

Minutes 8/19/20

Attendees:

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|-------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Erin Sacluti | Inbal Fraiman | Stacey Maslansky |
| Darlana Simmons | Allison Bull | Ashanti Madlock Henderson |
| Sarah Trulley | Adrienne Adams | Audrey Tan |
| Courtney Shapiro | Donna Wang Su | Katie Shonk |
| Kymika Okechukwu | Liz Ribeiro | Laguercie Boniface |
| Maricela Walker | Marissa Woodward | Michelle Redmond-Henley |
| Raechel Alexander | Robin Linn Saldanha | Will Hobart |
| Jill Corr | Carla Green | Casey Marx |
| Patricia Harris | Rebekah Stockwell | |

PTA Executive Board Introductions

- Erin Sacluti-1st, 3rd, 5th grader this year; Co-President with Inbal for third year, who has 2nd, 5th, 7th at Chute, 4 yo at home; Terry Velan (3rd at Walker, 6th at Chute), Darlena Simmons (5th at Walker, 3 yo at home).
- Changes to by-laws last year to add elect positions to create board of 8. Stacey Maslansky (2nd, 5th at Walker) and Allison Bull (twins in 3rd at Walker, 4 yo at home) are president-elects; Ashanti Henderson is treasurer-elect (4th at Walker, 2 yo at home); Sarah Trulley is secretary-elect (2nd, K at Walker, 3 yo at home).

Principal and Teacher Announcements

- Scheduling error so we do not have Mr. Gray or teachers on the call.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Kindermixers-Thank you to Sarah Trulley and Shana Shernstein for planning with Mr. Gray. Ms. Hertel started the week with a story. Ms. Likhite did fun activities. Teachers did individual calls.
- New Spiritwear-Walker masks will be for sale soon. Thinking of changing our online platform this year. Once it is ready, Mr. Gray will push out the message and it will be on FB page. Will have a few dates to pick up in person.
- Kindergarten & New Student Welcome Packs-Once school starts, since we can't do a Welcome back BBQ, we will have new student packs ready to deliver or be picked up.

Treasurer Update

- Recap from last year, budget surplus of \$24K.
- After donation to PEP Covid fund, we have \$30-\$31K surplus to start new year.
- We did have fraud on the account over summer, but it was caught and recovered.
- Terry has Walker lawn signs in his garage for sale. If interested, contact terry.velan@gmail.com or 847-226-3469 to pick up or have it delivered.

Equity Committee

- Black Students Achieve (BSA) was created last year.
- Kicked off in July.
- Led by and serves black families at Walker.
- Topics for the meetings are parent-driven.
- K families will be added to next meeting.

- Walkerblackstudentsachieve@gmail.com or contact parents coordinating (Tina Vinson, Mya Wilkins, Sarita Smith, and Anita Geevarghese).

Enrichments Update

- <https://bit.ly/D65Enrichments>
- This is the website you would sign up for across the district.
- One of the biggest equity gaps is enrichment participation (financial, time, transportation).
- <http://bit.ly/D65Scholarship>
- Working with PEP fund and several vendors to create videos for students to access on demand for days they do not have an enrichment.
- Activities led by Walker teachers will still be just for Walker students.
- Activities will still be on a trimester schedule, likely remote for fall and winter.
- YOU is a non-profit that will still be offered to 3rd, 4th, 5th graders.
- Parent run clubs like chess will still be offered on the Homeroom platform for just Walker students.
- Hot Shots Sports will be virtual. The PTA cannot host anything in person because of liability.
- Girls Play Sports will also be virtual and may add in person in the future at local parks.
- One robotics class will still be offered virtually, although it will be difficult for the kids to work in teams. Parents may be asked to donate legos.
- Mr. Gray will send a flyer in the next couple of days. It was sent out to principals this morning.

Activities/Fundraising/Volunteers/PEP

- Still figuring out how it is going to look this year and planning for everything to be virtual.
- We will not have a printed calendar this year. We will push out one or two months of the calendar at a time.
- We changed PTA meetings to the third Wednesday of every month.
- At this point we don't have volunteer sign ups for room parents, PNO, other activities ready, but will let everyone know when they are available.
- We will have some remote volunteer opportunities available to sign up for at next month's meeting.
- At this point we don't know how fundraising will look. We will not have most of the in person events that we usually fundraise for.
- Directory usually comes out in November. It gets emailed to everyone who has opted in to be in the directory.
- We haven't heard from teachers about needing support or help yet.
- We are not fully clear on what's happening with the PTA equity fund. We're hoping to have someone from PEP join us for a PTA meeting or separate meeting open to the community before our school has to vote.
- PEP and PTA exec council had a call with 87 participants.
- Many Walker officers were on a call with PEP team and everyone walked away with a different understanding of what their plan was going forward.
- We want to be transparent and clear before presenting misinformation to the Walker community.
- Background on PEP-make it a more equitable experience that PTA's can provide across the district since all of the kids end up at the same high school. When Covid began, all schools contributed what they could, and then the funds collected were distributed to each school

based on a formula including the number of kids on free and reduced lunch, McKinney-Vento (homeless population), and size of school.

- The funds collected were divided into a couple waves and given to principals to spend as needed.
- PTA goals and objectives are normally community building (PTA membership drive, volunteer sign ups, kindermixers, welcome back BBQ). We are still figuring out how to do this virtually.
- Usually there is a principal coffee on the first day of school. We will plan a date with Mr. Gray for an evening zoom call the first or second week of September. Once the date is solidified, the date will be on the PTA website and FB page.
- Mr. Gray encourages you to reach out to him via email with specific questions about your child.
- Would it make sense to have a technology committee to give ideas on how to program virtually so it doesn't all fall on the exec board?
- We have a lot of ideas that we're trying to get started and then we'll reach out to get more ideas from creative minds and volunteers.
- There are concerns about doing everything virtually. A social committee may be able to plan smaller group activities by grade or teacher, but the PTA has to be careful about planning anything in person. Suggestion to partner with organizations or institutions that have already assumed this liability successfully (i.e. Skokie Park District).
- Scavenger hunts, parades, socially distant activities can be difficult under an equity lens that not every student and family has transportation available to Walker. If not district or school sponsored, the transportation piece may be difficult.
- Other side is that some children do not live in a neighborhood near the school and lots of other students and may feel isolated without in person events.
- We are open to virtual and possibly in person events, so let us know if you have any good ideas by emailing walkerptagroup@gmail.com. Our website is walkerwolverinespta.com. It is currently down and we're working on it.
- We used to just have four officers serving for two years and four new people would come in without much historical knowledge and it felt unnecessarily overwhelming to start without much guidance. Going forward, every spring we will elect four new officers to become the elect positions who will work with the current officers leading those roles. The first year will be more of a shadow year working with someone without being thrown in to lead everything without knowing what you're doing.
- Those who volunteer for an officer role are committing to a two-year term, one as elect, one leading the position.
- Question of whether you would be interested in an adult face mask for \$5? Several people responded yes in the chat box.

Important Dates:

- August 27th: First Day of School (Remote Learning)
- September 7th: No School, Labor Day
- September 16th, 7pm: September PTA Meeting

Adjournment