

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, October 10, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Location: Walker School

Attendees:

Courtney Shapiro	Michelle Henley	Paula Maldonado
Dorina Rasmussen	Donna Su	Jenna Arceneaux
Nicki Devine	Kuan Su	Dara Ury
Kelli Kaul	Lisa Levine	Maureen Powers
Maricela Walker	Allison Bull	Carla Green
Raechel Alexander	Natasha Dobson	Inbal Fraiman
Erin Saculti	Terry Velan	Darlana Simmons

Principal's Announcements

- As always, a big thank you to the PTA and all the parents who help make Walker great!
- Staff goals and what they are working on now:
 - Ensuring students are meeting their benchmarks and collage readiness goals
 - Equity – making sure every student is getting what he/she needs
 - Family engagement
 - Our Cool Tools – how we use them in our classrooms that's really going to engage our students
 - How do we support our teachers in classroom management
- A big thank you to all who came to our first Principal & Parent Coffee. Concerns that were voiced were how students are moved through lunch/recess and how we can improve communication. Staff teams will take these concerns and work on plans to address them – esp. the lunchroom issue, that will be a high priority.
- Tomorrow we will have Walk to School Day – it was postponed due to weather and we wanted to have it outside.
- We all celebrate Halloween differently. Teachers are asked to do Fall themed activities. K-2 is given the option to wear costumes, but the decision is up to the teacher. 3-5th don't dress-up
- We had a Be Kind kickoff. The theme will be used throughout the year – this is a way to deal with bullying.
 - Teachers are modeling the Be Kind token activity and then the students will get to take part in it.
- Our next Principal/Parent Coffee will be Oct. 26th
- Our next Parent Advisory Meeting will be Oct. 12th. Our first major activity will be a parent survey for their wants and needs.
- On Nov. 6th we will be a voting location. The morning drop-off will be treated as an inclement weather day where students will go straight into the building. We will have police out in the parking lot. Ms. Lumpkin will be out there 8:50-9:05am
 - Just for that day, drop-off and pick-up will be in the front playground
 - Where recess and P.E. will be is still undetermined – if the weather is good, then outside far from the back parking lot. But if the weather is bad, we will have to decide with staff to have it in classrooms.

Parent Questions/Comments - None

Teacher Announcements

- We love the Be Kind tokens and are excited about the program (esp with the signs all around the school)
- Thank you to Ms. Lumpkin for making plans on how to deal with Election Day! In the past there haven't been plans on how to deal with it in advance.
- Thank you to the Walkerfest crew! The clean-up was awesome – our rooms were nicely cleaned up!
- Teachers are happy with the supplies ordering.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Walkerfest Recap – A giant Thank You to all! The event was great! But we'd like to get some feedback.
 - We think the team did an amazing job and we don't think they could have changed anything. So we're looking for ideas/thoughts on how we can get our participation numbers back up (our attendance was down this year).

- Maybe there was not enough signage – around the community?
 - Maybe the timing was hard – for families with sports - possibly look into having it later in the day.
 - Possibly because on the holiday weekend
 - The video truck seemed popular (kids kept buying tix for it again and again); maybe we can raise the price for that activity.
 - Games are geared more towards the younger kids. Maybe we need to find something geared for the older kids. Maybe advertise the types of games to get the older kids interested.
 - Possibly do a wristbands sales competition – but since the cost is so steep, that might not be something we want to do. Teachers aren't so crazy over class competitions.
 - Teacher feedback – maybe Fall isn't a great time to have it?
 - Walkerfest got moved b/c PNO got moved to Feb. (it used to be in Nov. and Walkerfest in March/April. We kept PNO in Feb b/c it made a lot more money when held during that time.
 - Maybe have a game room and a game truck. Have a photo booth (kids loved that in the past) and we can charge for it.
 - Maybe we should change the tix system to a punch card.
 - Try to engage the community more – look into a food truck (but they charge a lot of money up front)
 - Pumpkin painting – ask Dewey how they afford it.
 - We picked the early date in hopes we could do outside activities, but if we want it all inside we can move it to the end of Oct/early Nov.
 - Maybe do a costume drive
 - The excitement from the kids possibly wasn't as high
 - Food sales might have been down since it was 12-3pm, when 11-2pm guarantees people eat there.
 - To get the older kid buy-in we should work with the student council to plan next year. Ms. Arceneaux & Ms. Maldonado will bring it up with the Student Council in the Spring.
- Spiritwear Update – People have been happy with the new products. We have officially broken even and now all sales will be a profit.
 - We are planning to sell at Dudes & Donuts
 - We'll be having a paper pre-order sale in the winter (for sweatshirts and other items)
 - Kids are wanting shirts and haven't been able to attend the events we've sold at – we will make sure they have an opportunity to get them.

Treasurer Update

- Walkerfest: made \$4,000 but short from what we budgeting (\$4,400). This is on the revenue side. The team came under budget in expenses.
- We've been in line with many things in our budget.
- Lego Club has made more than expected (had 30 kids sign up).
- School Supplies is right where we budgeted. We're at a 70% participation
 - K numbers have gone up and we're pretty even across all the grades.
- Still working on our financials – will have a work-up for the next meeting.

Safety Patrol/Parking Update

- Thank you to all the volunteers! We still need more! (we'll be sending out an ask soon)
- Thank you for your cooperation and patience!
- Things are going well
- All procedures are on the PTA website
- We will be going to the Skokie Village meeting on Oct. 15th at 8pm to ask for better signage. We need more parents to call or email into the village about this safety issue.
- Next for the traffic squad will be working on the pick-up procedure. No shift in policy, just a shift in enforcement.
 - Biggest issue is having to park in order to get kids under the age of 8.

- It sounds complicated, but other schools have done it and made it work. We just need to be patient.
- Ms. Lumpkin:
 - Thank you for all of your patience!
 - We've developed a pick-up zone on Central Park so parents can stay in their cars for pick-up. We are working with teachers and patrol and are going to make sure that pick-up is supervised.
 - Parents will get 3 copies of a dashboard sign to help identify for pick-up (teacher name and grade). There will be a color for each grade.
 - Next week, info will go out and then the week after conferences it will start. We will be promoting this at conferences.
 - 3-5th grade students can walk to Central Park and get picked up with their younger siblings
 - Kids will line up along the fence.
 - Classes will come out holding onto a rope so they stay in class groups
 - We're working on putting color tags on backpacks
 - Parents, please drive as close to Davis St. as possible to keep traffic flowing.
 - Parking lot issues will be addressed later, after the K-2 Central Park issue is solved.
 - Can you idle in car to wait for older grades to get in the pick-up line?
 - Yes, as long as you are in the car and idling
 - We are still planning the inclement weather pick-up procedure. Maybe use walkie-talkies and have kids line up in the hall.

Book Fair Update

- Starting setup on Friday at 4pm, if anyone can help please join us.
- We need more volunteers for Tues/Wed
- Special Friend's Day will be on Wed. during lunch/recess
- Coin Drive: made \$1160, traditionally we've used those funds for teachers (to fulfill their wish lists if not fully bought by parents).
- We need to add the support staff to the wish list bins
- We had the thought to get a book for every free/reduced lunch child (around 150). It's a great thought, more equitable, but the money would be tight to make it work, plus to match their reading level and appropriateness would be difficult. This idea came from the kids wish lists – b/c some of the kids don't get books, they know they won't get one b/c of the lack of means and they're made to look at books and pick some out even though they know they won't get one.
 - Maybe we can focus on students that teachers point out that would be very meaningful to get a book this year. Since time and money are short, we could do 2-3 kids per class to make at least a small impact.
 - In the next year we can plan better – to be able to give all free/reduced lunch kids a book.
 - Staff would be behind this equitable idea. Some of the teachers (can't speak for all since they all aren't present) would be fine with their money from the coin drive to go to their students. Since it's a PTA run event, we have the role of setting the policies. We can decide if all of the money goes to the kids, or 50% of the class money goes towards the kids. Ms. Lumpkin can help identify the students in need and the teachers can help pick the right books.
 - Our Service Project #2 is with Bernie's Book Bank. Part of the equity part is letting Walker kids get a book before the donations are given to the Bank. We want to let Walker kids benefit from the drive first. The bookstore will also hopefully be revived soon too.
 - Reading is Fundamental – brings new books depending on the number of free/reduced lunch students
 - Half Price Books also gives free boxes of used books to schools.
 - Do we need to have the kids make wish lists? It takes the kids all the time to write the lists and they don't get to browse. So maybe the kids can use the time to just look and not have to make the list.
 - We'll circle back with the book fair committee.

Enrichment Update

- Please send any concerns and issues our way. They are starting to plan in the coming week.
- Working on possibly changing the registration process

- Mid. Nov. is Winter registration

New Business

- PTA Council
 - Whole Foods Day: shop both Evanston locations on Oct. 18th and 5% goes back to the PTA Council, which will then be divided among all the PTAs. An estimate for each school is \$600-\$800.
 - STEM Literacy Night, Oct. 24th
 - Next meeting is at Walker about STEM/STEAM in schools, Nov. 12th
- PNO
 - We've started planning
 - The date has changed to Feb. 9th possibly (still not final)
 - Last year we had it at Five & Dime, but the prices have gone up drastically
 - Our budget for the event is \$1750, the location wants \$2250. We can make a deposit of \$1200, and make up the difference in bar sales. But if we don't then we have to pay the difference that's left.
 - Pros: all liked the venue, lots of food, really good feedback on the place; people had to be asked to leave so the place could close up.
 - Cons: we came in low for Walkerfest, a gamble to take on the venue (we got the steal of a price last year b/c of a miscommunication).
 - People think the price is high and would like to have 3 options to choose from – 2 other prices to compare in order to make a decision.
 - Possible places: Prairie Moon & Firehouse Grill
- New Suggestion
 - We have a lot of self-employed people in our school community. Can we think about highlighting one a month and then they could offer a discount to Walker families? An idea of a way we can support our community.

Volunteer Needs

- Book Fair: <https://volunteer.scholastic.com/#/experience/login/lj7thNnLS>
- Teacher Conferences Potluck: (Login info: Coordinator Last Name: Sacluti, Password: walker)
 - Tuesday (Oct. 16th): <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/QDVW7862>
 - Wednesday (Oct. 17th): <https://www.perfectpotluck.com/OWUC6848>
- Walker ESSCA Serve Day: Thursday, Oct. 25th, 6:30pm-9pm
- Dudes & Donuts: Fri, November 9th, 8:15am-9am – Need around 5 people to help setup/serve/cleanup

Important Dates

- Coat Drive: Now through Oct. 31st – Bring your coats!
- Fall Box Tops Drive: Now through Oct. 19th
- Parent Teacher Conferences: Tues-Wed, October 16th & 17th
- Book Fair: Tues-Wed, October 16th (4pm-8pm) & 17th (4pm-6:30pm)
- Special Friend's Day for Book Fair: Wed, October 17th during lunch/recess
- Whole Foods 5% Day: Thurs, October 18th – Flyers will go home this week
- No School: Fri, October 19th
- PTA Council & D65 STEM/Literacy Curriculum Night: Wed, October 24th, 6:30-8pm @ JEH
- Coffee with Ms. Lumpkin: Fri, October 26th, 9am
- Election Day, Tues, November 6th
- Early Dismissal: Wed, November 7th, 12:05pm
- Dudes & Donuts: Fri, November 9th, 8:15am-9am
- PTA Fall Harvest Dance: Sat, November 10th, 6pm-8pm – Our next fundraiser, a community dance – post info around town and in local businesses, talk to Marcus if he could help spread the word.

Adjournment

Our next meeting: Wednesday, November 14th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria