



By-laws of the Las Sendas Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization

Article I: Name

The name of this organization shall be the Las Sendas Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization (LSPTO).

Article II: Membership

The following persons shall be members of the Parent-Teacher Organization of Las Sendas Elementary School:

- A. All parents and legal guardians of students enrolled at Las Sendas Elementary School
- B. All Las Sendas Elementary School staff.

Article III: Objectives

The objectives of the Parent-Teacher Organization shall be

- A. To promote quality education and cultural experiences for children.
- B. To provide close communication between home, school, teachers and community.
- C. To be well-informed on issues affecting education so as to effectively participate in school decisions at all levels.
- D. To sponsor fund raising activities which provide funds for school materials and programs that enhance the educational quality of the school.
- E. To arrange for special events of general interest for all members.
- F. To encourage support of and participation by members in the school's educational programs.
- G. To cooperate with the principal and staff in locating and scheduling parent volunteers, and to encourage the participation of all Las Sendas Elementary School parents.
- H. To operate completely as a non-profit organization. This organization is developed exclusively for charitable and educational purposes within the meaning of section 501©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Article IV: Basic Policies

- A. The purpose of the organization shall be educational and shall be developed through conferences, committees, and projects.
- B. This organization shall be non-commercial, non-sectarian, and non-partisan.
- C. This organization shall not (directly or indirectly) participate or intervene in a way, including the publishing or distribution of statements, in a political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.
- D. The organization shall work with the school to provide quality education for all children 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 citizens to the Board of Education and its administration.

- E. The organization may cooperate with other organizations and agencies concerning child welfare, but person representing the organization in such matters shall make no commitments that bind the organization.
- F. Whenever the Parent-Teacher Organization provides funding or other support, the Parent-Teacher Organization reserves the right to request progress reports from the recipients.

Article V: Officers

- A. The officers shall be the President, Vice-President of Fundraising, Vice-President of Communications, Vice-President of Events, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. The officers and Principal shall constitute the Executive Board of the P.T.O.
- C. The Executive Board must be willing to represent the membership-at-large with the best interest of the children as their primary function.

Article VI: Elections

- A. In January a nominating committee shall be appointed. Nominations for officers shall be made by the nominating committee. The nominating committee shall propose at least one candidate for each office. The candidates' names shall be given to the Secretary, as directed by the President, to be placed on a ballot by March 30th.
- B. Elections shall be held in April by ballot, or by a vote at the general PTO meeting. Absentee ballots will be available to parents one week prior to the scheduled meeting in the office.
- C. The officers shall be instated in May and work in conjunction with outgoing officers to begin their duties for the upcoming fiscal year (July 1st).
- D. Officers shall hold office until the conclusion of the current fiscal year (June 30th) and work in conjunction with the incoming officers.
- E. Any officer may be removed with cause, at any time, by the affirmative vote of the majority of the Executive Board.
- F. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Executive Board. Such resignation shall take effect at the time specified therein, and unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.
- G. If the office of any officer becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, disqualification, removal from office or otherwise, the Executive Board may choose a successor, who shall hold the office for the unexpired term in respect of which such vacancy occurred.
- H. The officers shall hold offices for a period of one year. No elected officer shall serve in the same capacity for more than two consecutive terms.
- I. Elected officers may serve no more than four consecutive years on the Executive Board, beginning July 1st.
- J. No more than one member of a household may serve on the Executive Board simultaneously.

Article VII: Duties of Officers

- A. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Executive Board. The President shall be a member ex officio of all the committees with the exception of the

- nomination committee and shall perform all other duties usually pertaining to the Office of President.
- B. The VP of Fundraising shall coordinate with the Executive Board to determine fundraising events for the school year. Create team to coordinate all Free Money efforts (Coyotes Dining Out, Box Tops, Labels for Education, community partners).
 - C. The VP of Events shall coordinate with the Executive Board to coordinate and plan events for the Las Sendas School community (students, teachers & parents) such as: Welcome Back Teacher breakfast, Meet the Teacher Night, Movie nights, Bingo nights, etc.
 - D. The VP of Communications shall work with the Executive Board to draft, disseminate and manage all communication from the PTO, including, but not limited to: flyers for Wednesday envelopes, the email PTO Newsletter and maintenance and updating of the www.lsppto.org website. VP Communications is also responsible for producing the student directory and updating PTO bulletin board.
 - E. The Secretary shall record the minutes of all the meetings of the organization and the Executive Board. The secretary shall maintain attendance records of all PTO meetings. This person shall be responsible for the correspondence of the organization and shall read or summarize correspondence received on behalf of the PTO and shall also perform such other duties as may be required by the Executive Board.
 - F. The Treasurer shall receive all monies of the organization; shall keep accurate record of the receipts and expenditures; shall pay funds out as authorized and shall make a summary report to the Executive Board as directed. The Treasurer will present a report at all monthly PTO meetings. The Treasurer shall prepare, with input from the Executive Board and others, a proposed budget showing potential expenditures and encumbrances for the coming year.
 - G. The Treasurer shall give the required documents to an auditing committee at least once per year between May 30th and July 31st. The Executive Board may choose to have additional audits conducted as needed. The Treasurer shall confer with a tax professional at least once per year between August 1st and September 30th.

