

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, MArch 13, 2019 @ 7:00pm
Location: Walker School

Attendees:

Nicki Devine	Terry Velan	Urvi Tulsiani	Patty Harns
Darlana Simmons	Michaela Marchi	Michelle Redmond	Mya Wilkins
Ellen Nagella	Liz Ribeiro	Anita Geevarghese	Stephanie Kimmel
Erin Saculti	Inbal Fraiman	Raechel Alexander	Lisa Levine

Principal's Announcements: None (Ms. Lumpkin was out sick)

Parent Questions/Comments:

- Lunch Problems:
 - Have there been any updates from the Facebook group that's trying to battle this? - No
 - Please do the Walker Parent Survey so we can give feedback on this issue.
 - We have no new info - we are hoping to get more info from Ms. Lumpkin when we meet with her next
 - This has been a long standing problem and we are with you on it
 - The new recess rules have been confusing, esp with different rules for different grades.
 - Can we have parent volunteers in the lunchroom? You are welcome to join your child for lunch. When it got a bit more formal to get volunteers (trying to schedule parents so we don't have tons one day and none on others) there was some push back. They wanted to table it until Ms. Lumpkin was back from her leave. So we need to reach back out to her about this.
 - We don't want it to be a policing matter, we just want to make it better for the kids.
 - They are looking into filling one or two lunchroom positions
 - We will follow up and get more info.
- Buses & cars waiting in idle - the exhaust is bad for the kids
 - The cars will be hard to tackle, but the buses should be an easier fix
 - We could send out friendly reminders - make it a school policy
- Double parking Issues with parents
 - Some heated incidents lately. The parents involved had a good meeting with Ms. Edens and Officer Miller.
 - Working on getting our school a resource officer
 - Mr. Vega (our custodian) is out there to keep people from double parking, but he's only supposed to call the police instead of confronting them.
 - This isn't ok for Mr. Vega to be put in this position - not part of his job description.
 - Dr. Goren is meeting with the Skokie and Evanston PD about this issue next week.
 - The recommendation to the Village is to make Central Park one way during drop off and pick up times from Church to Davis St. and to move the crosswalk on Central Park to north of Arcadia so walkers only have to worry about traffic from one direction.
 - The Village says it needs more involvement from the school/district and not just parents. We just have to stay on them.
 - Looking for a contact at the NTSB (National Traffic Safety Bureau). The Evanston PD said to go there - straight to the top to get this done.
 - This is a District issue and they should be doing it.
 - 9 parents have formed a small group from schools throughout our District to try to take this to the District and get something done.
 - Maybe we can reach out to the community that lives around Walker to get their backing - might hold more weight.
 - Coming together as a united force makes sense to tackle, but it feels like it's not a school issue - more of a District issue. Go talk at the board meetings - that's where you can be heard. They listen and not many people go, so you don't have to wait for a big group to go.
- World of Walker:
 - Was great! But it was packed - many people, very overcrowded. Possible fire hazard.

- 2 sessions would solve this or move it to a bigger location like Chute or ETHS.
- We can't judge how many family members are coming and it seems like our school is growing!
- Is there a way to reduce the waste with the Friday Folders?
 - a way to opt out to save paper (based on your personal preference - some people like paper flyers but others like digital)
 - Needs coordination
 - Has been discussed in the past
 - Could be a simple solution of putting a sticker on the Friday Folders that don't want paper flyers.

Teacher Announcements: From Ms. Levine

- Please email Dr. Goren about the traffic problems before his next meeting
- I'll reach out to our Union leader to help Mr. Vega find his union leadership to help clear up any issues with him being posted as a traffic monitor.
- IAR (New PARCC Test) is starting soon: 4th grade next week, 3rd grade 4/8, and 5th grade 4/15. Any student with accommodations might be off that schedule.
- 4/10-11 is Walker's Camp Timberlee trip
- The teacher union is in negotiations currently.
 - They are using a new process this year and we aren't getting much info yet.
 - Now is the time to push for the lunch/recess issue because it requires staff, time & money.
 - The teacher contract is up at the end of the school year. Typically teachers vote on the contract before the end of the school year.
- As a teacher and parent, I believe that instead of lengthening lunch time (longer unstructured time can be difficult for some children), the time needs to be managed better. The district should develop a program for this time - that will attract better staffing.

Executive Committee Announcements

- We are looking for a 2nd PTA Equity Rep for Walker
- Still trying to put together a green team - we haven't had any volunteers yet.
 - We're the last school in D65 to have one
 - We just want to find small ways to reduce our waste
 - Can be small basic ideas to big ones
 - Other green teams in the district are happy to share ideas and resources

Treasurer Update

- Not much has changed
- Looking like we'll have a \$6k surplus and \$26k in reserves at the end of the school year
- At the last meeting we mentioned expanding the Specials Dept. school supplies budget. We met with them and the teachers said that they were set for this year. So we'll revisit this topic next year.
- We are still tabling the Kindergarten Battle Reading Program request because we are still waiting to meet with Ms. Lumpkin about it.

PAC Walker Survey Update:

- Results so far: 89 paper, 97 online, 2 Spanish, 3 Arabic, & 1 Hindi
- 48% response rate, pretty good
- Deadline is April 5th
- We'll make more announcements and send another flyer
- We will have a presentation of the findings at the PAC meeting and will then push them out to the whole school.

STEAM Night Update: Activities will be in the gym and cafeteria. There will be light refreshments. We'll be busing in families that need transportation. Please come! Please volunteer! We really want a large turnout.

Service Committee Update: April 15th we will have a book drive for Bernie's Books. We are looking for any children (grade school - K-5th grade) books.

New Business: None

Volunteer Needs

- STEAM Night: Thursday, March 21, 6-8pm
- PTA Bingo: Saturday, April 6, 2-4pm

Important Dates

- STEAM Night: Thursday, March 21, 6-8pm
- Spring Break: March 25-29
- School Board Elections: Tuesday, April 2
- PTA Bingo: Saturday, April 6, 2-4pm
 - If you're doing any spring cleaning, we are looking for prize donations - any unused toys or crafty items. We will have a formal ask out later. We will also be using vintage spiritwear and items left over from PNO as prizes also.

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Wednesday, March 13th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria