

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Location: Walker School

Attendees:

Nicki Devine	Terry Velan	Courtney Shapiro
Erin Rams	Paula Maldonado	Darlana Simmons
Ellen Nagella	Raechel Alexander	Dee Johnson
Stephanie Kimmel	Erin Saculti	Inbal Fraiman

Principal's Announcements

- Teaching and Learning
 - I am very proud of the wonderful teaching and learning that is happening at Walker. I've done both informal observations and formal observations and see consistent practices in Reading and Writing Workshop and Everyday Math. I also see teachers consistently developing and implementing practices to enhance the culture and climate in their classrooms such as peace circles. It takes a tribe!
 - I can't say enough about the collective spirit of Walker PTA and PTA committee leads, those teachers who stay behind to ensure students are safe, where they need to be and cared for in so many non-classroom situations and volunteers (speakers, book authors, secret readers, etc.) who give their time to advance student learning.
- Safety Patrol/Parking Update
 - I have invited the village manager John Lockerby who will include Eric Cook to a meeting on this Monday December 17th about the traffic and safety situation at Walker. Again, the goal is to discuss and find a long term solution to the traffic issue. The top two suggestions will be potentially changing our one block of Central Park (Church to Davis) to a one way during certain hours (many other schools already do this) and pushing for a regular officer during arrival and dismissal.
 - I currently have Mr. Vega helping to monitor dismissal car traffic and office staff is in position to report traffic violators to the police until a permanent solution arises.
 - Teacher Notes/Parent Comments on Safety:
 - 2 staff members are assigned to Central Park. Some are opening doors and helping kids out.
 - Mornings are going smoothly for the most part.
 - Please remember to move down and have children exit at the curb side door (we understand that this can be difficult if you have car seats in the way)
 - After school is difficult.
 - No set process - a parent thinks this would help if there is a set process that can be followed.
 - Teachers are only on duty for 10 minutes, and it can be difficult for staff when families stay after to play b/c they have to make sure that no kids are left outside without a parent/guardian.
 - The Climate Committee will be working on Safety as one of their issues and Ms. Maldonado will bring this up there.
 - The district won't move where the buses are loaded/unloaded because they want them closest to the door.
 - Do the orange cones work? Mr. Vega finds it annoying because they keep getting moved.
 - The cones are supposed to be on the curb, not on the street.
 - The cones are there for a visual. We need bigger ones, but we can't afford them (around \$400).
 - Erin will talk to Mr. Vega
 - You can park in the coned area for pick up from Enrichment Activities.

Parent Questions/Comments - None

Teacher Announcements:

- Ms. Likhite wants to thank everyone for supporting Safety Patrol. We have a wonderful Safety Patrol group and she's putting together a gathering for the kids for all of their hard work.
 - Some teachers wanted to give the Safety Patrol students a thank you gift of a \$5 gift card and instead of them paying for it out of their pocket the PTA has decided to pay for them.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Movie Night Recap: Good turnout, a little crazy, but all of the kids had a fun time. The older kids loved handing out the popcorn.
- 5th Grade Pizza/Yearbook Fundraiser Recap:
 - Didn't go as well as last year. Only initially sold half of what was needed.
 - Possibly not as much teacher buy-in or we needed to spread the word out more.
 - By extending the date and blasting on-line we raised more through the families of other grades.
 - The cost of the yearbooks is \$865 and they needed to raise 50% (\$432). We raised \$350.
 - Last year 2 kids sold most of them, but we had at least 10 kids from each class sell a few.
 - A lot of teachers didn't know they were selling them. They probably would have bought some.
 - Next year we should blast it out to the whole school
 - We could try again in Feb.
 - We think there was just a breakdown in communication to the kids.
- Winter Dance, Jan 26th
 - Same format as the previous dance.
 - Promote earlier, have in the daily school announcements, hoping to bring in older kids by getting the word out earlier.
 - Maybe we can do Dance & Games?
 - Please spread the word about it! It is a fundraiser and we really need to step up our fundraising!
 - We will also never turn a child away! If they can't afford it, we can put their name on the pre-paid list.
 - Maybe we can add "sponsor a child" on the flyer, so people can donate if they'd like.

