



WESTWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Honoring Tradition, Inspiring Excellence, Shaping the Future

WILLIAM E. SHEEHAN SCHOOL

Dear Sheehan families,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 school year! While the year will look different than a traditional school year, the Sheehan PTA looks forward to working with everyone to build our school community and support each other through these challenging times.

In this letter, we will give you more information about the PTA, introduce the PTA executive board and explain why and how to pay PTA dues.

Your Sheehan PTA is a liaison between parents, our principal Mrs. Evans, the Sheehan staff, and four other elementary schools in town. Becoming active in our PTA is a great way to meet other parents, learn more about school programs and help enhance your child's experience at Sheehan. Opportunities to work on committees are many and we have a list of committees that need volunteers. This will be distributed shortly and posted to the Sheehan School website and Sheehan School Facebook page (links below).

Above all, the PTA is about helping every family feel connected, so please reach out to let us know how we can serve you better and how you'd like to be involved!

PTA 2020-21 Executive Board

Co-president	Melissa McDonagh	sheehanptapresident@gmail.com
Co-president	Kristina Rull	sheehanptapresident@gmail.com
Treasurer	Suzanne Insler	sheehanptatreasurer@gmail.com
Co-secretary	Julie Slotnick	julie.slotnick@gmail.com
Co-secretary	Alix Stuart	alixstuart@gmail.com

All PTA programs are managed by parent volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a board member or volunteering, please contact Kristina Rull.

Why and how do I pay PTA dues?

Dues go directly to support the Sheehan community – and because the pandemic forced us to cancel some of our biggest fundraisers last spring, they are more necessary than ever this year.

Most years, we rely on a variety of fundraisers, including Mini Courses and the Parent Social, to supplement dues income, and we know almost exactly how much we'll need to support activities throughout the year. This year, like many organizations, our ability to fundraise is more limited while our needs are increasing and less predictable. Already, the PTA has made a number of purchases to help Sheehan adapt to the current environment, including new picnic tables for the Outdoor Learning Center and four outdoor tents and seating to provide more space beyond the classrooms for lunches, learning and connecting.

Dues are \$54.50 per child, or \$79.50 for families with 2 or more children at Sheehan (A fee of \$4.50 is included in the dues to cover the National PTA dues which provides our local PTA with additional resources and ideas). Dues can be paid online at AtoZ Connect (www.atozconnect.com) and paying



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them will give you access to the current school directory. We are no longer accepting checks as payment.

We expect this year's directory to be available online through AtoZ Connect by early October, more information to follow, although dues can be paid any time.

We also recognize that these dues may be a financial burden for some families. If this is the case for your family, please reach out to Mrs. Evans to request a waiver.

When are PTA meetings?

Tue October 6 (virtual)

Mon, January 11 (virtual)

Tue, March 23 (virtual)

Tue, June 1 (virtual)

Information on access to these virtual meetings will be available closer to the meeting date.

How do I get access to the directory?

We will continue to use our online directory provider, AtoZConnect, this year. By early October, we expect to have all current student and family information loaded into the directory from Aspen. We will send out login information when this happens. Parents will be able to edit their information throughout the year (changing or adding addresses or phone numbers, for example, or adding a second address).

Access to the directory is contingent on paying PTA dues, unless you have requested a waiver due to financial hardship.

If you DO NOT want your child's or family's information in the directory, please contact Alix Stuart (alixstuart@gmail.com) or Julie Slotnick (julie.slotnick@gmail.com), or submit a request to opt out directly through AtoZ.

What is the best way to get PTA information on an ongoing basis?

- **Join the Sheehan PTA Facebook page** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/SheehanPTA>
- **Check out the PTA website:** www.westwood.k12.ma.us/sheehan-school

We look forward to starting the 2020-2021 school year at Sheehan Elementary School. We always welcome new volunteers for committees and will soon share specific committees that are seeking new members. This year, we will be looking for your creativity as well as your participation, as some traditional activities and fundraisers will not be able to happen due to COVID crowd limitations. We would love to hear your ideas! In the meantime, if you have any questions or would like to find out more about the PTA, please do not hesitate to reach out to any board member.

Sincerely,

The Sheehan Elementary School PTA Executive Board

Melissa McDonagh, Kristina Rull, Suzanne Insler, Julie Slotnick, Alix Stuart