worship, and throughout the community;
- b. To raise the standards of home life;
- c. To advocate for laws that further the education, physical and mental health, welfare, and safety of children and youth;
- d. To promote the collaboration and engagement of families and educators in the education of children and youth;
- e. To engage the public in united efforts to secure the physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social wellbeing of all children and youth; and
- f. To advocate for fiscal responsibility regarding public tax dollars in public education funding.

Section 2. The purposes of National PTA, Massachusetts PTA and the WSNS PTA are promoted through an advocacy and educational program directed toward parents, teachers, and the general public; developed through conferences, committees, projects, and programs; and governed and qualified by the basic policies set forth in Article III.

Section 3. The association is organized exclusively for the charitable, scientific, literary or educational purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code or corresponding section of any future federal tax code (hereinafter "Internal Revenue Code").

#ARTICLE III: PRINCIPLES

The following are principles of the WSNS PTA, in common with those of National PTA and Massachusetts PTA:

- a. The association shall be noncommercial, nonsectarian, and nonpartisan.
- b. The association shall work with the schools and community to provide quality education for all children and youth and shall seek to participate in the decision-making process establishing school policy, recognizing that the

legal responsibility to make decisions has been delegated by the people to boards of education, state education authorities, and local education authorities.

- c. The association shall work to promote the health and welfare of children and youth and shall seek to promote collaboration between parents, schools, and the community at large.
- d. No part of the net earnings of the association shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to its members, directors, trustees, officers or other private individuals except that the association shall be authorized and empowered to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in Article II hereof.
- e. Notwithstanding any other provision of these articles, the association shall not carry on any other activities not permitted to be carried on (i) by an association exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or (ii) by an association, contributions to which are deductible under Section 170(c) (2) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- f. Upon the dissolution of the association, after paying or adequately providing for the debts and obligations of the association, the remaining assets shall be distributed to one or more nonprofit funds, foundations, organizations, or associations that have established their tax-exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.
- g. The association or members in their official capacities shall not, directly or indirectly, participate or intervene (in any way, including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for public office; or devote more than an insubstantial part of its activities to attempting to influence legislation by propaganda or otherwise.
- h. A local PTA unit may cooperate with other associations and agencies concerned with child welfare, but PTA representatives shall make no commitments that bind the group they represent.

#ARTICLE IV: RELATIONSHIP WITH NATIONAL PTA AND MASSACHUSETTS PTA

Section 1. This local PTA shall be organized and chartered under the authority of Massachusetts PTA in the area in which this local PTA functions, in conformity with such rules and regulations, not in conflict with the National PTA Bylaws, as Massachusetts PTA may in its bylaws prescribe. The Massachusetts PTA shall issue to this local PTA an appropriate charter evidencing the due association and good standing of this local PTA.

A local PTA in good standing is one that:

- a. Adheres to the purposes and basic policies of the PTA;
- b. Remits the national portion of the dues through the state PTA to reach the national office by dates designated by National PTA;
- c. Remits the state portion of the dues to the state PTA by the dates designated by Massachusetts PTA November 1st and monthly thereafter;
- d. Remits a membership list to the State PTA with dues each month. You may send your list to the State PTA by email in an Excel spreadsheet format with first and last name, phone number, and email. The Massachusetts PTA does not share its membership lists;

- e. Has a minimum of 25 members. It is expected that membership drives will be held on a yearly basis for increasing members; (Exceptions to this minimum will be reviewed on an individual basis.)
- f. Has current officer list with names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses on file with Massachusetts PTA;
- g. Has current bylaws (bylaws approved by the state PTA within the last four (4) years are considered current);
- h. Has Employer Identification number (EIN) on file with Massachusetts PTA.
- i. File with the IRS a 990-N, 990EZ, or 990 and form PC with Massachusetts Attorney General.

Section 2. The articles of association of this local PTA include (a) the bylaws of such association and (b) the certificate of incorporation or articles of incorporation of such association (in cases in which the association is a corporation) or the articles of association by whatever name (in cases in which the association exists as an unincorporated association).

Section 3. This local PTA shall adopt such bylaws for the government of the association as may be approved by Massachusetts PTA. Such bylaws shall not conflict with National PTA Bylaws or the bylaws of Massachusetts PTA.

Section 4. This local PTA shall include in its bylaws those articles and sections identified by the number (#) symbol as found in the Massachusetts PTA suggested local unit bylaws.

Section 5. Bylaws of this local PTA shall include an article on amendments.

Section 6. Bylaws of this local PTA shall include a provision establishing a quorum.

Section 7. The bylaws of this local PTA shall prohibit voting by proxy.

Section 8. A PTA member shall not serve as a voting member of this local PTA unit's board while serving as a paid employee of or under contract to this local PTA.

Section 9. The charter of this local PTA shall be subject to withdrawal and the status of such association as a local PTA shall be subject to termination, in the manner and under the circumstances provided in the bylaws of Massachusetts PTA.

Section 10. This local PTA is obligated, upon withdrawal of its charter by Massachusetts PTA:

- a. To yield up and surrender all of its books and records and all of its assets and property to Massachusetts PTA or to another 501 (C) (3) association approved by Massachusetts PTA.
- b. To cease and desist from the further use of any name that implies or connotes association with National PTA or Massachusetts PTA or status as a constituent association of National PTA.
- c. To carry out promptly, under the supervision and direction of Massachusetts PTA, all proceedings necessary or desirable for the purpose of dissolving WSNS PTA.

Section 11. A local PTA may dissolve and wind up its affairs in the following manner:

- a. The executive committee (or other body that, under its bylaws, manages the affairs of the local PTA shall adopt a resolution recommending the local PTA dissolve and directing that a question of such dissolution be submitted to a

vote at a special meeting of members having voting rights. Written or printed notice stating the purpose of such meeting is to consider the advisability of dissolving the local PTA shall be given to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of such meeting.

- b. Written notice of the adoption of such resolution, accompanied by a copy of the notice of the special meeting of members, shall be given to the president of Massachusetts PTA at least twenty (20) days before the date fixed for such special meeting of the members.
- c. Arrange for a Massachusetts PTA representative to speak to the executive committee or association prior to taking action.
- d. Only those persons who were members in good standing of the local PTA on the date of the adoption of the resolution and who continue to be members in good standing on the date of the special meeting shall be entitled to vote on the question of dissolution.
- e. Approval of dissolution of the local PTA or PTSA shall require the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote at the special meeting, a quorum being present. However, before the final vote can be taken, the members must decide how to dispose of the property and assets of the unit in accordance with Section 501(C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Article III f).
- f. Notify Massachusetts PTA in writing with the results of the vote. If the local PTA unit votes to disband, they must return their Charter to the Massachusetts PTA Office. The Massachusetts PTA will notify the IRS that this unit is no longer a tax-exempt association of Massachusetts PTA and will also notify National PTA that the unit has dissolved.

ARTICLE V: MEMBERS AND DUES

#Section 1. Every individual who is a member of a local PTA chartered by Massachusetts PTA is, by virtue of that fact, a member of National PTA and of Massachusetts PTA, and is entitled to all the benefits of such membership.

#Section 2. Membership in this local PTA shall be open, without discrimination, to anyone who believes in and supports the Mission and Purposes of National PTA.

#Section 3. This local PTA shall conduct an annual enrollment of members prior to November 1 but may admit persons to membership at any time in accordance with Article 10 Section 5.

#Section 4. Each member of a local PTA shall pay such annual dues as may be determined by the association. The amount of dues shall include the portion payable to Massachusetts PTA as recommended by the Massachusetts PTA Board of Directors and approved by a majority of the voting body at the Massachusetts PTA Annual Meeting, and the portion payable to National PTA as recommended by the National PTA Board of Directors and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting body at the National PTA Annual Meeting.

#Section 5. The state and national portion of the dues paid by each member to a local unit shall be set aside and remitted to Massachusetts PTA on or before November 1. Additional dues from members joining after November 1 should then be submitted monthly and not kept as part of the local unit's treasury.

Section 6. An official membership card shall be issued when the member's name is entered into the unit's membership system and the dues payment is submitted. Membership cards may be issued in either digital or paper form. A membership card is not

interchangeable between local PTAs or schools and does not confer membership on more than one individual.

Section 7. Massachusetts PTA membership year is July 1 to June 30. Renewing members have until September 30 to submit their membership renewal, allowing a grace period from July 1 to September 30. During this grace period, members are entitled to their full membership rights, including voting rights on approval of the PTA budget and programs or meetings.

Section 8. Membership may be paid for by a scholarship or sponsorship. Funds must be identified and set aside in a "membership scholarship fund" within the budget. Teachers may be included to receive a membership scholarship with their permission.

#Section 9. A PTA unit will not be considered a unit in good standing and therefore not eligible to participate in the Reflections Program if their dues have not been sent to the State Office by December 31st, bylaws are not current, and officers are not updated. Parents of Reflections winners must be a member of the local PTA unit or Cranberry PTA.

#Section 10. A PTA unit will not be considered a unit in good standing and therefore not eligible for awards (national or state) if the dues are not on the Massachusetts PTA books by December 31st and bylaws are not current and officers are not updated.

ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this local PTA shall be one (1) president, two (2) vice presidents, two (2) secretaries, and one (1) treasurer.

Section 2. Elections for officer positions shall be held at the annual meeting in April or May. The president, one vice president, and one secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years; the treasurer, one vice president, and one secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Section 3. The vote shall be conducted anonymously by paper or electronic ballot. When there is no more than one candidate for each office, the ballot for that office may be dispensed with an election held by voice vote or show of hands.

Section 4. For offices with only one position, a majority vote shall be required for the election. For offices with two positions, the two candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected to office.

Section 5. The following provisions shall govern the qualifications and eligibility of individuals to be officers of the WSNS PTA:

#a. Each officer shall be a member of this local PTA.

b. No officer may be eligible to serve more than 2 consecutive terms in the same office, except in that situation where a qualified officer has agreed to extend their term in the absence of a qualified successor and as approved by the members of the WSNS PTA.

c. A person who has served in an office for more than one half of a full term shall be deemed to have served a full term in such office.

Section 6. Officers shall assume their official duties following the close of the current school year and shall serve for a term of 2 years or until their successors are elected.

Section 7. A vacancy occurring in the office of president shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the longest-serving vice president. The executive committee shall fill a vacancy in any office other than the president.

#Section 8. There shall be a nominating committee composed of three (3) members who shall be elected by this local PTA at a regular general membership meeting at least six months prior to the election of officers, as outlined in Article VI, Section 2.

- a. The committee shall elect its own chair.
- b. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one (1) eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the regular general membership meeting in April or May, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. A thirty-day (30) notice of the meeting, including the slate of officers to be presented, must be given to the membership.
- c. Only those individuals who are current members of this local PTA and who have signified their consent to serve if elected shall be nominated for, or elected to, such office.

Section 9. When an officer fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without adequate excuse or when an officer is not fulfilling the responsibilities of the office as prescribed in the bylaws, or engages in conduct which the executive committee determines to be injurious to the association or its purposes, the executive committee may by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote, take such action as it determines appropriate, which may include: (1) asking for the resignation of the officer; or (2) making a formal recommendation that the officer be removed from office following a hearing conducted in accordance with Due Process.*

*Footnote: "Due Process" Procedures: Following the two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote recommending that the officer be removed from office: (1) The officer must be given fifteen (15) days' written notice of the hearing to remove the officer from office; (2) The written notice shall contain the reasons for the proposed removal, and shall be mailed certified mail, return receipt requested, to the last address of the officer shown on the association's records; (3) At the hearing, the officer must be given an opportunity to address the executive committee, either orally or in writing; (4) Not less than five (5) days following the hearing, the executive committee shall convene and vote whether the officer will be removed from office; (5) A two-thirds (2/3) vote of the executive committee shall be sufficient to remove the officer from office; (6) The removal vote shall be recorded in the executive committee minutes and shall specify the number of voting in favor of and against such removal."

ARTICLE VII: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The president shall:

- a. Preside at all meetings of this local PTA;
- b. Serve as an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee;
- c. Coordinate the work of the officers and committees of this local PTA in order that the purposes may be promoted;
- d. Familiarize themselves with all PTA programs and resources;
- e. Sign all contracts;
- f. May appoint a parliamentarian, subject to the approval of the general membership of this local PTA;
- #g. Forward to the Massachusetts PTA by June 30th or if fall elections by October 31st the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses of the officers that will serve for the following school year (even if the officers do not change). Massachusetts PTA does not share this information with 3rd parties.

- h. Perform such other duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the executive committee.

Section 2. The vice-president(s) shall:

- a. Act as aide(s) to the president;
- b. In their designated order (list order) perform the duties of the president in the president's absence or inability to serve;
- c. Familiarize themselves with all PTA programs and resources;
- d. Perform such other duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the president, or the executive committee.

Section 3. The secretary/secretaries shall:

- a. Record the minutes of all meetings of the WSNS PTA;
- b. Be prepared to read the records of any previous meetings;
- c. File and retain all records;
- #d. Have a current copy of the bylaws (bylaws approved by the state within the last four (4) years are considered current);
- #e. Maintain a membership list, with names and addresses of members;
- f. Perform such duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the president or executive committee.
- g. If there are two secretaries, the duties may be divided as appropriate. For example, one can be the "recording secretary," responsible for duties listed above, and one can be the "corresponding secretary," responsible for communications to membership and the school community.

Section 4. The treasurer shall:

- a. Have custody of all the funds of this local PTA;
- #b. Maintain a full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures of this local PTA;
- #c. Make disbursements as authorized by the president or executive committee or this local PTA in accordance with the budget adopted by this local PTA;
- d. Have checks signed by two people: the treasurer and one other authorized person;
- #e. Notify the Massachusetts PTA Office of its unit's Employer Identification Number (EIN). If no number is presently available, the local PTA unit must apply for one;
- #f. Shall keep all records of national and state portions of the membership dues separate from the records of the general fund of the WSNS PTA;
- g. Shall keep all records of the membership scholarship fund separate from the

records of the general fund of the WSNS PTA;

- h. Shall keep all records of the emergency fund separate from the records of the general fund of the WSNS PTA;
- #i. Present a written financial statement at every meeting of this local PTA and at other times when requested by the executive committee or any member;
- #j. Forward the state and national portion of the membership dues to the Massachusetts PTA Office on or before November 1 along with names, phone numbers, and emails of members. Massachusetts PTA does not give out its membership lists. Additional membership dues should be submitted monthly thereafter.
- #k. Present an annual treasurer's report to this local PTA at the annual meeting;
- #l. Have the accounts reviewed, when a person who has signature authority leaves the board. This is to be done by an audit committee selected by the executive committee at least two weeks before the meeting at which the officers assume their duties;
- #m. File a 990 with the IRS. (See IRS income-based requirements to determine which form is required.)
- #n. File form PC with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, submitting required forms in accordance with the instructions specified on the form.
- #o. File an annual report to the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office, if incorporated;
- #p. Secure and maintain insurance for the local unit;
- #q. Submit annually to Massachusetts PTA by the 15th day of the 5th month the end of the local unit fiscal year a completed internal financial review form provided by Massachusetts PTA or a report from an independent auditor stating that an audit has been performed for the local PTA unit;
- r. Perform such other duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the president or the executive committee.

#Section 5. Accounts and records of the WSNS PTA shall at all reasonable times be open to inspection by an authorized representative of Massachusetts PTA or, where directed by the committee on state and local relationships.

Section 6. No two members of the same family may be on the signature card for this PTA's bank account.

Section 7. All officers shall deliver to their successors all official materials no later than thirty (30) days following the election of their successor, by the close of the school year, or upon resignation, whichever is sooner.

ARTICLE VIII: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The executive committee shall consist of the officers of the WSNS PTA. The WSNS principal or their designee shall be invited to participate in executive committee meetings, but is not a voting member of the executive committee.

Section 2. Special meetings of the executive committee may be called by the president or upon written request of three (3) of the executive board members, with three (3) days'

notice to each executive committee member. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media, or any combination thereof.

Section 3. A majority of the executive committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 4. Duties of the executive committee shall be to:

- a. Transact necessary business in the intervals between general PTA meetings and such other business as may be referred to it by this local PTA;
- b. Appoint standing and special committee chairs and members as may deem necessary to promote the purposes of PTA and carry on the work of this local PTA;
- c. Approve the work of the committees;
- d. Make a report at the general meetings of this local PTA;
- #e. Select an auditor or audit committee to be approved by the general membership of the local PTA to audit the treasurer's accounts;
- #f. Prepare and submit to this local PTA for adoption a budget for the year;
- g. Approve routine bills within the limits of the budget.

Section 5. The executive committee shall take no action in conflict with any action taken by the general membership of this local PTA.

ARTICLE IX: COMMITTEES

Section 1. Only members of this local PTA shall be eligible to serve in any elective or appointive positions.

Section 2. Other than the executive committee, the standing committees of this local PTA shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Nominating committee;
- b. Bylaws committee.

Section 3. The term of each standing committee chair and all committee members shall be one (1) year or until the selection of a successor.

Section 4. The chair of each committee shall present a plan of work to the executive committee for approval. No committee work shall be undertaken without the consent of the executive committee.

Section 5. When the chair of a committee fails to attend three (3) consecutive meetings without an adequate excuse or when the committee chair is not fulfilling the responsibilities of the office as prescribed in the bylaws, or engages in conduct which the executive committee determines to be injurious to the association or its purposes, the executive committee may by a two-thirds vote (2/3) affirmative vote, take such action as it determines appropriate, which may include: (1) asking for the resignation of the committee chair; (2) making a formal recommendation that the committee chair be removed from office.

Section 6. Upon the expiration of the term of office or in the case of the resignation or termination, each committee chair shall turn over to the president, without delay, all

records, books, and other material pertaining to the committee chair, and shall return to the treasurer, without delay, all funds belonging to the association.

- Section 7. The chair and members of special committees shall serve until their assignments have been completed, their replacements have been named, or the special committee has been dissolved.

ARTICLE X: GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

- Section 1. At least three (3) regular meetings of the association shall be held during the school year. Dates of the meetings shall be determined by the executive committee in coordination with the school principal and announced with at least seven (7) days notice. Seven (7) days' notice shall be given to the general membership of any change of date. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media, or any combination thereof.
- Section 2. Special meetings of this local PTA may be called by the president or by a majority of the executive committee, or by written request of ten (10) members of this PTA whose dues are paid, with seven (7) days' notice having been given. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media, or any combination thereof.
- Section 3. The annual meeting shall be in April or May and shall be for the purpose of electing officers, receiving reports of officers and committees, and conducting any other business that may arise.
- #Section 4. Thirteen (13) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business in any meeting of this local PTA.
- Section 5. The privilege of making motions, debating, and voting at local PTA meetings shall be limited to members of the association who are present and whose dues are paid and who have been members of the association for at least 1 day.
- Section 6. The general membership meeting held in September or October shall be for the purpose of announcing the dates of meetings to be held, approving an annual budget, electing a nominating committee, approving an auditor or audit committee, approving delegates and their alternates to the Somerville Council PTA, considering the appointment of a parliamentarian (if proposed), reviewing the treasurer's financial statement, receiving reports of officers and committees, and conducting any other business that may arise.
- Section 7. Additional meetings shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees and conducting any other business that may arise.

ARTICLE XI: COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

- Section 1. Delegation to Somerville Council PTA
- a. This local PTA shall be represented in meetings of the Somerville Council PTA by the president or appointed alternate, and by two (2) delegates or their alternates. All representatives to the council must be members of this local PTA.
 - b. Delegates and their alternates shall be nominated and approved at the general membership meeting in September or October.
 - c. Delegates to Somerville Council PTA shall serve for a term of one (1) year.
 - d. The approved representatives of this PTA to Council will report back to the executive committee and general membership as appropriate and necessary.

ARTICLE XII: FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this PTA shall begin on July 1 and end the following June 30.

#ARTICLE XIII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the WSNS PTA and in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are applicable and in which they are not in conflict with these bylaws, National PTA Bylaws, Massachusetts PTA bylaws, or the articles of incorporation.

ARTICLE XIV: AMENDMENTS

- Section 1. These bylaws may be amended at any regular general membership meeting of the WSNS PTA by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, a quorum being present, and notice of the proposed amendments having been provided to the membership thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.
- Section 2. A committee may be appointed by a majority vote at a general meeting of this local PTA, or by a 2/3 vote of the executive committee of this local PTA, to submit a revised set of bylaws as a substitute for the existing bylaws.
- Section 3. Submission of amendments or revised bylaws for approval by Massachusetts PTA shall be in accordance with the bylaws or regulations of Massachusetts PTA.
- #Section 4. The adoption of an amendment to any provision of Massachusetts PTA suggested local PTA unit bylaws identified by a number (#) symbol shall serve automatically and without the requirement of further action by the WSNS PTA to amend its corresponding bylaws. This local PTA shall promptly incorporate such amendments in its bylaws.

**BYLAWS SUBMISSION FORM FOR LOCAL UNITS
Amendments or Revisions to Bylaws**

Unit Name: West Somerville Neighborhood School PTA

Unit Number (8-digits): 00019069

Bylaw Committee Contact Person: Leiran Biton

Address: 1087 Broadway #2

City, State, Zip: Somerville, MA 02144

Daytime Phone: Day Phone: 617-733-1592, Evening Phone: 617-733-1592

Email Address: leiranbiton@gmail.com

Was official notice given (per bylaws) of intent to amend bylaws? Yes No

If yes, date of notice: March 3, 2023

If no, reason:

Was a quorum present at the time of voting? Yes No

Meeting Date: April 26, 2023

President's Name (please print): Callie Wiser

Email Address: Callie.Wiser@gmail.com

Street, City, State, Zip: 71 Wallace St., Somerville, MA 02144

Telephone: 617-852-6488

Secretary's Signature:
(may type in name if submitting by email)



Date Submitted: 05/08/2023

For approval please submit:

- Bylaws submission form
- **Completed bylaws to be submitted on the most current suggested local unit bylaws template in Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx extension).**
- Submissions made by email to **bylaws@masspta.org**.

Allow at least 2-3 weeks for response from the State Bylaws Chair. An approval letter will be sent to the Bylaws Contact Person.

Summary of Changes Made to the WSNS PTA Bylaws:

I. Substantive changes to our PTA's operations

ITEM A. Moving the nominating committee's report from February to April or May.

Article/Section No.: Article VI, Section 7b (renumbered to 8b).

Reads:

b. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the regular general membership meeting in February (month), at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. A thirty-day notice of the meeting, including the slate of officers to be presented, must be given to the membership.

Now Reads:

b. The nominating committee shall nominate at least one eligible person for each office to be filled and report its nominees at the regular general membership meeting in April or May, at which time additional nominations may be made from the floor. A thirty-day notice of the meeting, including the slate of officers to be presented, must be given to the membership.

ITEM B. Clarifying that officer elections shall be anonymous and may be conducted by paper or electronic ballot. This also streamlines how officer elections will be run for positions with one vs. two positions in a new Article VI, Section 4, renumbering subsequent sections.

Article/Section No.: Article VI, Section 3 and 4.

Reads:

Section 3. The vote shall be conducted by ballot. When there is but one candidate for an office, the ballot for that office may be dispensed with and election held by voice vote. A majority vote shall be required for the election.

Now Reads:

Section 3. The vote shall be conducted anonymously by paper or electronic ballot. When there is no more than one candidate for each office, the ballot for that office may be dispensed with an election held by voice vote or show of hands.

Section 4. For offices with only one position, a majority vote shall be required for the election. For offices with two positions, the two candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected to office.

ITEM C. Duties of the treasurer to account for the membership scholarship fund and emergency fund

Article/Section No.: Article VI, new subsections 4g and 4h (subsequent subsections will be renumbered)

Now Reads:

g. Shall keep all records of the membership scholarship fund separate

from the records of the general fund of the WSNS PTA;

h. Shall keep all records of the emergency fund separate from the records of the general fund of the WSNS PTA;

ITEM D. Composition of the executive committee

Article/Section No.: Article VIII, Section 1

Reads:

The executive committee shall consist of the elected officers of WSNS PTA, and an invitation is extended to the principal of the school or representative appointed by him.

Now Reads:

The executive committee shall consist of the officers of WSNS PTA. The WSNS principal or their designee shall be invited to participate in executive committee meetings, but is not a voting member of the executive committee.

ITEM E. Terms of standing committee members and chairs

Article/Section No.: Article IX, Section 3

Reads:

The term of each standing committee chair shall be 1 year(s) or until the selection of a successor.

Now Reads:

The term of each standing committee chair and all committee members shall be one (1) year or until the selection of a successor.

ITEM F. Terms of special committee members and chairs

Article/Section No.: Article IX, Section 7

Reads:

The chairmen and members of special committees shall serve until their assignments have been completed.

Now Reads:

The chair and members of special committees shall serve until their assignments have been completed, their replacements have been named, or the special committee has been dissolved.

ITEM G. Removing the requirement for the superintendent and principal to determine the PTA meeting dates.

Article/Section No.: Article X, Section 1

Reads:

At least 3 regular meetings of the association shall be held during the school year. Dates of the meetings shall be determined by Superintendent of Schools and School Principal and announced at the

first regular PTA meeting of the school year. 7 days' notice shall be given to the general membership of any change of date. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media or any combination thereof.

Now Reads:

At least three (3) regular meetings of the association shall be held during the school year. Dates of the meetings shall be determined by the executive committee in coordination with the school principal and announced with at least seven (7) days notice. Seven (7) days' notice shall be given to the general membership of any change of date. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media, or any combination thereof.

ITEM H. Changing the process of selecting delegates to Somerville Council PTA from an election to a nomination and approval.

Article/Section No.: Article XI, subsection 1b

Reads:

b. Delegates and their alternates shall be chosen by election in September (month).

Now Reads:

b. Delegates and their alternates shall be nominated and approved at the general membership meeting in September or October.

ITEM I. Removal of dues to Somerville Council PTA. Dues are no longer collected by the Somerville Council PTA.

Article/Section No.: Article XI, Section 2

Reads:

Section 2. This local PTA shall pay annual dues of \$35.00 to the Somerville Council PTA as provided in the Council PTA bylaws

Now reads:

-

ITEM J. Empowering membership to call meetings of the PTA. Note this change is also consistent with the Massachusetts PTA template bylaws.

Article/Section No.: Article X, Section 2

Reads:

Special meetings of this local PTA may be called by the president or by a majority of the executive committee. 7 days' notice having been given. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media or any combination thereof.

Now Reads:

Special meetings of this local PTA may be called by the president or by a majority of the executive committee, or by written request of ten (10) members of this PTA whose dues are paid, with seven (7) days' notice

having been given. Notice may be given by means of regular mail, electronic mail, telephone, website postings, printed media, or any combination thereof.

ITEM K. Clarifying the number of Vice President and Secretary Officers

Article/Section No.: Article VI, Section 1

Reads:

The officers of this local PTA shall be one president, at least one vice president(s), at least one secretary, and one treasurer.

Now Reads:

The officers of this local PTA shall be one (1) president, two (2) vice presidents, two (2) secretaries, and one (1) treasurer.

II. Changes made based on updates from the Massachusetts PTA template bylaws

ITEM A. Submitting membership lists to Massachusetts PTA

Article/Section No.: Article IV, Section 1(d).

Reads:

Remits a membership list to the State PTA with dues each month. You may send your list to the State PTA on a disc or email in an Excel spreadsheet format. This is an IRS requirement. The Massachusetts PTA does not share its membership lists.

Now Reads:

Remits a membership list to the State PTA with dues each month. You may send your list to the State PTA by email in an Excel spreadsheet format with first and last name, phone number, and email. The Massachusetts PTA does not share its membership lists.

ITEM B. Language regarding the number of members required to be a local PTA

Article/Section No.: Article IV, Section 1(e).

Reads:

e. Has a minimum of 25 members to become a PTA. It is expected that membership drives be held on a yearly basis for increasing members; (Exceptions to this minimum will be reviewed on an individual basis.)

Now Reads:

e. Has a minimum of 25 members. It is expected that membership drives will be held on a yearly basis for increasing members; (Exceptions to this minimum will be reviewed on an individual basis.)

ITEM C. Specifying the amount of dues required

Article/Section No.: Article V, Section 4.

Reads:

Each member of a local PTA shall pay such annual dues as may be

determined by the association. The amount of dues shall include the portion payable to Massachusetts PTA as recommended by the Massachusetts PTA board of directors and approved by a majority of the voting body at the Massachusetts PTA Annual Convention, and the portion payable to National PTA as recommended by the National PTA Board of Directors and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting body at the National PTA Annual Convention.

Now Reads:

Each member of a local PTA shall pay such annual dues as may be determined by the association. The amount of dues shall include the portion payable to Massachusetts PTA as recommended by the Massachusetts PTA Board of Directors and approved by a majority of the voting body at the Massachusetts PTA Annual Meeting, and the portion payable to National PTA as recommended by the National PTA Board of Directors and approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting body at the National PTA Annual Meeting.

ITEM D. Requirements for a membership card

Article/Section No.: Article V, Section 6

Reads:

Each local unit shall issue, upon payment of dues, membership cards, which shall be valid for the current school year. A membership card is not interchangeable between PTAs or schools and does not confer membership on more than one individual.

Now Reads:

An official membership card shall be issued when the member's name is entered into the unit's membership system and the dues payment is submitted. Membership cards may be issued in either digital or paper form. A membership card is not interchangeable between local PTAs or schools and does not confer membership on more than one individual.

ITEM E. Adding new sections related to membership and dues

Article/Section No.: Article V, New Section 7 and 8 (existing sections 7 and 8 will be renumbered to 9 and 10)

Now reads:

Section 7. Massachusetts PTA membership year is July 1 to June 30. Renewing members have until September 30 to submit their membership renewal, allowing a grace period from July 1 to September 30. During this grace period, members are entitled to their full membership rights, including voting rights on approval of the PTA budget and programs or meetings.

Section 8. Membership may be paid for by a scholarship or sponsorship. Funds must be identified and set aside in a "membership scholarship fund" within the budget. Teachers may be included to receive a membership scholarship with their permission.

ITEM G. Filling vacant offices

Article/Section No.: Article VI, Section 6 (renumbered to Section 7)

Reads:

Section 6. A vacancy occurring in the office of president shall be filled for the remainder of the un-expired term by the vice president (if more than 1 vice president, you need to indicate which vice president would fill the un-expired term). The executive committee shall fill a vacancy in any office other than the president for the remainder of the un-expired term.

Now Reads:

Section 7. A vacancy occurring in the office of president shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by the longest-serving vice president. The executive committee shall fill a vacancy in any office other than the president.

ITEM H. Duties of the president

Article/Section No.: Article VII, new subsections 1d and 1e (subsequent subsections will be renumbered)

Now Reads:

d. Familiarize themselves with all PTA programs and resources;

e. Sign all contracts;

ITEM I. Duties of the vice-president(s)

Article/Section No.: Article VII, new subsection 2c (subsequent subsections will be renumbered)

Now Reads:

c. Familiarize themselves with all PTA programs and resources;

ITEM I. Duties of the secretary/secretaries

Article/Section No.: Article VII, new subsection 3g

Now Reads:

g. If there are two secretaries, the duties may be divided as appropriate. For example, one can be the "recording secretary," responsible for duties listed above, and one can be the "corresponding secretary," responsible for communications to membership and the school community.

ITEM J. Duties of the treasurer

Article/Section No.: Article VII, subsections 4h, 4k (renumbered to 4j, 4m), new subsection 4p (subsequent subsections will be renumbered)

Reads:

h. Forward the state and national portion of the membership dues to the Massachusetts PTA Office on or before November 1 along with names and addresses of members (IRS Regulation). Massachusetts PTA does not give out its membership lists. Additional membership dues should be submitted monthly thereafter;

...

k. Complete a form 990 or 990EZ with a Schedule A. If gross receipts exceed \$50,000 annually, then you must submit the form to the IRS. If gross receipts are under \$50,000, you will now be required to file electronically Form 990-N, also known as the e-Postcard, with the IRS annually.

...

Now Reads:

j. Forward the state and national portion of the membership dues to the Massachusetts PTA Office on or before November 1 along with names, phone numbers, and emails of members. Massachusetts PTA does not give out its membership lists. Additional membership dues should be submitted monthly thereafter.

...

m. File a 990 form 990 or 990EZ with the IRS with a Schedule A. (See IRS income-based requirements to determine which form is required.)

...

p. Secure and maintain insurance for the local unit;

III. Changes made for improved clarity and readability

ITEM A. Referring to “the WSNS PTA” instead of “WSNS PTA”

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Added “the” before “WSNS PTA” as appropriate

ITEM B. Improving formatting of tabs, spaces, and other whitespace

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Adjusted spacing, tabs, and other whitespace

ITEM C. Removing references to PTSA

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Changing all references of the “PTA or PTSA” to the “PTA”

ITEM D. Clarifying language for officer elections

Article/Section No.: Article VI, Section 2

Reads:

Officers shall be elected by ballot in the month of April/May. The president and secretaries shall be elected in odd-numbered years; the vice presidents and treasurer shall be elected in even-numbered years.

Now Reads:

Elections for officer positions shall be held at the annual meeting in April or May. The president, one vice president, and one secretary shall be elected in odd-numbered years; the treasurer, one vice president, and one secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years.

ITEM E. Removing extraneous instructional language

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Removing parenthetical instructional language from the template in the final bylaws language

ITEM F. Standardizing treatment of numerals

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Where numbers appear, they will be spelled out and then appear as a digit surrounded by parenthesis, e.g., “one (1) eligible person”

ITEM G. Minor grammatical fixes

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Minor changes to address grammatical or typographical errors

ITEM H. Standing committees

Article/Section No.: Article IX, Section 2

Reads:

Section 2. The standing committees of this local PTA shall include, but shall not be limited to:

- a. Nomination,
- b. By-laws.

Now Reads:

Section 3. Other than the executive committee, the standing committees of this local PTA shall include, but not be limited to:

- a. Nominating committee;
- b. Bylaws committee.

ITEM I. Removing gendered language

Article/Section No.: Numerous locations

Replacing gendered language with gender neutral language.. Example: changing “a committee chairman” to “the chair of a committee”) throughout (e.g., Article IX, Section 5).

ITEM J. Enumerating the business to be conducted at the September/October and additional meetings. (These items are all listed in other sections, and will be repeated here for clarity.)

Article/Section No.: Adding Article X, Sections 6 and 7

Now Reads:

Section 7. The general membership meeting held in September or October shall be for the purpose of announcing the dates of meetings to

be held, approving an annual budget, electing a nominating committee, approving an auditor or audit committee, approving delegates and their alternates to the Somerville Council PTA, considering the appointment of a parliamentarian (if proposed), reviewing the treasurer's financial statement, receiving reports of officers and committees, and conducting any other business that may arise.

Section 8. Additional meetings shall be for the purpose of receiving reports of officers and committees and conducting any other business that may arise.

ITEM K. Somerville Council PTA membership section header

Article/Section No.: Article XI, Section 1

Adding title "Delegation to Somerville Council PTA" to the Section header.

Date Changes Made: April 26, 2023