Treasurer Update

- Membership dues are great, at \$782 and budgeted \$400
- Chess Club is where it should be, \$3,036 - but this is just the 1st trimester
- Chess Tournament made more than budgeted, \$2,388 (budgeted \$2k)
- Lego Robotics made way more than budgeted b/c they had so many kids sign up (made \$1,400, budgeted \$300)
- We had bonus funds from the Whole Foods and Angel Fund Donations (\$406 & \$275)
- We are short in yearbooks (made \$345, cost \$1460 - but PTA pays for 50%)
- We've almost hit our goal for the Year-Round Fundraising (made \$2002, budgeted \$2,500). We have more restaurant events coming up so we should be able to meet this.
- Spiritwear is a wash, a little in the neg. but once we sell out of our inventory we should break even.
- Walkerfest is a bit down (made \$7,350, budgeted \$8,500)
- One note about the Residencies expenses: We have a bill of \$580 that carried over from last year. This is not a recurring expense, so it could be paid out of reserves if we want.
- We haven't paid a lot of items yet b/c they hit later in the year.
- If we stay on budget then we should be fine. But we need to hit \$12k at Parent's Night Out to get a \$500 surplus at the end of the year.
 - The PNO venue costs more this year. But we've made a deal with them that we can pay what we did last year if we make up the difference in bar sales during the event. If not we have to pay the rest of the difference. We think we'll be fine, just come thirsty!

Chess & Robotics Club Tournament Updates:

- Chess
 - This weekend Walker hosted 246 kids—grades K-5th grade—from 18 schools as the kick-off tournament for Evanston Scholastic Chess, one of the largest annual events run by and held at Walker, with over 450 individuals in attendance. A huge shout out to the 18 Wolverines—many of whom this was their first tournament ever (big round of applause)—on their impressive wins. In the Knight division we had an

amazing clean sweep (WOOT!). Arjun Nagella placed "First in Grade"; Drew Hastings placed "Third Overall"; Evelyn Porter placed "Second Overall"; and Zach Fogel placed "First Overall" with a RARE all-five win. In the Bishops division Mireya Maiewski placed "Second in Grade." Aiden Wang (highly-competitive Rooks division) and Shane Asbra (Kings/Queens division) were FIERCE and both scored "First in Grade." Congratulations to all!

- We're creating a binder on how to run the event to make things go more smoothly. It's getting larger with every year.
- People loved Walker and were saying great things
- It's a great opportunity to cross-promote our events
- Thank you to all the volunteers! Next year we will get the word out earlier.
- Robotics
 - Had 5 teams (28 kids), plus a Y.O.U. team
 - All put up their project boards and explained their projects.
 - One team won an award
 - All had a good time and it went well.
 - The projects will be displayed in the community.

New Business

- PTA Council Meeting - Green Teams
 - A lot of schools have a Green Team - composting, recycling, had trash assessments, there was big broad range of what schools did - so we are thinking we should start our own Green Team.
 - Other schools are happy to talk about what they do
 - It's a heavy parent volunteer job
 - One school did a Walk-A-Thon where they had people bring in old shoes to recycle - idea is to have events to bring in a specific recyclable.
 - We can start small
 - Get the kids involved
 - Every school is using the compostable lunch trays.
 - The District has their own team and the initiatives are starting to trickle down,
 - Willard stopped doing prizes for their Fall Fest b/c they just end up in landfills. The kids were ok with it and had fun just playing the games.
 - Maybe have a fundraiser by selling those reusable sandwich bags.
 - Loyola got rid of plastic disposable water bottles on campus. Stephanie will check with them to see if they can come help us out.
 - We are one of the schools that don't have the water bottle refill stations (2 schools in the district have them). We should talk to the District about getting one.
- Please take the 5 Essential Survey!
 - We need 20% of us to do it in order to get the feedback!
- Chatterbox
 - The Parent Advisory Committee has made a survey box for everyone to put their comments and questions into anonymously
 - It's a way to let everyone have a voice - parents and teachers
 - It is locked and will only go to the PAC and they will try to get answers.
 - The PAC will also be sending out their own Walker Survey - Climate Survey in 5 languages and in digital and paper form sometime in Jan.
 - Comment: Please remember who's not at the table and look into how you can reach them
 - The group still has some things to iron out with the survey
 - The group has great diversity, but no men (even after an effort of trying to find some)
- Side Notes:
 - We should try to stop using acronyms for our events and such b/c new families don't know what they are.
 - Ask Ms. Jaddaovi for help translating any flyers

Volunteer Needs

- PTA Service Drive Project, week of Jan 14th

Important Dates

- No School: Dec. 24th – Jan. 4th Winter Break
- PTA Winter Dance: Saturday, Jan. 26th, 6-8pm
- PNO (Parent's Night Out) **Date Change** from the printed calendar, **now Saturday, Feb. 9th**

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Wednesday, January 9th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria