

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 @ 7:00pm

Location: Walker School

**Attendees:**

Nicki Devine	Terry Velan	Carrie Shonk	Alya Wilkins	Jill Corr
Katherine K Walts	Darlena Simmons	Ellen Nagella	Anita Geevarghese	
Robin Saldanha	Raechel Alexander	Ginger Lumpkin	Michaela Marchi	
Erin Saculti	Carla Green	Karen Asbra	Ashanti Henderson	

**Principal's Announcements:**

- We're still working on our Professional Development and continue to plan over the summer for next year.

**Parent Questions/Comments:**

- Any word on getting an Assistant Principal?
  - There are 5 schools in the District without an AP.
  - There was an initial proposal of combining the Special Services Supervisor with the AP position
  - We have one that is part time (Special Services Supervisor/AP)
  - They're heading in the direction of splitting it so the person doesn't have to wear two hats
  - There is no final word yet. The District is still discussing
  - We haven't been given any details
  - We might get a part time AP (2-3 days a week), but we have no final word

**Teacher Announcements:** None

**Executive Committee Announcements**

- School Grounds Beautification Project Proposal & Vote
  - We found 12' blue metal picnic tables. We want to get 3 so a whole grade can sit out there all together.
  - The Grounds Dept. will anchor them
  - 12' can fit a whole class
  - The tables are not solid - they have holes (kind of like diamond pattern) for drainage
  - We are proposing to spend up to \$5000 for this project out of our surplus
    - Each table is about \$1200 (we hope to get tax exempt)
    - We want to order over the summer to have up and ready by the BBQ.
    - We still have to get it board approved after our vote.
  - What about fixing the flooding issues on the pathway and playground?
    - Ms. Lumpkin is pushing the District to fix that issue.
    - Buildings and Grounds has photos of the problems and will be out to assess the situation
    - They will hopefully fix this over the summer
    - We would like to District to pay to fix this problem. If they don't we will look into fixing it ourselves.
  - Concerns about putting the tables just on the grass
    - How will maintenance mow the part underneath?
    - Should we put mulch down?
    - We will look into what other schools do
  - The Student Advisory wanted to put out this proposal - the tables and benches are what the students and teachers wanted
  - The Green Team is doing the cap drive for the Buddy Bench. We're hoping we can raise enough for two benches (one on each playground)
  - Motion made by Stephanie, Carrie seconds, all are in favor. Motion passes (To spend up to \$5000 on purchasing 3 12' tables for the courtyard)

**Treasurer Update**

- Wrapped up the end of the year.

- We're ending the year with \$7800 over budget/surplus. We did really well, only fell short of goals in two areas and we know what to do next year to fix that.
- We have \$29,000 in the bank going into next year
- We made \$200 from the Oberweis event
- We will work on next year's budget over the summer and will present it at our August meeting to be voted on.
- School Supplies are selling for next year. We already have 100 students that have paid.

#### **Service Committee Update:**

- Bernie's Book Drive resulted in over 2000 books being donated! Our goal was 1500, so we did amazing!
- We are looking to do these types of projects again next year
- We are fielding suggestions for next year's projects

#### **PAC Parent Survey Update:**

- The PAC has been working hard to put together the results over the past few months
- This was a pilot project, a huge undertaking, we are learning as we go. Next year will probably be even better
- The PAC's mission is to help facilitate communication between families and the administration
- 60% of our students were represented/participated, got 237 surveys out of 388 students
- We didn't get the results from the 5Essentials survey because we didn't get enough participation (next year we will try to get parent responses to that survey at a parent/school event to help get those numbers up)
- We had the survey available in 3 other languages
- We had an average of 39 surveys per grade level
- Some results:
  - 38% felt emotional safety should be priority
  - 21% felt school safety should be priority
  - 88% felt they could talk to their student's teacher
  - 35% felt student was bullied
  - 26% felt lunch/recess is an issue for safety
  - 91% felt well informed
  - 92% felt education is competitive
  - 89% felt education needs are met
  - 51% felt the principal is accessible
  - 29% felt principal is not accessible
  - Time is the biggest obstacle to attend events
  - Requests for coffee with the principal to also be offered in the evening
- We will be working over the summer on getting final numbers & analysis (looking into getting a neutral party to compile the data) and then work with Ms. Lumpkin to come up with plans to address the concerns
- We will have something to distribute to the parent community and District (along with recommendations) closer to the start of the year.
- We want to capture as many voices - give a voice to the voiceless
- We might consider adding more demographic questions to have an idea what groups are speaking - like how often do you attend events?, how often do you engage with the teacher
- The results had a varying of different answers, so we feel the people who wanted to be heard were
- We have to look at how questions are worded - feel vs. fact
- It's meant to be a sustainable tool, esp since we don't get the results from the District survey. We just have to figure out how to make it work smoothly, most accessible, etc.
- We got a lot of good data
- This team has done a tremendous job on this project
- We should take a breath, figure out our plans and work on it in house before sending it up to the district
- Before we do next year's survey, as a parent, I'd like to see what is being done from the previous survey's results - what are the actions? Make a connection with having the results and then people will feel more like taking another one if things happen from the previous one. Maybe we should do the survey every other year and have an action year in between (survey year & action year)

- The PAC will still be working over the summer, please continue to use the Chatterbox if you have any concerns/comments.

#### **Bookstore Update:**

- Looking to make a new case or repair the old one or buy a new one. If anyone is interested in helping or have any leads about people that could help, please contact Kelli

#### **New Business:**

- **Vote on use for leftover Angel Fund money:**
  - We only used half of the Angel Fund money this year since our Enrichment team got so many scholarships donated.
  - We're proposing to pay off student lunch debt of \$2220
  - We'd use the \$750 left from the Angel Fund, \$406 from the Whole Foods donation, and \$335 of direct Angel Fund donations = \$1491
  - This would pay for most of the debt. We want to solicit donations on our website to cover the rest.
  - Lunch debt rolls over from year to year
  - We looked into if we could differentiate the numbers from free/reduced or just this year, but the numbers aren't available to us.
  - This will give everyone a clean slate for next year.
  - We are \$730 short - do we try to get donations or just pull it from our reserves?
    - We should do a solicitation with an end date and then pay any shortage from the reserves.
  - Motion made by Ashanti, 2nd by Michelle, All voted yes, motion passed (use the money to pay off lunch debt, ask for donations to cover the shortage and if we are still short, use the reserves to cover the rest)
- **Walker Pride Yard Signs for sale (fundraiser: \$10 each, cash or check, we'll be selling them at the Back to School BBQ in the Fall also)**
  - We are trying to sell them close to cost

#### **Volunteer Needs: None**

#### **Important Dates**

- Kindermixer: June 20, 4-5:30pm
- Kindermixer: July 17th, 5-6:30pm
- Next PTA Meeting: August 14th, 7pm, new budget to be presented and voted on

#### **Adjournment**

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Wednesday, August 14th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria