

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, April 21st @ 7:00pm  
Location: Zoom Call

**Attendees:**

|                  |                   |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Shana Sternstein | Michelle Henley   | James Gray        |
| Carla Green      | Will Hobart       | Erin Saculti      |
| Donna Su         | Natasha Dobson    | Darlana Simmons   |
| Dee Johnson      | Ambrish Kochikar  | Stacey Masliansky |
| Isabel Machado   | Anita Geevarghese | Allison Bull      |
| Patty Harris     | Liz Ribeiro       | Ashanti Henderson |
| Kelli Kaul       | Cecilie Ryan      |                   |

**Principal's Announcements:**

- Winding down to the end of the school year. The return to hybrid has been smooth. I know that the 2 hours of live instruction isn't enough time, but next year is planned to be full day in person. The district is also planning a district wide remote track for families that want to stay remote since a child vaccine probably won't be out by the start of the new school year.
- Staff Changes:
  - Our social worker, Ms. Washington, is retiring. We are currently working on hiring someone for the position for next year.
  - Ms. Maldonado, a 2nd grade teacher, is also retiring.
  - The positions of Reading Specialists are being removed and turned into a new position, so our 1 ½ teaching specialists are changing and we are currently interviewing for the new position.

**Teacher Announcements**

- Free yoga sessions with Caitlin Otte (2nd grade teacher and certified yoga teacher) for the whole community! The first one is this Saturday at 11 am!
  - All ages and abilities with no experience required.
  - Every other Saturday (4/24, 5/8, 5/22) from 11 am-12 pm on Zoom.  
<https://district65.zoom.us/j/4386305540?pwd=SldPWVNaUXVSV3MyM09zT2ZvbDZzZz09&fbclid=IwAR3Z2ECj3clhEhRZZE9z348jRYqqJPGFLly4rIKRbe-e6qx-KKnNI-dFP8M#success> Meeting ID: 438 630 5540 Passcode: otte
  - Feel free to practice in a chair, on a mat or a towel. Bring a water bottle and wear comfy clothes that you can move around in. If you have them, bring yoga blocks (or a small sturdy plastic box) and a blanket or pillow.
  - Bring your whole family to experience peace and joy together and feel free to invite your friends!
  - Reach out to ottec@district65.net with any questions.

**Executive Committee Announcements**

- A huge thank you to Michelle Redmond-Henley and Patty Harris for organizing and to everyone who joined us 4/9 for the Adults Only Virtual Social and Fundraiser Kickoff! \$6,179 of \$20k goal raised to date. It seems like we're the only school that has able to get an event like this off the ground this year.
- We had a lot of fun playing trivia, even if questions were really hard (for some teams), making mojitos with parent Kevin Adams, and enjoying food from La Cocinita.

- We are still accepting Direct Appeal donations on Member Hub through 5/15. ([https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/742881?fbclid=IwAR1UARg-wZohSfp73a7-cuk1yZ9ia\\_0BkrqfGzETwSSOTQPv17qlteKseYU](https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/742881?fbclid=IwAR1UARg-wZohSfp73a7-cuk1yZ9ia_0BkrqfGzETwSSOTQPv17qlteKseYU))
- YEA (Young Evanston Artists)-student artwork will be displayed in Evanston storefront windows starting 5/15. All artwork submitted by Walker students will be displayed in one storefront TBD. Ms. Moon will share more details with students and parents soon about where to find our school's artwork.
- PTA Council update
  - This is when we meet with all the other district PTAs.
  - All PTAs are focusing on their 5th grade farewell plans (other schools have liked our ideas and are using them).
  - 3 roles are opening on the board (President, Vice President & Secretary). They meet once a month for around 2 hours (sometimes there's a quarterly exec board meeting). The positions feel like a lot less work than a school's PTA board position. The deadline to apply is May 10th. If you are interested, reach out to Donna Su ([donnasu@gmail.com](mailto:donnasu@gmail.com)) and she will connect you to the nominating committee.
- PTA bylaw review, decision on elect positions for 2021-22 school year.
  - Because of Covid and how things have been in planning for this year (along with the wording of our bylaws), we've decided to not hold elections for the "elect" positions this year. We will be voting in a new exec board at the end of next year.
  - We do want to explore adding new board positions of diversity & equity, communications, PTA council rep, and a fine arts, PE & literacy liaison (recommended by Ms. Hertel).
- Audit committee report
  - Thank you to the audit committee for your work on this!
  - We reviewed Jan. 2020 - Nov. 2020, our 3 accounts: operating, school supplies, and money market.
  - Found prior books incomplete - no full documentation.
  - We recommend adding a monthly activity column in the reports, collect and have copies of all supporting documents, all accounts should be included in the monthly reports, and we should look into using banks with no fees.
- Fifth Grade Farewell gifts in lieu of yearbooks and fundraiser. This year instead of yearbooks, we're giving all 5th graders a special t-shirt (the front will be a design made by one of the 5th graders - we're having a design contest and the grade will pick the winner. The back will be all of their signatures. Ms. Moon is helping us collect all the art pieces and signatures.) The school is also doing a class drive by in lieu of a ceremony. The PTA is going to have a balloon arch for kids to take their pictures and make yard signs to congratulate each 5th grader. If a family can't come to their class drive by, we will find a way to deliver the items to them.
  - We had a Lou Malnati's fundraiser to raise the money for the shirts and other 5th grade farewell items. Thank you to those who purchased Lou Malnati's certificates and 5th graders who submitted order forms and money.
    - Through 111 online and 13 paper orders, we earned \$1,115 to pay for fifth grade t-shirts and more farewell surprises.
    - The certificates should be available in early May. They will go home with in person students and be dropped off at remote students' houses for physical and online orders.
    - First and second place earners in each class will win spirit wear, as will every student who sold at least two certificates.

- Walker cookbook update: Thank you to those who have submitted recipes to be included! We need more and have extended the date until 4/30. This is the final extension in order for cookbooks to arrive before the end of school. Additional information will be available soon on how to purchase physical cookbooks.
  - We've only had 15 families out of 226 add a recipe. We really want to have more families contribute. Trying to come up with more ideas on how to reach more people and get more submissions.
  - Thinking about possibly putting off printing until next year, giving more time to receive more submissions.
  - Mr. Gray will have the teachers send out another communication to parents. Ms. Hertel has added it to her Monday announcements to try to get the students excited about it.
  - We'd like to have at least 100 recipes, currently we have 29.
  - We're working on translating the flyers, but have been told that parents usually use a translation app if needed.
- Scholastic in person book fair week of May 18th-21st, 11:15 am-1 pm & 3:15-6 pm
  - Thank you, Natasha Dobson, for taking on the planning and running our book fairs this year!
  - We are the only school to have 2 book fairs this year.
  - This book fair will be in person in the school gym - thanks to Mr. Gray for letting us use the gym. There will also be an on-line store to order from.
  - We need volunteers to work the fair (4 people per shift), set up and tear down. Please click this link to sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA4A82BA7F9CE9-walker>. If you can't do a whole shift, that's ok, we will take any help we can get.
  - If you are a crafty person and would like to help us make decorations, please reach out. We want to try to make it a fun event and a fun destination.
  - We only earn cash back from in person sales, so we really want to make it feel safe for all and make it fun.
  - We should look at the book fair as a community building event and we want to make it as safe as possible for all to come and not exclude remote families.
  - We would like to borrow a mobile coat rack and hangers to make a poster rack. If anyone can lend us one, we would appreciate it.
  - We will have book vouchers for all free and reduced lunch students. Even if a student doesn't redeem their voucher, we will purchase a book for them-we want to make sure that every student gets a book even if they aren't able to come to the fair.
  - Contact me if you'd like to help or have questions: natashadobson13@gmail.com
- Teacher Appreciation Week May 3rd-7th
  - We're making a flyer to encourage students to email notes or videos to their teachers.
  - We'll be giving small Starbucks gift cards to all staff along with a special piece of spiritwear only made for staff and stocking the staff fridge with drinks (a link will be sent out later).

### **Treasurer Update**

- Income for March: 5th grade fundraiser & year round fundraising (restaurant nights).
- Paid website fees and PTA dues.
- Dinner party sales happened in April, so it will be included in next month's report.

## Fundraising Committee Update

- Walker Wolverine Virtual Dinner Party and Fundraiser Kick Off update. Was a big hit! \$6,179 of \$20k goal raised to date. Made over \$100 from the food truck sales. Even if you did not attend, please donate to the school's biggest fundraiser, the Direct Appeal, at [https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/742881?fbclid=IwAR1etjbxIHxkKzXMVraF\\_iaX4XTr0eAudzzlfZvaVT-qypRC5lx91dK03s](https://walker.memberhub.store/store/items/742881?fbclid=IwAR1etjbxIHxkKzXMVraF_iaX4XTr0eAudzzlfZvaVT-qypRC5lx91dK03s). Ends May 15th. Letters will be sent home this week.
- Next restaurant night will be in May. Trying for the 13th, but not locked down yet.
- Amazon Smile: log in to smile.amazon.com and select David E. Walker PTA as your charity.
- Box Tops for Education: paper receipts can be scanned and uploaded on the app and mobile receipts can be forwarded to [receipts@boxtops4education.com](mailto:receipts@boxtops4education.com). Earned \$54 so far this year.
- On Benefit app, please change fundraiser from holiday to Walker Fundraiser. (<https://www.benefit-mobile.com/causes/walker-elementary-school>)

## Equity Committee Update

- FAN Events (Anita Geevarghese): <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/> (free and open to all, registration required)
  - April 22nd, 7-8 pm: "Your Turn: How to Be an Adult" with author Julie Lythcott-Haims and Gia Clarke, founding member of the Honors BIPOC Coalition at Loyola University Chicago.
  - May 5th, 7-8 pm: "Stranger Care: A Memoir of Loving What Isn't Ours" with writer, teacher, and advocate Sarah Sentilles and Academy and Emmy Award winning actor Sally Field.
  - More events are being planned before the end of school year - check website for more info.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson, Sarita Smith)
  - Broke into sub committees to figure out details and make plans
  - On May 22nd, PEP will be presenting the full plan to all PTA exec boards. So our June meeting will have lots to discuss.
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Anita Geevarghese)
  - Have come up with some good ideas, but have had a hard time getting them into motion before this school year ends. So we're looking to get them going for next Fall.
  - Free tutoring for BSA students from ETHS students. Website for more info: [studentsagainsttheachievementgap.org](http://studentsagainsttheachievementgap.org)
  - Tutor request form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfld6osOI1dBDdA9n8eNFmfT0IMIFT8HaomPMjgx70r3Lvvgg/viewform>
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul/Carrie Shonk)
  - Had an 8 week workshop (ended March 23rd). 11 people participated and all want to continue with the training. We've had a meeting to discuss next steps. We want to meet once a month, then in the Fall do twice a month. We'd love to have more people join and we want to get the word out.
  - Please reach out to us if you are interested: [carrieshonk@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieshonk@yahoo.com), [kellikaul@gmail.com](mailto:kellikaul@gmail.com)

## Engagement Committee Update

- The next family game time of virtual bingo that was planned for the evening of Thursday 4/22 has to be rescheduled (work conflicts with the volunteers who will run the game). The new date will be in May. Plus looking to do a kindergarten game time of pictictionary soon.

## **New Business**

- Vote on budget line items for STEAM event, teacher appreciation, and book fair
  - We have \$600 budgeted for Field Day and \$250 budgeted for STEAM Night (both of which aren't happening this year). The book fair needs funds for supplies to sanitize and keep the event safe, along with decorations and advertising. And we need funds for the teacher appreciation gifts. We're proposing that we take the \$850 from the Field Day and STEAM Night and reallocate some to the book fair (\$500) and teacher appreciation gifts (\$350).
  - Allison proposes the motion, Erika seconded, all in favor, motion passed.

## **Volunteer Needs**

- Bylaw committee to review current and potential new positions (diversity and equity, communications, PTA council rep, fine arts, PE & literacy liaison). Please reach out to Allison at [alliackerman@hotmail.com](mailto:alliackerman@hotmail.com) if interested.

## **Important Dates:**

- April 22nd, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- April 30th: Recipes due for Walker International Cookbook
- May 3rd-7th: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- May 6th, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- May 14th: Kindermixer with teachers for 2021-22 school year
- May 17th-May 22nd: In person Scholastic Book Fair (virtual portion open for two weeks)
- May 19th, 7 pm: PTA Meeting
- June 2nd: Last Day of School

## **Adjournment**