

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, September 23, 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:**

Stacey Masliansky	Jenevieve Arceneaux	Will Hobart
Ashanti Madlock-Henderson	Dante Wharton	Natasha Dobson
Natalie Gillespie	Erin Sacluti	Jenny Walsh
James Gray	Megan DaPita-Keita	Kelli Kaul
Raechel Alexander	Michelle Redmond-Henley	Jill Velan
Patty Harris	Tina Vinson	

The prior meeting's minutes were approved.

**Principal's Announcements**

- Picture Day is tomorrow. Rescheduled due to a religious holiday.
  - I will send an email this evening to remind parents.
  - All kids will have their picture taken tomorrow whether parents want to pay for a photo or not.
- Walk to School Day is 10/6.
  - It happens in the morning around 8:45/8:50 and we will try to wait for all buses to arrive.
  - Gym teacher April Likhite coordinates everyone meeting at the tennis courts at Central Park. We all walk over to the school together.
- Parent teacher conferences are 10/19 and 10/20.
  - Like last year, it will be all virtual.
  - Teachers will reach out to parents to schedule a meeting. It's scheduled for 3-7 PM on 10/19 and 3-6 PM on 10/20, but teachers will make additional times available if needed.
- Shield testing is supposed to start next week.
  - Delay seems to be a staffing issue through coordinator, not the district.

**Teacher Announcements**

- Girls Play Sports' cross-country meet, co-directed by Walker gym teacher April Likhite, for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders is 9/25 8:30-10 am at ETHS.
  - All skill levels are welcome, scholarships are available.
  - Register at <https://www.teamgps.org/programs/leagues-tourneys>
- Etown Wildkits Girls Feeder basketball tryouts for 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade girls is 10/17 2-3:30 pm at ETHS. Players and families are invited for pizza and an informational meeting after the tryout.
  - All skill levels are welcome. \$30 registration fee.
  - Sign up at [thepowerhousesports.com/ladykits](http://thepowerhousesports.com/ladykits).
- Jenna Arceneaux shared for Mrs. Hertel that there will be an author visit supported by Foundation 65 on 10/25 with Juana Martinez-Neal, author of "Alma and How She Got Her Name" and "Zonia's Rain Forest," among other titles.

- Question about whether teacher driven before and after school enrichments have to be run through Right at School. Mr. Gray responded no, they can be coordinated at Walker without RAS.

### Executive Committee Announcements

- Foundation 65's My65 fundraiser is Thursday, 10/7 6-9 pm at Temperance Brewery. Join other parents for a celebration of public education with great food, drink, and fun.
  - Tickets can be purchased at [www.foundation65.org](http://www.foundation65.org) for \$100. Sponsorships start at \$365.
  - Foundation 65 funds educator led initiatives focused on literacy and the arts in support of educational equity, particularly as the discrepancies and effects of virtual learning necessitated by covid become apparent.
- PTA membership levels, including no barriers membership, allow you to vote on PTA wide matters.
- PTA meetings will usually be the third Thursday of the month unless they conflict with a religious or school holiday.
  - The dates will be advertised on the website ([walkerwolverinespta.com](http://walkerwolverinespta.com)), on Facebook (Walker Elementary School PTA), and in Mr. Gray's emails.
  - The next meeting is Thursday 10/21.
- Walker's cookbook, "A World of Flavors," is available to purchase on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/493498>) at a suggested donation of \$10.
- D65 fluency tutor programs run once or twice a week during the school day October-May.
  - Everybody Reads for 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades and Math is Fundamental for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades.
  - Tutors can select which program and school they prefer and training is provided.
  - Contact [sites.google.com/district65.net/fluencytutorprograms](http://sites.google.com/district65.net/fluencytutorprograms) if interested.
- Room Parent update.
  - 35 room parents have signed up to cover 18 classrooms and 5 specials teachers. Every classroom will have at least two room parents.
  - It's taking a while to get the communication piece off the ground. Communication is important to reach all parents, especially those not seeing events on Facebook or the PTA website.
  - Please fill out any parent contact forms or spreadsheets that are sent by room parents. We will not bombard you with emails, but will provide important updates like School Picture Day.
  - We desperately need two room parents for Ms. Oldfield and Ms. Panagiotidis. Patty Harris has volunteered for both of these classrooms and would like help. Michelle Redmond-Henley volunteered for Oldfield.
  - If you can be a room parent for Ms. Panagiotidis, please email Raechel Alexander at [ralexander@ra-completecommunications.com](mailto:ralexander@ra-completecommunications.com).
- Evanston School Children Clothing Association's (ESCCA) serves are scheduled for December and February. An October serve date conflicted with Parent Teacher Conferences.
  - Annie Grossman is running ESCCA this year. Please contact her at [anniegrossman@gmail.com](mailto:anniegrossman@gmail.com) to volunteer at serves or receive notice when new or gently used clothing is being collected.
- Heritage Months. This month is Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month led by parent Dorina Aguilar Rasmussen.
  - Morning announcements have highlighted Hispanic and Latinx contributors and a beautiful bulletin board greets students in the main hallway.

- Teachers are sharing lessons and learning experiences that celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of Americans whose ancestors came from areas currently known as Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Spain.
- Question about the district having a curriculum for Asian American Pacific Islander and other heritage months. Ms. Arceneaux replied there are curriculum weeks for Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ history only at this point.
- D65 Digital Backpack at EL-3.org with Evanston community events. Many of the event flyers that would usually come home in your student's Friday Folders are populated on this website, so check it out every few weeks.
- Please email [walkerptagroup@gmail.com](mailto:walkerptagroup@gmail.com) with any questions or suggestions.

#### **Treasurer Update**

- August expenses included insurance (\$160) and technology fees (\$33.75).
- We saved \$5K for reserves, which is allowed with PEP One Fund, and \$5K was transferred to the operating account to purchase the gaga pit.
- \$485.95 outstanding expense from last school year was paid.
- Ending MMA balance of \$15,832.21.

#### **Fundraising Committee Update**

- Spirit wear sales at September ice cream social from inventory on hand. Sold out of almost all kid sizes. Email Michelle Henley ([redmond.mk@gmail.com](mailto:redmond.mk@gmail.com)) or Patty Harris ([patevertiz@hotmail.com](mailto:patevertiz@hotmail.com)) with adult size clothing requests.
- There will be another opportunity to purchase spirit wear before the holidays.
- First restaurant night fundraiser is 10/6 (Wednesday half day) at Herm's.
- Box Tops for Education (BTFE) is a year-round fundraiser with a bonus offer if you join by 9/26. Download the BTFE app, use referral code LKI96IPI to sign up, buy participating products, scan your first receipt, and automatically earn 50 bonus Box Tops (equivalent to \$5) for Walker.
- Virtual Family Fundraiser on 10/22 with Bake 425. Pick up orders on 10/21 for a do-it-yourself pizza kit at home with packages ranging from \$5 to \$25. The committee will also play the movie Coco in support of Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month.
- Secured Chicago Wolves hockey game as fundraiser in February.
- Save the Date for PNO on 11/13! (Michelle Mantel)

#### **Equity Committee Update**

- FAN Events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>; events are free, but registration is required to obtain a personal link.
  - 9/23, 7-8 pm: "Think Talk Create: Building Workplaces Fit for Humans" with David Brendel, MD, Ph.D., and Ryan Stelzer, co-founders of Strategy of Mind, and Marianne Bertrand, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at The University of Chicago Booth School of Business.
  - 9/28, 7-8 pm: "What Do You Say? How to Talk with Kids to Build Motivation, Stress Tolerance, and a Happy Home" with William Strixrud, Ph.D., clinical neuropsychologist and founder of the Strixrud Group, and Ned Johnson, author, speaker, and founder of PrepMatters.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson)
  - First meeting is in October.
  - Encouraging everyone who may qualify for free and reduced lunch to apply. Walker's PEP distribution partially depends on the number of students who qualify for FRL.

- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Tina Vinson)
  - Started a couple years ago, before covid, and haven't really been able to get off the ground.
  - Purpose is to close the achievement or opportunity gap at Walker based on MAP score disparity between white and Black students.
  - First event will be 10/5 at 5:30 PM with more information coming.
  - Email [walkerblackstudentsachieve@gmail.com](mailto:walkerblackstudentsachieve@gmail.com) with questions or to get involved.
- Walker Walking the Walk (Kelli Kaul)
  - We are rethinking the name to reflect a white accountability group that educates ourselves on anti-racism and bias.
  - Currently have about 12 members who went through training with an outside group. Some members only have students at Chute now so the name is outdated.
  - Really good time to join our group as we move on to the next step.
  - Only meet once a month, so it's not a big commitment, but it's super important.
  - Contact [kelli.kaul@gmail.com](mailto:kelli.kaul@gmail.com) with any questions or to join the group.

### **Community Engagement Update**

- Two fall events to keep them outside. Planning for two spring events (bingo and a dance) as well.
- Bingo on Saturday, 9/25 3-5 pm outside at the Walker picnic tables under the tents.
  - It is free and open to the whole family. Lots of prizes available to win!
  - Donations still being accepted at 9515 Hamlin, Skokie for prizes, including unopened birthday gifts, company swag.
  - Also accepting canned food donations and birthday bags (disposable metal cake pan, cake mix, icing, any party decorations like balloons or card) for Hillside Pantry.
  - Volunteers needed an hour before the event and afterward if tables need to be taken down.
- Fall dance outside with Mr. Marcus from DIME (Dance Is My Everything) 11/6 4-6 pm.
  - The dance is free!
  - Bottled water and snacks will be available for free as well.
  - New and gently used coats and winter wear will be accepted for Connections for the Homeless.
- If covid concerns improve by spring, we may try to add events.

### **Volunteer Needs**

- D65 fluency tutor programs October-May (Everybody Reads 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and Math is Fundamental 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grades).
- Heritage and equality month volunteers needed, including Hispanic and Latinx (9/15-10/15), LGBTQ+ History (October), Native American (November), Black History (February), Women's History (March), Arab American (April), and Asian Pacific American (May).

### **Important Dates:**

- September 23rd, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- September 25th, 3-5 pm: Bingo
- September 28th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- October 5th: Black Students Achieve Event
- October 6th, 8:45 am: Walk to School Day
- October 6th: Restaurant Night Fundraiser at Herm's

- October 7th, 6-9 pm: Foundation 65's My65 Fundraiser
- October 19-20th: Parent Teacher Conferences
- October 21st, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting
- October 22nd: Virtual Family Fundraiser with Bake 425 and Coco (food kit pick up 10/21)
- November 6th, 4-6 pm: Dance with DIME's Mr. Marcus
- November 13th: Parents' Night Out Fundraiser

Adjournment