Article VIII: Committees

- A. The Executive Board may, at its discretion, by a majority, establish committees. Every event, activity, or program shall have a committee of at least one person. The Executive Board shall have power at any time to change the membership of any committee, to fill vacancies in it, or to dissolve it.
- B. The Executive Board shall appoint a nominating committee and an auditing committee. Each committee shall consist of at least three people, no more than five. Members of these committees cannot be related to or live in the same household as current officers.
- C. While officers may serve on a program or event committee as a member-at-large, officers shall not serve as a chairperson of more than one committee. In the event that a chairperson cannot be found for a committee, a board member could be appointed by a vote at a general meeting.

Article IX: Meetings

- A. Executive Board meetings of this organization shall be held with the specific date and time to be set and posted by the Executive Board at a minimum of one meeting per quarter.
- B. A minimum of two evening general meetings shall be held every fiscal year.

- C. All meetings are subject to the Open Meeting Rules and Laws.
- D. The transaction of business at meetings will be conducted by those present. Any decisions will be effective upon a majority of those present and eligible to vote.
- E. Prior written notice must be given to the Executive Board at a minimum of 24 hours in advance of a General P.T.O. meeting in order to address the P.T.O. on an issue to be placed on the agenda. An Information Packet and Funding Proposal Form must be completed and submitted at the time of the request.
- F. The agenda must be strictly adhered to. Time restraints may be imposed by the Executive Board. The presentation of new business issues may be limited to a time restraint of five minutes.
- G. A minimum of two P.T.O. newsletters shall be issued per school year to all families and staff at Las Sendas Elementary School.

Article X: Funds

- A. P.T.O. Expenditures up to \$300 may be approved by the Executive Board. In an extreme emergency, as determined by the Executive Board, up to \$500 may be approved. As a practice, all P.T.O. Expenditures of the \$300 or more must be brought to a general meeting for a vote of the membership.
- B. All receipts submitted for reimbursement shall be subject to approval by the committee chair. Only original receipts or a copy of an original receipt will be accepted which clearly identify the item purchased. Persons who cannot produce such receipts may be held financially responsible for such purchases.
- C. No member of the P.T.O. shall gain personally or financially from unused or encumbered funds or assets.
- D. All checks and drafts on the P.T.O.'s accounts and all bills of exchange all acceptances, obligations, and other instruments for payment of money, shall be signed by at least two officers, one being the Treasurer.
- E. Within the proposed budget may be an item listed as miscellaneous gifts, not to exceed \$300 per year, unless voted upon as a separate item at a general meeting.
- F. The P.T.O. shall maintain a balanced budget.
- G. All bank statements and correspondence for the P.T.O. are to use the Las Sendas Elementary School address.
- H. No solicitation of funds or mailing of any type can be distributed without the approval of the Principal.
- I. A priority of using Las Sendas Elementary School P.T.O. funds shall be given to items, programs, or events for school-related activities organized and provided by Las Sendas Elementary School or by a school-related organization that directly or indirectly involves Las Sendas Elementary School students.

Article XI: Fiscal Year

The fiscal year for the Las Sendas Elementary School shall begin on July 1st and end on June 30th of each year.

Article XII: Parliamentary Authority

Roberts Rules of Order, revised, latest edition, shall be the parliamentary authority of this organization.

Article XIII: Amendments

These by-laws may be amended at a general meeting of the organization by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting, provided notice of the proposed amendment was given at the previous general meeting.

Article XIV: Mandates

The Las Sendas Elementary School P.T.O. must follow all district policies and procedures. All correspondence sent home via the students, and activities involving students, must have the approval of the Principal.