

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, October 21, 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	Dante Wharton	Patty Harris
Allison Ackerman Bull	Raechel Alexander	Sarita Smith
Ashanti Henderson	Jill Velan	James Gray
Sarah Trulley	Erin Sacluti	Natasha Dobson
Natalie Gillespie	Kelli Kaul	Michelle-Redmond Henley

The minutes from the prior meeting were approved.

Principal's Announcements

- Thank you to parents and caregivers who provided treats during parent teacher conferences. The teachers really appreciated it.
- Pictures were sent home with students today. Hopefully you like how they look. The retake date is Thursday, 11/4. I will send an email tonight with this date.
- Next Coffee with the Principal is Friday, 11/12, will likely be inside masked.
- State of the School Address on Monday, 11/15 over zoom to provide and discuss student data.
- I got a babysitter for Adults' Night Out on Saturday, 11/13 and look forward to staying out.

Teacher Announcements

- Girls Play Sports' 3rd-8th grade cross-country meet Sunday, 10/24 at 9-10:30 am at Evanston Township High School (ETHS).
 - All skill levels are welcome, scholarships are available.
 - Register at <https://www.teamgps.org/programs/leagues-tourneys>.
- Black Girls Magic Book Club is an extracurricular activity open to any student and aims to read 16 books with Black girl protagonists.

Executive Committee Announcements

- PTA membership levels, including no barriers membership, allow you to vote on PTA matters like budget items and PEP (PTA Equity Project) decisions.
 - A link to MemberHub and the no barriers membership sign up is on the PTA website now (walkerwoverinespta.com).
 - The next meeting is Thursday, 11/18.
- Walker Cookbook is available to purchase on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/493498>) at a suggested donation of \$10.
 - Many families contributed delicious recipes, including soups and dishes perfect for colder weather.
- Evanston School Children Clothing Association's (ESCCA) serves for families who need grade school children's clothing, shoes, and winter wear are Wednesday, 12/15 at 6:30-9 pm and 2/26 at 9:15 am-12:15 pm.
 - We will collect coats and winter wear at the fall dance and leading up to our serves.

- Please email Annie Grossman at anniegrossman@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer at a serve.
- PTA Council update.
 - Spent lots of time listening and talking to the superintendents.
 - Discussed Right at School (RAS) as a district-wide program this year for enrichments. We learned Walker was very organized and able to offer many more enrichments than other schools. We are interested in supporting equity across the district.
 - Walker families interested in enrichment scholarships should contact assistant principal Amy Wharton at whartona@district65.net.
 - Question about YOU (Youth & Opportunity United) and whether they are accepting new students for the current or later trimesters. Please contact Gladys James at gjames@youthopportunity.org.
- Green Team update.
 - Jennifer Gilbert, a Walker parent, is working with James Gray to start composting in the lunchroom.
 - They are working to obtain a compost bin from Collective Resources, the service that picks up the compost, and other materials from Evanston Rebuilding Warehouse.
 - Volunteers are needed to oversee the composting process for the first few weeks in the lunchroom.
 - Several other schools in the district are already composting.
 - The school's Green Teams are being renamed Climate Action Teams to better reflect the district's goals and mission in this arena.
 - Please email Jennifer Gilbert at jennifergilbert333@gmail.com if you are available to oversee the start of composting in the lunchroom or if you have additional climate action ideas for the school.
- Hispanic and Latinx Heritage month 9/15-10/15 was celebrated with the help of parent Dorina Aguilar Rasmussen, who created a beautiful bulletin board in the main hallway.
 - Morning announcements highlighted Hispanic and Latinx contributors.
 - A visit with Peruvian American author and illustrator Juana Martinez-Neal ("Alma and How She Got Her Name" and "Zonia's Rain Forest", among other titles familiar to Walker teachers) is scheduled in collaboration with Foundation 65 for all district families on 10/25 at 6:30 pm over zoom.
- Thank you to Erin Sacluti for organizing the Perfect Potluck sign ups to provide drinks and treats for teachers during parent teacher conferences. We received a lot of positive comments from the teachers that they were grateful and enjoyed everything.
- Update on gaga pit. District did the land excavation required. Walker and possibly Chute's Boy Scout packs will finish the above ground work for the pit.

Treasurer Update

- October income included \$320 in membership dues and \$1,035 from spirit wear.
- October expenses included \$160 in insurance, \$153.67 in technology fees (MemberHub and website), \$650 for the back-to-school ice cream social, and \$318.98 in community social events includes a \$100 down payment for Mr. Marcus's fall dance, food for the Bingo event, and additional funds for the well-attended ice cream social.
- Interest was the only income for an ending MMA balance of \$15,833.63.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Virtual Family Fundraiser on 10/22 (no school) at 6:30 pm has more than a dozen families signed up.
 - Partnered with Bake Homemade Pizza to provide “bake it yourself pizza kits.” Pizza kits were \$25 for three mini 10” pizzas. Cost included cheese, wheat/white/gluten free crust, and unlimited pizza toppings plus a unique link to stream “Coco” over zoom.
 - The cut off to order the pizza and movie package was 10/18.
 - Pizza kits were planned to be picked up at school 10/21 4-6 pm, but the vendor ran into an issue. Kits are available 10/22 9-11 am, or the committee can deliver to houses if needed.
- First restaurant fundraiser in October was Herm’s Palace. The owner was very grateful, as it was the most successful fundraiser in a long time. He will send 15% of sales that referenced the school, or \$255, back to Walker.
- Next restaurant fundraiser is Wednesday 11/3, an early dismissal day, for lunch and dinner at Jarasa Kabob (3641 Dempster St, Skokie).
- Fundraising committee has contracted with EPI to sell spirit wear 11/1-23.
 - PTA does not have to come out of pocket and they offer 200+ items, which the committee is narrowing down, since we have a minimum order of 24 per item.
 - An online catalog will be available to browse and place orders.
 - Free shipping and 14-day turnaround will have items arriving before winter break.
- Amazon Smiles was connected to the wrong checking account. We are awaiting a deposit of \$557.26 to cover earnings since 2017. Please sign up at smile.amazon.com and select David E Walker PTA as your charity.
- Volunteers are needed to join the committee to start planning for Walker Fest, a weekend all family carnival with games, bounce houses, prizes, etc. (tentatively 3/12/22).
- Save the Date for Adults’ Night Out on 11/13! (Michelle Mantel)
 - All Walker parents and caregivers are invited to a campfire and game themed party at the American Legion near Canal Shores golf course on Saturday, 11/13 at 6-10 pm.
 - Unless the weather does not cooperate, the event will be largely outside.
 - It is a fundraiser with a suggested entry fee and also a community building event.
 - Tickets will be available starting 10/25 on MemberHub site and through a direct link. Food from Mario’s Kart. Full bar and non-alcoholic drinks available for purchase inside. It will look different this year. SA would be hard to solicit from businesses who are struggling this year. Buy-in parties also hard to host.
 - A note that we are trying to cut down on the number of flyers going home as parents are not allowed in the building to stuff Friday folders, room parents are communicating more frequently, and fewer papers helps the environment.

Equity Committee Update

- Dante Wharton suggested adding Walker specific texts from Mr. Gray for communication of events.
- Partnering with Community Engagement team for Martin Luther King Jr. service event.
- BSA Play Date was very successful and could be modeled by other groups.
 - Parents were interested in discussing protocols due to traffic concerns around the school property, zoning and district needs survey across the town, and interest in ANO events from incoming kindergarten and transfer students.
- FAN Events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>; free, but registration is required to obtain a personal link.

- 10/26, 7-8 pm: “Who Gets in and Why: A Year Inside College Admissions” with Jeff Selingo, journalist and author, and Adam Harris, staff writer for “The Atlantic” and author of “The State Must Provide.”
- 10/28, 7-8 pm: “Three Girls from Bronzeville: A Uniquely American Memoir of Race, Fate, and Sisterhood” with Dawn Turner, award-winning journalist and author, and Heidi Stevens, creative director at Parent Nation at UC’s TMW Center for Early Learning and Public Health.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson)
 - New leadership for PEP: Meghan Shea and Fuschia Winston-Rodriguez-co-chairs; Valerie Kahn-development chair; Elizabeth Rolewicz-communications chair; Elizabeth Davies-finance co-chair, looking for another finance co-chair.
 - Any capital projects under \$7,500 the PTAs can save for and handle on their own. Anything over \$7,500 needs to be approved by PEP, who will vote on the order to fund the projects based on a formula to be determined in the future.
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Tina Vinson)
 - Met with Mr. Gray specifically around Black student achievement to have a meeting with the parent group to discuss strategies with interventionalists to close the gap.
 - PowerSchool update-new portal where parents do not have to request ids, passwords, etc. Any questions email parents@district65.net.
- Walker White Accountability Group (Kelli Kaul)
 - Deep dive into White Supremacy book and workbook.
 - All white identifying parents are welcome to join the group.
 - Meet once a month, not a huge commitment, but very important.
 - Looking for ways to support our community, open to ideas and suggestions. Email Kelli Kaul at kellikaul@gmail.com with suggestions or to join the group.

Community Engagement Update

- Fall dance with Mr. Marcus from DIME (Dance is My Everything) is 11/6 4-6 pm outside next to the Walker picnic tables.
 - It is free and open to the whole family.
 - Dress warmly if the weather is cool.
 - Water and prepackaged snacks will be available at no charge.
- Planning a Martin Luther King, Jr. service event for either the holiday or a weekend nearby.

New Business

- Member vote on modifying budget line items to print 350 calendars for \$500.
 - Garden and grounds beautification will decrease its budget from \$1K to \$750. STEAM Night will decrease its budget from \$850 to \$600.
 - Vote was moved by Allison Ackerman Bull, seconded by Natalie Gillespie.
- Question about adding \$150 from the budget to PTA committee equity training like SEED to provide to new officers and chairs who have not had equity training.

Volunteer Needs

- Fundraising committee team to start planning Walker Fest (tentatively 3/12/22). Please contact Patty Harris (patevertiz@hotmail.com) or Michelle Redmond-Henley (redmond.mk@gmail.com) if you are interested.

Important Dates:

- October 22nd: No School
- October 22nd: Virtual Family Fundraiser with Bake Homemade Pizza and “Coco”
- October 24th, 9-10:30 am: Girls Play Sports’ 3rd-8th grade Cross-Country Meet at ETHS
- October 26th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- October 28th, 7-8 pm: FAN Event
- November 1-23rd: Walker spirit wear online sale
- November 3rd: Early Dismissal Day
- November 3rd: Jarasa Kabob restaurant fundraiser (lunch and dinner)
- November 6th, 4-6 pm: Fall outdoor dance with DIME’s Mr. Marcus
- November 13th: Adults’ Night Out
- November 18th, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting
- November 24-26th: No School, Thanksgiving break

Adjournment