

Dear Sherwood PTA Families –

We are writing to let you know about a change we're proposing for Sherwood's PTA. Next month, we're going to discuss changing our PTA into a PTO.

The meeting will be: April 4, 2019 at 7 p.m. in the school media center

For the most part, if this change happens, you won't see much of a difference at all in how our group operates and what we do for the school. *We'll still focus on trying to make Sherwood a great community for our kids, teachers and families.* There will be some behind-the-scenes/technical changes, but we'll take care of those at the Board level – nothing for you to worry about there.

We'll discuss in more detail at the meeting, but the biggest reasons for the proposed change are:

1. **Keep all dues here at school.** You may not know this, but we actually don't get to keep all of your PTA membership dollars here at Sherwood. We have to pay \$4.75 for each Sherwood PTA member out to higher levels of PTA (that's more than 31% of the membership you pay to Sherwood). Plus, it's proposed to raise national dues next school year, which means we would be mailing off more than 41% of the dues the Sherwood PTA collects from its members. We think we can do better using those dollars right here at school.
2. **Independence.** We really haven't used any of the services offered by the PTA for many years now and feel like we can do just as well as we have been doing (or even better) as a PTO. PTOs are independent, and we can set policies and procedures that work specifically for Sherwood.
3. **No politics.** While we don't talk about it much here at school, the state and national PTA is actually pretty active as a lobbying organization. We don't have any particular problem with the positions the PTA lobbies for, but we've found that focusing on serving our school and building community (and staying away from politics) is more what we're looking for here at Sherwood.

As always, hope you can join us at the meeting, which should be short. If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of our Board members or President Tracy Huebner (tracyzhuebner@gmail.com).

Thanks for staying involved!

Your Sherwood PTA Board