

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, February 24, 2022 @ 7:30pm
Location: Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

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

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Attendees:

Stacey Masliansky	James Gray	Courtney Shapiro	Patty Harris
Allison Ackerman Bull	Robin Linn	Jenny Walsh	Danielle Vrba
Ashanti Henderson	Amy Wharton	Michelle Henley	Jenna Nissly
Sarah Trulley	Liz Ribeiro	Michaela Marchi	Katherine Walts
Dante Wharton	Raechel Alexander	Erin Sacluti	Sarita Smith
Natalie Gillespie	Kristy Moon	Ms. Scott	Achina Stockwell

Principal's Announcements

- Thank you for all those who provided food and drinks for the teachers during the conferences. They appreciated and enjoyed everything.
- Thank you to Brandis Friedman and Ashanti Henderson for coordinating so many wonderful speakers during Black History Month. The keynote speaker will be the coach of the Chicago Sky on Monday for the entire school.
- Thank you to the parents and PTA for organizing One Book, One School where all students heard the same book focused on a Black protagonist read on the same day.
- The Student Assignment Planning Committee is presenting scenarios to the community and getting feedback on 2/27 at 2 pm, 3/1 at 5:30 pm, and 3/2 at 7 pm.
 - Please click the link below to join the Zoom webinar:
<https://district65.zoom.us/j/89794511212?pwd=dzNjVWVDU1VoSDkzWnpEdWVoQ3M5Zz09> or Webinar ID: 897 9451 1212 Passcode: 927691
- Evanston Roundtable newspaper had an interesting article about ETHS students reading and hosting Black history related activities for 2nd through 5th grade students at several schools to support literacy and Black empowerment.
 - <https://evanstonroundtable.com/2022/02/23/districts-65-and-202-come-together-for-literacy-and-black-empowerment/>

Teacher Announcements

- Thank you for all of the treats in the lounge. They are always so appreciated.
- Thank you for organizing all of the speakers. Our classes enjoyed listening to a pilot and discussing the possibilities for their futures and a state representative.

Executive Committee Announcements

- The minutes from last month were posted and approved.
- BLM action week 2/7-11 and Black History Month.
 - Thank you to all parents and caregivers and health clerk Emily Ericksen who read Amanda Gorman's "Change Sings: A Children's Anthem" and led discussions in every classroom for One Book, One School.
 - Some parents read to classrooms even without a child in that class.

- The kids really loved having someone new in the classroom, especially this year.
 - Thank you to Ashanti Henderson, Michelle Henley, and Dante Wharton for creating a beautiful bulletin board and providing the biographies of Black people to highlight during the morning announcements.
 - Thank you to Brandeis Friedman and Ashanti Henderson for lining up zoom speakers including a politician, aerospace consultant, author, journalist, finance leader, and local Yo Fresh business owner to speak to every grade on 2/22-25.
- Thank you to all families who contributed survival kits to donate to Connections for the Homeless for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. service project.
 - Stacey Masliansky's car was filled with donations and the organization was truly floored at our generosity.
- Walker's final ESCCA serve is this Saturday 9:15-12:15. We are still in need of one volunteer (adults only, no children to preserve students' anonymity and dignity).
 - ESCCA is always in need of season appropriate clothing, especially in larger sizes.
 - Donations are accepted on the west side of the JEH building at 1500 McDaniel, Evanston.
- Thank you to everyone who stocked the teacher lounges with food and drinks during conference week. The items available to take back to their classrooms were appreciated.
- Lou Malnati's gift certificate fundraiser that partially covers cost of yearbooks for 5th graders will be 3/7-17.
 - Students who sell at least two coupons will win Walker spirit wear and top sellers in each classroom will be recognized.
 - Gift certificates will be available on MemberHub for all families to purchase even if you don't know a fifth grader selling.
- Yearbooks will be purchased for all 5th grade students. All other students may purchase yearbooks for \$13.15 each by 5/4 at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/print.treering.com/144129/flyer/double-sided/144129-590-598-498636e119e5ae314a97bc8a6c962e7e.pdf>.
- We need photos of school events and classroom activities for the yearbook by 5/4! Check your student's Seesaw or Google Classroom account to download and share photos of in class activities. Details to submit photos for the yearbook can be found at https://s3.amazonaws.com/print.treering.com/144129/flyer/144129-631-3c800fe30e5eeefbba91a79b2a6619fe_8.pdf
- Kudos to third grade teacher Ms. Nelson for winning the Fast Five's January teacher of the month! She was nominated by a parent for keeping learning exciting for two of the parent's children during the pandemic.
- Spirit Week 3/14-18. Specific days have not been decided yet.
- Books and Breakfast is a non-profit working with Amy Wharton and the school's administration (along with other D65 schools), not a PTA sponsored program.
 - They picked up Walker last year while remote. We did not do the breakfast part, but tutoring, community building, and games continued and students showed up every morning before school.
 - Students were recommended by teachers as those who would benefit from additional literacy work.
 - Last year 12-14 students were part of the program. This year the same students were offered first sign up. The program can grow to a maximum of 30 students.

- Many of the tutors are NU students. If you are interested in helping regularly or occasionally, please email Nimrah Tariq at nimraht@booksbreakfast.org.
- PTA Council update.
 - Plant, tree, and flower sale through PEP-D65 PTAs are holding the first annual district-wide plant sale to raise money for every school through the PTA Equity Project (PEP) One Fund Initiative and help each school meet their fundraising goal.
 - For more information and to order, please visit <https://go.rallyup.com/district65plantsale>
 - How can our yards and gardens make a difference for community health and wildlife? How to get started? On 3/3 7-8 pm via zoom, Leslie Shad of Natural Habitat Evanston will discuss the native flowers, shrubs, and trees offered in the plant sale. To register for this session, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeTu57e8B9dZ1B--vJwz0dzw1oe5vHF_2QLUm_asB4oh9r0dw/viewform

Treasurer Update

- Income in January was a restaurant fundraiser of \$231.94.
- Expenses included \$33.75 in technology fees, \$750 in yearbooks for the fifth graders, \$200 for basketball teams, \$200 for community social events, \$64 for teacher appreciation, \$1,643.62 for Adults Night Out, and \$1,950 for staff holiday gifts.
- The ending balance in the checking account was \$29,506.63.
- The money market account earned \$0.67 in interest and has total designated funds of \$15,832.21. The ending balance is \$15,836.26.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Thank you to all who purchased spirit wear. It should be delivered to school 3/1 and Patty Harris will distribute clothing to families or arrange pickups.
- Restaurant day at Village Inn Pizzeria was on a day off with snowy weather and we still raised \$231.94.
- The next restaurant day is 3/2 at Farmhouse (703 Church St) in downtown Evanston.
- Chicago Wolves' game had 17 families attend and we received \$136 back.
- Please sign up at smile.amazon.com and select David E Walker PTA as your charity before you shop at this website.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- BSA Reading Discussions
 - In celebration of Black History Month, we are offering Reading Discussions for K-5 students and parents.
 - Tuesday, 2/22 7-7:45 pm for K-3rd grades: "Sulwe" by Lupita Nyong'o
 - Wednesday, 2/23 7-7:45 pm for 4-5th grades: "The Undefeated" by Kwame Alexander and Kadir Nelson
 - Friday, 2/25 7-8 pm for adults: The last story within "The Office of Historical Corrections" by Danielle Evans.
 - Please email walkerblackstudentsachieve@gmail.com if you need to borrow a book.
 - Zoom ID: 682 517 1514 Password: 115133
- FAN Events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>; free, but registration is required to obtain a personal link.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson)

- Anyone is welcome to join a fundraising committee without being an official school PEP representative.
- District wide calendar with fundraising opportunities, like our Chicago Wolves' game, so that we can support other schools' events with all of the funds coming back

Room Parent Update

- Thank you to Raechel Alexander for faithfully putting together weekly announcement emails for room parents to send out.

New Business

- Elect nominating committee for PTA leadership.
 - Stacey Masliansky, Ashanti Henderson, Dorina Rasmussen, Geneva Soloman, and Craig Sheehan have agreed to participate in the nominating committee to seek out candidates for the 2022-24 PTA executive board.

Volunteer Needs

- Book Fair is kicking off during spring Bingo community event on 4/9. Volunteers are needed 4/12 and 4/13 during the day and after school to help at the book fair. Please contact chair Natasha Dobson at natashadobson13@gmail.com to volunteer.
- Walkerfest: If you would like to join the committee that helps plan Walkerfest, a carnival style event at school (tentatively 5/21/22 outdoors), please contact Patty Harris (patevertiz@hotmail.com) or Michelle Redmond-Henley (redmond.mk@gmail.com).
- Consider whether you would like to serve on the PTA executive board as a co-president, secretary or treasurer.
- Join Walker Climate Action Team; email jennifergilbert333@gmail.com.

Announcements:

- Girls Play Sports Bowling Tournament for 3rd-8th graders Saturday, 3/5 9:30 am-12 pm
 - At Classic Bowl in Morton Grove
 - No experience necessary. ETHS student coaches and fun provided.
 - Cost is \$35 and scholarships are available.
 - Contact Sarah Ghantous at sarah@teamgps.org or 847-877-2413 with questions.
 - Register at this link: <https://teamgps.sportngin.com/register/form/863918262>
- Spring enrichment enrollment is open now for the 3/7-5/27 session. Please register at <https://rightatschool-walker-elementary.iumbula.com/#/electives-spring-2022>.
- Sign up as a team for the D65 co-ed volleyball league for 4th and 5th graders by 3/11.
 - Four teams will play 4/9, 4/16, and 4/23 from 9-10:30 and 11-12:30 at Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center.
 - 15-minute games round robin tournament style. Teams will practice once a week before games.
 - Skills and drills 30 minutes before each game day; no experience necessary.
 - If you need help finding a team or coach, contact Liz Brieve at brievae@district65.net and/or Kevin Bohn at bohnik@district65.net.
- Justin Wynn Leadership Academy's 3 on 3 basketball tournament is back on 3/13 at ETHS's Beardsley Gym.
 - Register a team of 3 or 4 players and find out more information at www.wynners.org.

- Co-ed 3rd/4th grade teams will play at 10 am. Co-ed 5th/6th and 7th/8th teams will play at 1 pm.
- Girls' 3rd/4th/5th grade teams will play at 10 am. Girls' 6th/7th/8th grade teams will play at 1 pm.
- Reminder to submit vaccination card images.
 - If your child has received both rounds of their vaccine, please send the card image to school nurse Emily Erickson (erickson@district65.net). She will save vaccine records in the system.
 - If your child has both vaccinations recorded, they will not need to quarantine as a close contact to a positive case unless they develop symptoms or test positive. Vaccine records on file make communication to close contacts faster.
- 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, March 31st.
- Walker Cookbook is available to purchase on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/493498>) at a suggested donation of \$10.

Important Dates:

- February 25th, 7-8 pm: BSA Adults Reading Discussion
- February 26th, 9:15 am-12:15 pm: Walker ESCCA serve at JEH
- March 2nd: Early Dismissal, Restaurant Fundraiser Day
- March 5th, 9:30 am-12 pm: Girls Play Sports Bowling Tournament
- March 7th: Spring Enrichments Begin
- March 7th-17th: Fifth Grade Lou Malnati's Fundraiser
- March 11th: Deadline to register for co-ed 4th and 5th grade D65 volleyball league
- March 13th, 10 am or 1 pm: Justin Wynn 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- March 14-18th: Walker Spirit Week
- March 18th, 9:05 am: Coffee with the Principal
- March 21st-25th: Spring Break
- March 31st, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting
- April 9th: Bingo and kickoff of Book Fair
- April 11th-13th: Book Fair

Adjournment