

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, August 26, 2021 @ 7:30pm
Location: Walker Cafeteria and Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

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

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Attendees:

Allison Ackerman Bull	Natasha Dobson	Patty Harris
Stacey Masliansky	Michelle Mantel	Dee Johnson
Sarah Trulley	Erin Rams	Anna Kate Anderson
Ashanti Henderson	Raechel Alexander	Anushree Shah
Natalie Gillespie	Liz Ribeiro	Sharlie Henley
James Gray	Courtney Shapiro	Liz Leverentz
Ed Lee	Erin Sacluti	Dante Wharton
Shana Sternstein	Anita Geevarghese	Jessica Bueltmann
Robin Saldahna	Kymika Okechukwu	

The meeting was called to order and the minutes from the June meeting were approved.

Principal's Announcements

- We've had a good couple of days. Today was better than yesterday.
- Thank you for your patience as we walked kids into the building and helped them find their rooms. It took longer than I expected.
- Normal reminders. Do the CrisisGo certification for your students every morning.
- If you have persistent issues with PowerSchool, fill out the Google form I sent and I can help you.
- Outdoor lunch has been going okay. There were some bees to deal with. We have hand sanitizer outside and will have free standing sanitizer stations starting tomorrow. There is a sink in the lunchroom if you prefer soap and water, but that is tough with 400 students.
- If you have an old normal sized refrigerator in your garage, we are looking for a donation to hold teacher lunches.

Teacher Announcements

- A note from Ms. Berger (orchestra teacher) and Mr. Carroll (band teacher):
 - 4th and 5th Grade Students: Join the Band or Orchestra Program!
 - Enrolling in Walker's band or orchestra program allows 4th and 5th graders to learn to play one of seven wind instruments, four string instruments or percussion; no prior experience needed.
 - In addition, through school assemblies, we give instrument demonstrations to familiarize 4th and 5th graders with the characteristics and features of each instrument. With online enrollment beginning mid-Sept, families will receive an email with complete enrollment details and further video communication before submitting forms. While lessons are free and taught during the school day by D65 instrumental teachers, most parents are responsible for the instrument rental and a \$10 registration fee. Families in need of financial help will be supplied with a district-owned instrument. Every child

wishing to participate is welcome to join...music is for everyone! Stay tuned for more information, or visit chuteorchestras.weebly.com to learn more about orchestra instruments or chutebands.weebly.com to discover more about band instruments.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Welcome to all of the new Wolverine families and welcome back to all returning families! It's so nice to see people again in person at drop off and pick up.
- Introductions of PTA Executive Board.
 - Stacey Masliansky-3rd grader in Nelson, 6th grader at Chute.
 - Allison Ackerman Bull-twin 4th graders in Shabaan and Rouse and K in Mullins.
 - Ashanti Madlock Henderson-5th grader in Oldfield, three-year-old at JEH.
 - Sarah Trulley-3rd grader in Arceneaux, 1st grader in DeLuca, four-year-old at JEH.
 - Natalie Gillespie-2nd grader in Simmons
- PTA membership levels, including no barriers membership (free), individual (\$10), and family (\$15) can be purchased on <https://walker.memberhub.com/store>.
 - Membership gives you the right to vote on action items.
- PTA meetings will usually be the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 pm unless they conflict with a religious or school holiday.
 - The dates will be advertised on the website (walkerwolverinespta.com) and on Facebook (Walker Elementary School PTA).
 - The next meeting is Thursday 9/23.
 - We are hoping to send out a printed calendar before the next PTA meeting and update the virtual calendar on the website (walkerwolverinespta.com).
- Please email walkerptagroup@gmail.com with any questions or suggestions.
- 75 copies of the Walker Cookbook curated last spring with 69 recipes from families and staff were pre-ordered and are in.
 - They will be available to purchase at the ice cream social on 9/1 5:30-7 pm and on MemberHub shortly at a suggested donation of \$10.
 - Thank you to Cecilie Ryan, Natalie Gillespie, and Robin Saldhana for coordinating this project.
- PTA bylaw review still in process if anyone would like to help out. Email Allison Ackerman at alliackerman@hotmail.com.
- D65 fluency tutor programs run once or twice a week during the school day October-May.
 - Everybody Reads for 2nd-5th grades and Math is Fundamental for 1st and 2nd grades.
 - Tutors can select which program or school they prefer and training is provided.
 - Contact sites.google.com/district65.net/fluencytutorprograms if interested.
- New committee and chair positions:
 - Communications: Natalie Gillespie
 - Community Engagement: Jill Velan
 - DEI Liaison: Dante Wharton
 - Fundraising: Michelle Henley and Patty Vertiz
 - PNO: Michelle Mantel
 - Room Parent Coordinator: Raechel Alexander
 - STEAM: Still open
- Rachel Alexander shared she has been a room parent for nine years so knows a little bit about this. She has a third grader in Ms. Rouse's class. She is looking for one to three room parents for each classroom and four to be a liaison to library, arts, PE. It's a great way to get to know teachers and other parents better and they'll really be needed this year.

- Email Allison Ackerman Bull at alliackerman@hotmail.com if you are interested in joining or have questions about one of the committees listed above and she will connect you with the chair.
- The gaga pit was purchased, but it was shipped to a Walker School in California.
- Cubs Scouts is recruiting students, all ages and genders. The pack is largely Walker and Lincolnwood students. Steve Bull is the Scout Master. Contact Steve Bull at ? if you are interested or have questions.
- Walker received \$28,992.10 from PEP's (PTA Equity Project) One Fund to use in the upcoming school year.
 - This is lower than the prior year's budget of \$36,750, and we created a thoughtful budget with ideas of where to decrease expenses while keeping many of the fun events we have loved in a Covid-friendly way.
 - We kept \$5K in reserves and we contributed \$15,070.60 last year.

Treasurer Update

- Started with the July 2021 report. June income of \$2,326.43 included book fair net profit (\$1,266.42), restaurant nights (\$991.41), and spirit wear purchases (\$68.60).
- June expenses of \$2,966.28 included the following:
 - Overhead of miscellaneous (technology, etc. for \$82.35) and mailings for fundraiser under office supplies (\$136.17).
 - Community engagement including angel fund contribution (\$285.07), book fair expenses and vouchers for free and reduced lunch students (\$478.69), and teacher appreciation (\$990.50).
 - Education and Community including donations to Justin Wynn (\$200) and ESCCA (\$150).
 - Fundraising consisted of fifth grade end of year celebrations (\$643.50).
- June ending checking balance was \$10,819.08 and ending savings account balance was \$11,225.92. June ending money market account balance was \$27,028.30.
- Continued with 2021-22 Proposed Budget.
 - Budget is \$28,992.10, the amount received from PEP.
 - Yearbook fundraiser and book fair vouchers are considered passthroughs.
 - Fundraising includes membership dues, Amazon Smile, box tops, angel donations, PNO silent auction, book fairs, dinner fundraisers, spirit wear, chess tournament, and Walkerfest.
 - Overhead includes the following:
 - Bank fees (\$150), insurance (\$250), miscellaneous (\$250), office supplies (\$400), technology fees (\$825), PTA council dues (\$100), and PTA national and state dues (\$540 assuming 120 members).
 - Engagement includes the following:
 - Angel fund contribution (\$500), back to school social (\$650), field day (\$600), fifth grade farewell (\$750), yearbooks (\$750), first day coffee (\$25), basketball teams (\$200), flag football teams (\$200), international night (\$1,000), kindermixers (\$100), community social events (\$4,375), grounds beautification/gardening (\$1,000), DEI parent groups (\$1,000), and heritage months (\$200).
 - Education includes the following:
 - Teacher grants (\$1,500), chess team (\$250), chess tournament (\$1,200), and STEAM (\$850).
 - Staff Support is teacher appreciation (\$2,500).

- Community includes the following:
 - EISMA performance (\$0, we have a credit from last year), ESCCA-Evanston School Children's Clothing Association (\$300), Justin Wynn (\$200), and YEA-Young Evanston Artists (\$250).
- Fundraising includes the following:
 - PNO (\$2,600), Year-round fundraising (\$1,000), Spirit wear (\$250), and Walkerfest (\$4,000).
- Contingency is \$227.10 to balance the budget.
- Question about the Heritage Months budget, most of the projects suggested are not costly (bulletin boards, community members and parents reading).
- Question about food and drinks during conferences for teacher appreciation.
- Ashanti moved the budget to pass, Natalie Gillespie seconded, Erin Rams thirded, and the budget was approved with no objections.

Fundraising Committee Update (Patty Vertiz/Michelle Henley)

- Patty Vertiz has a third and fifth grader at Walker.
- First restaurant fundraiser will be in October with fundraisers on every half day (usually first Wednesday of the month).
- September fundraiser will be spirit wear starting at the ice cream social.
- Continual fundraisers:
 - Amazon Smile (log in or type smile.amazon.com, shop as you normally would, select and save David E Walker PTA as your charity)
 - Box Tops for Education (download the app to upload paper receipts or forward online receipts; use code LKI96IPI to earn more rewards this month)
 - Benefit (download the app by following steps at <https://www.benefit-mobile.com/causes/walker-elementary-school>)
 - Trying to work with Coke Gives too.

Equity Committee Update

- FAN Events (Anita Geevarghese): <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>
 - On hiatus over summer; these events are free and open to all, but registration is required.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson)
 - PEP was on hiatus during summer.
 - We are so excited that Dante Wharton has joined Walker's PEP team.
 - If anyone wants to work on heritage months or the equity team, please contact Ashanti Madlock-Henderson at ashantimadlock@sbcglobal.net.
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Anita Geevarghese)
 - Tutoring and discussion of other needs will start up again soon.
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul)
 - White affinity group that meets monthly to discuss white privilege and white parents' role in making Walker a more equitable, antiracist space.

New Business

- School Supply Fund/Account and Traverse Wall
 - School supply fund was put in place several years ago (at least two PTA boards back) to collect funds for school wide supplies. The account balance is currently \$10,832.21.

- In consult with Mr. Gray, he suggested we use the funds to install a traverse climbing wall in the gym. Estimated cost of \$9K to purchase and install traverse wall.
 - The wall is about 6' tall, you are climbing sideways so no harness or ropes are required.
 - Mats stay attached to the wall when not in use that are then placed below students when climbing.
 - The set comes with tools to move the handles to different locations.
 - Is there a cleaning spray or another way to sanitize in between classes? Mr. Gray will ask gym teacher April Likhite to research and inquire with the manufacturer.
 - If approved, the purchase and installation is likely several months away.
 - Stacey motioned for a vote, Liz Ribeiro seconded, Natalie Gillespie thirded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Volunteer Needs

- Committee members to support the new chairs and officers described above. Email Allison Ackerman at alliackerman@hotmail.com with questions or if you are interested in helping.
- D65 fluency tutor programs once or twice a week October-May (Everybody Reads 2nd-5th and Math is Fundamental 1st and 2nd grades). Choose your school, training is available. Great way to give back to kids throughout our district. Visit sites.google.com/district65.net/fluencytutorprograms for questions and to sign up.

Important Dates:

- September 1st, 5:30-7 pm: Ice Cream Social with C&W Market ice cream
- September 6th: No School (Labor Day)
- September 7th: No School (Rosh Hashanah)
- September 16th: No School (Yom Kippur)
- September 23rd, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting

Adjournment