

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 @ 7:00pm

Location: Walker School

Attendees:

| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Raechel Alexander | Terry Velan | Dante Wharton |
| Darlana Simmons | Liz Ribeiro | Mya Wilkins |
| Jill Velan | Michelle Redmond-Henley | Ginger Lumpkin |
| Erin Saculti | Lisa Levine | |

Guest Speaker: Friends of Robert Crown

- The center feeds 100s of kids free lunch over the summers
- Located at Dodge and Main, serves all of Evanston
- The building hasn't changed since 1975 and needed an update - had some major structure issues
- The project went through a community process to figure out updates/details
- Everything that's at Crown now will continue to be there
- It's the most used center in Evanston
- Hockey as a sport has grown a lot, so we needed more ice space.
- Skokie/Evanston doesn't have any turf fields and we have a big need for them.
- Main & Dodge area needed a library - bringing more equity to the area
- It will be the only center in the US to have this much recreational and educational programming in one place.
- The building will open on Dec. 1st, then the old building will be demolished.
- The library is taking input from families about what programs they want. A parent suggestion: child care programs for district 65 half days.
- They are still fundraising, your support is greatly appreciated
- The private and public sectors have joined together to build this center.
- It costs \$53 mil, the city is paying \$38 mil, Friends of Robert Crown has raised \$12.4 mil and are trying to reach the goal of \$15mil.
- The city will be paying \$3 mil per year on their portion, which is only 1% of the city's budget.
- Concern that this will raise property taxes, when families are already maxed out.
- They are trying to raise the last \$2.5 mil needed so it doesn't land on the taxpayers.
- They have had a lot of big and small donors.
- Parent Suggestion: They should talk to the faith communities to see if and how they could help.

Principal's Announcements:

- April is a very eventful month!
 - Camp Timberlee
 - April 24th - Stand Against Racism (more info to come about this event). If anyone would like to volunteer to help with this event, please email Ms. Lumpkin
 - April 25th - International Night
 - April 26th - Moms & Muffins
 - April 30th - Family Reading Night hosted by Ms. Hertel for K & 1st graders (more info to come)
 - Looking into planning a Career Day
- Safety
 - We are still asking parents to abide by the pick-up/drop-off procedures/policy - no double parking
 - We've had some support from the police - been out patrolling at times
 - I have posted myself outside in that area to help enforce policies
 - More info to come after I meet with the Parent Advisory Committee to make plans for next year to fix the remaining problems.
- I hope to see everyone at our following events!

Parent Questions/Comments:

- Parent Idea for a fundraiser - Jill Velan:

- Boys Running Strong & Girls Running Strong are very popular programs. The kids run laps around the school and learn how to pace themselves. Then finish the year by running a 5k.
- Another school in our district does a 5k fun run as a fundraiser and brought in \$2-3k.
- This could be something we can do, maybe in early May (that way we have a big fundraiser each trimester)
- We could use Central Park or another location near the school
- 5ks are popular now, we can have it open to anyone who wants to run and they pay a fee/donation to participate
- She can investigate more if wanted.

Teacher Announcements: From Ms. Levine

- No news
- One note: DEC Leadership sent an email to DEC members apologizing for underrepresenting/misrepresenting the group at the last board meeting that was about the use of school resource officers.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Yearbook: We are in the building process now. Please send any photos you have. We have about another month to get orders in. You can still order later, but will have to pay to have the book shipped to you.
- Green Team: The team is forming, we've had a few volunteers. If anyone else would like to join, please let us know.
- Bingo went really well! A lot of people came and it was a bunch of fun.

Treasurer Update

- Not a lot of change
- \$19k now, at the end of the year we will probably have \$7k in surplus
- Restaurant fundraisers are the last bit of income left this year
- We opened a money market fund to raise us an extra \$500 per year
- We made a little bit from concessions at STEAM night (which was a great event and lots of fun! Next year we should look into using more of the school, so there's more room and not too crowded).
- We will close out school supplies in April and have families start paying for next year in May.
 - Can staff buy before summer for next year?/When can they start ordering for next year? - We will ask Alicia and will send the information out to staff, but we don't think it would be a problem.
 - We're working to trim down the order form for families and aim to get it out early May.

PAC Walker Survey Update:

- We got a great number of responses. 61% of the student body were represented in the survey.
- We had about a 50/50 ratio of paper vs. electronic responses
- It's taking longer than we thought to put the data together, but we are working on it!
- We will be meeting with Ms. Lumpkin to decide what's the best way to share the findings.
- Thank you all for participating!
- Thanks to the Parent Advisory Committee for making this survey! This had a greater response than the 5Essentials Survey.

Service Committee Update: April 15th we will have a book drive for Bernie's Books. This will be our last service project for the year. We are looking for 1st-6th grade books and will be collecting until April 26th. We will be offering the books that are collected to Walker first before donating the rest to Bernie's Book Bank.

New Business: None

Volunteer Needs

- International Night: Thursday, April 25, 6pm-8pm, A great community event - family potluck. Sign-up link: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/2759145/false#/invitation>. We are sorry that it conflicts with the Chute 6th grade orientation night. That event wasn't on the calendar when we scheduled our events.

- Moms & Muffins: Friday, April 26, 8:15am-9am: Need 3 dads to help pass out muffins. Email Ms Hudson-Meier (meiera@district65.net) or Ms McGough (mcgoughb@district65.net) to volunteer
- Pictures for the yearbook: please send to walkerschoolyearbook@gmail.com by April 27th
- Teacher Appreciation Week Potlucks: Tues, Wed, Thurs, May 7-9. Sign up now at www.perfectpotluck.com (Coordinator Last Name: **Sacluti**, Password: **walker**). The PTA will cater a lunch on that Monday. The potlucks are the following: Tuesday - tea, Wednesday - salad lunch, and Thursday - breakfast.

Important Dates

- No School, Friday, April 19
- International Night: Thursday, April 25, 6pm-8pm
- Moms & Muffins: Friday, April 26, 8:15am-9am
- Parent Coffee with the Principal: Friday, April 26, 9am
- Teacher Appreciation Flower Grams Sale: April 29-30 - \$0.70 per flower, when kids purchase they will also fill out a card to be given with the flower for the teacher
- Early Dismissal: Wednesday, May 1, 12:05pm
- Hubs Restaurant Fundraiser, May 1, all day
- Teacher Appreciation Week: May 6-10

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Wednesday, May 8th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria