

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 2021 @ 7:00pm
Location: Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89465443563?pwd=T2hvVzNxQTl2czVXSctQdmdnQWpVdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Attendees:

Stacey Masliansky	Cecilie Ryan	Patty Harris
Allison Ackerman Bull	Shana Sternstein	Amber Bond
Ashanti Henderson	Michaela Marchi	Dee Johnson
Sarah Trulley	Carla Green	Isabel Machado
Erin Sacluti	Liz Ribeiro	Michelle Henley
Darlena Simmons		

Principal's Announcements

- Mr. Gray apologizes for not being able to join us this evening.
- Deadline to indicate interest in the district's 2021-22 Virtual Learning Pathway is 5/28. You only need to complete the form in the SISK12 Parent Portal if you're interested in the Virtual Pathway.

Teacher Announcements

- Free yoga session with Caitlin Otte (2nd grade teacher and certified yoga teacher) for the whole community! Last one is this Saturday 5/22 at 11 am-12 pm on Zoom.
<https://district65.zoom.us/j/4386305540?pwd=SlpPWVNaUXVSV3MyM09zT2ZvbDZz09&fbclid=IwAR32ZECj3clhEhRZZE9z348jRYqqJPGFLIy4rIKRbe-e6qx-KKnNI-dFP8M#success> Meeting ID: 438 630 5540 Passcode: otte
 - All ages and abilities with no experience required.
 - 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

- Thank you to Erin Sacluti for coordinating Teacher Appreciation Week. We heard from many teachers and staff that they felt loved and appreciated our efforts.
- Thank you to everyone who donated beverages to stock the staff fridge.
- We also gave every staff member a Walker sweatshirt and gift card to include in person and remote teachers.
- Thank you to Michelle Redmond-Henley and Patty Harris for organizing the Direct Appeal!
 - They kicked it off with a fun social dinner party.
 - \$8,024 of \$20k goal raised. Thank you to all who contributed!
- Please sign ecards before 6/2 for three Walker teachers and staff who are retiring at the end of the year. Your family can share thank yous and best wishes at the following links:

- <https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/fa7dbe060f33691> for Paula Maldonado (2nd grade teacher)
- <https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/180e29ce09f7952> for Susan Struve (school reading interventionalist)
- <https://www.groupgreeting.com/sign/23e46efae7050ed> for Tena Washington (school social worker)
- YEA (Young Evanston Artists)-student artwork will be displayed in Evanston storefront windows along Chicago Avenue between Dempster and Main until 5/23. All artwork submitted by Walker students is in the window of Eden Agora Day Spa at 501 Main St, Evanston. Congrats to all of the students who submitted artwork!
- PTA bylaw review; elect new officer positions (diversity equity inclusion and communication) and appoint new committee chairs for 2021-22 school year (room parent coordinator, PTA council, and fundraising).
 - Communication officer would be responsible mainly for digital communication (Facebook, website).
 - Michelle Henley and Patty Harris have agreed to continue as fundraising chairs, about which we are very excited!
 - We need a bylaw committee to create descriptions for these positions over summer. Please email Allison Ackerman at alliackerman@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping with this committee.
- Fifth Grade Farewell gifts and t-shirt contest in lieu of yearbooks. Congrats to t-shirt contest winners Finn Jeffries and Jeniyah Goodnight-Taylor in Ms. Hudson-Meier's class!
 - The PTA has also purchased yard signs and a balloon arch to take photos during each student's assigned time.
 - Arrangements will be made to get gifts to students who cannot be there in person.
 - Please email Mr. Gray if you need transportation to the school for your student's fifth grade farewell appointment.
- Walker cookbook update. Thank you to families and staff who have submitted 69 recipes!
 - Even though deadline has passed, families can still submit entries until it is sent to print.
 - Physical copies will be ordered and details to purchase are coming soon.
 - This is not a fundraiser. Cookbooks will be sold at cost.
- Scholastic in person book fair week of 5/18-21 11:20 am-1 pm and 3:30-6 pm in Walker gym.
 - Please wear a mask, social distance, and use hand sanitizer provided throughout.
 - All students who attend the fair can pick a prize and earn raffle tickets with personal or teacher wish list purchases.
 - Please donate to Books for All (bit.ly/All4books or round up your on-site purchase), a fundraiser to provide free books to all students on free and reduced lunch (similar to coin drive in past years).
 - Committee also hoping to purchase books from English Learner and specials staff lists that may get overlooked by parents.
 - Online portion open until 5/28 at Bit.ly/WalkerFair.
- First Kindermixer last Friday was successful with 10 families in attendance.
 - Ms. Mullins and Maeve Kanaley, a new K teacher currently a reading specialist at Dewey, were there.
 - Two more mixers coming this summer will be advertised on the Facebook page.

Treasurer Update

- Income this past month included \$2,916 fundraised from Fifth Grade Farewell Lou Malnati's gift certificates, \$6,819.79 from the Adult Dinner Party, and \$65 from Spirit Wear.
- Expenses included Dinner Party trivia game hosts (\$600) and Fifth Grade Farewell gifts (\$1,784).
- Current checking account balance is \$12,025.50. Money market account balance is \$27,021.07.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Direct Appeal update. \$8,024 of \$20k goal raised.
- Dengeos was the 5/13 restaurant fundraiser all day and \$175.82 was raised.
- We secured Oberweis/That Burger Joint for the last day of school (6/2) as the restaurant fundraiser all day. Please mention Walker when ordering online or in person.
- 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.
- On Benefit app, please select 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):
 - 5/20, 7-8 pm: "Better, Not Bitter: Living on Purpose in the Pursuit of Racial Justice" with author, motivational speaker, and criminal justice reform advocate Yusef Salaam and Assistant Professor at University of Chicago in School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice Reuben Jonathan Miller, Ph.D.
 - 5/25, 7-8 pm: "Life as a Quaranteen: Youth Mental Health Post-Pandemic" with psychologist, author, New York Times columnist, and podcast co-host Lisa Damour, Ph.D.; Chair of Mental Health Working Group of City of Chicago's Mayor's Youth Commission Saul Arnow, and Vice-Chair, Mental Health Working Group of the City of Chicago's Mayor's Youth Commission Margo Cicero.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson, Sarita Smith)
 - PEP is hosting a summit next week and an update will be available at our meeting next month.
 - Availability to be on the PEP leadership team. Please email Ashanti Madlock-Henderson at ashantimadlock@sbcglobal.net if you are interested and she will provide information.
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Anita Geevarghese)
 - Free tutoring for BSA students from ETHS students. Website for more info: studentsagainsttheachievementgap.org
 - Tutor request form: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfld6osOI1dBDdA9n8eNFmft0IMIFT8HaomPMjgx70r3Lvggg/viewform>
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul/Carrie Shonk)
 - Anyone is welcome to join at any point. Email Kelli Kaul at kellikaul@gmail.com or Carrie Shonk at carrieshonk@yahoo.com with questions or to participate.
 - Currently meeting once a month until school resumes to dissect podcast Nice White Parents.

Community Engagement Committee Update

- Lunch bunches continue through next week. No lunch bunches the last week of school (Monday is a holiday).
- Committee did a great job in a tough year and will be back up and running with lots of events next year.

Volunteer Needs

- Bylaw committee to review current and potential new positions (diversity and equity, communications, PTA council rep). Please contact Allison Bull at alliackerman@hotmail.com if you are interested in creating written descriptions for these positions this summer.
- Book Fair shifts for in person portion through 5/21, especially tear down Friday night 6-9 pm. Sign up here <https://m.signupgenius.com/#!/showSignUp/10C0C4AA4A82BA7F9CE9-walker> or email Natasha Dobson at natashadobson13@gmail.com.

Important Dates:

- May 17th-May 29th: Virtual Scholastic Book Fair (in person ends 5/21)
- May 20th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- May 24th, 3:45-4:45: Rising First Graders' Mixer
- May 25th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- May 27th: Dance Party with DIME's Mr. Marcus
- May 27th, 7 pm: Chat with the Principal
- May 28th, June 1st, June 2nd: Fifth Grade Farewells
- May 31st, No School, Memorial Day
- June 2nd: Last Day of School
- June 16th, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting (note time change)

Adjournment