

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, March 31, 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	Amy Hudson-Meier	Raechel Alexander
Allison Ackerman Bull	Jonathan Ibach	Michelle Mantel
Erin Sacluti	Bridget McGough	Michelle Henley
Dante Wharton	Natalie Gillespie	Henry Wilkins
Ashanti Henderson	Lisa Levine	Tracy Ellison
Sarah Trulley	Patty Vertiz-Harris	

Last month's meeting minutes were posted and approved.

Principal's Announcements

- Lost and found items will be outside the main door tomorrow, 4/1 at 8:30-9:30 am and 3-4 pm. Unclaimed items will be donated. Rain location TBD.

Teacher Announcements

- Lisa Levine is the SLP, started in January 2009, 18th year in district, has worked in more than six buildings. Walker is a really special school. Many teachers agreed that they would like to share parents may have heard some grumblings in our community and on forums. Walker teachers and educators feel very supported and valued by our local admins. Parents, please submit public comments to board meetings.
- Spirit Week was awesome, but teachers would like more input on which days and information did not include non-classroom educators. Edie Hertel is the lead on morning announcements and liaison between room parent coordinator, so including events like Spirit Week in announcements would help non-classroom teachers learn what's happening school wide.
- Amy Hudson-Meier has worked 30 years in the district, including with special ed inclusion students.
- Bridget McGough is the EEL teacher and has been at Walker since 2009 as well.
- Jonathan Ibach is a first-year music teacher from WI. He has felt very supported by everyone down here.
- This has been a harder year than teaching virtually with all students returning and a lot of changes at the beginning of the year, including curriculum.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- Tracy Ellison from Next Steps joining us to provide an overview.
 - Addressing roles of parents and caregivers in diversity and equity within D65.
 - Dante Wharton tried to get a Walker group together before 11/19 deadline for the next cohort, but it did not happen.
 - Tracy Ellison is a Walker alum and Mrs. HP was her favorite teacher.

- Next Steps started in 2016 with parents and educators from Nichols' PTA discussing the book "Despite the Best Intentions." Discussed opportunity hoarding, curriculum, and more.
- Book seemed to be based on a community like Evanston's diversity, opportunity gap, but they were told it is not Evanston specifically.
- Different iterations over the years, including a cohort model starting in the first pandemic year.
- Parents, educators, and principals are all invited to participate. Ask for at least 3, up to 6-8 parents and staff from each school.
- Goal is to take a look at policies, practices, programs that have racist connotations with an anti-racism lens.
- Four to five-month intensive to look at case studies that are currently happening within the district.
- Affinity (for minority groups) and accountability (for white identifying people) spaces are offered.
- Final project to offer solutions to racism problems surrounding curriculum, educators, library offerings.
- Each group is given a coach skilled in group management, conflict resolution, and equity to guide their learning.
- SEED is a 10-month intensive that sets the foundation for anti-racism and equity within the educational system. Next Steps allows one to practice anti-racism and equity work with action.
- Studio sessions are when the affinity and accountability groups met. Application sessions are when the school groups gather to work on their case studies and final projects.
- Expectation for schools and PTAs to help with the cost. This session schools were asked to support a technology person, translators, and perhaps baby-sitting costs.
- We would need to apply next year at the beginning of the school year.
- Application asks about your diversity training (SEED, Beyond Diversity, Next Steps). All coaches have participated in all of these programs and understand what information and ideas have been presented.
- Ms. Arceneaux and Ms. Tertulien are starting a program named Black Boy Joy.
 - They are putting together five programs from a Black and brown professional perspective (horticulturist, hero-policeman or firefighter).
 - Working on t-shirts and a logo.
- FAN Events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>; free, but registration is required to obtain a personal link.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson)
 - PEP Restaurant week 4/3-4/6; please support these restaurants to build up One Fund so that Walker receives a bigger initial budget for next school year.
 - La Principal- Sunday 4/3
 - Cantuccio's - Tuesday 4/5
 - Chipotle - Wednesday 4/6
 - PEP Fest
 - 6/4 11am-6pm

Executive Committee Announcements

- Introduced PTA Executive Board, committee chairs, and all attendees.

- Nominating committee slate for 2022-24 school years' Co-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.
 - We are happy to announce that we have a full slate of candidates to be voted on in April.
 - Allison Bull and Erin Sacluti for co-presidents, Darlena Simmons for secretary, and Natalie Gillespie for treasurer.
 - Please encourage parents you know to attend the April meeting to vote in the new board.
- Thank you to Books and Breakfast parent volunteers 3/14-18 during NU exams.
 - Newer effort at Walker that is going really well.
 - Program provides a wholesome breakfast and reading or homework help with lots of NU student volunteers and a few parents.
- Thank you to everyone who participated in Spirit Week 3/14-18.
- Lou Malnati's fundraiser that partially covers cost of yearbooks for 5th graders was 3/7-17.
 - We raised \$642, which means Walker PTA only has to cover about \$130 for yearbooks, so additional funds budgeted can go to end of year celebrations.
- Yearbooks for purchase (\$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.
 - 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
 - Shared folders for photos that can be used in everyone's yearbook, private folders for photos you only want to appear in your student's book.
 - Teachers may have uploaded classroom and event activity photos to your student's Seesaw or Google Classroom accounts.
 - Tree Ring service is very helpful in answering questions or Erin Sacluti can help.
 - Signature pages-service will send related parent email account a request for the student to share a message.
 - Parents can purchase yearbooks now and continue to upload photos and signatures for the personal pages until the 5/4 deadline.
 - Question about students signing each other's yearbooks in the traditional way, especially for fifth graders. Yearbooks will arrive at school in time for students to sign in person the last few days of school.
- Garden Club
- PTA Council update.
 - Brief intro of PEP for teachers and newly involved parents. Equity project with all PTAs contributing to One Fund, with schools receiving different amounts of money each school year based on a formula, and working to make PTA events and support across district more equitable.
 - PEP restaurant week is next week with La Principal 4/3, Cantuccio's 4/5, and Chipotle 4/6 and Pep Fest on 6/4.
- Native Plant Sale
 - Really successful fundraiser.
 - 9 native plants were donated to Walker School.
 - Katherine Walts has agreed to start a Garden Club. Please contact kkwalts@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Treasurer Update

- February income included \$40 in membership fees, \$90.80 from a dining fundraiser last year (valid check took a while), and \$24 in existing spirit wear.
- February expenses were only \$33.75 in MemberHub fees.
- MMA activity was interest income.

Book Fair

- Physical and virtual coin drive on Member Hub 4/4-4/8. Access virtual coin drive at bit.ly/WalkerCoins.
 - Each day is a different coin: Monday-pennies, Tuesday-nickels, Wednesday-dimes, Thursday-quarters, Friday-any coin.
- Teacher and student wish lists will be created 4/8 in the gym.
- Kickoff event with book shopping (during Bingo) 4/9 1-4 pm.
- Shopping open 4/12 and 4/13 after school, grand (grandparents, relatives, aunts and uncles, neighbors, and dear caregivers) event during recess 4/13.
- Volunteers needed for set up, during wish lists and shopping, and tear down. Sign up at bit.ly/Volunteer4Books.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Spirit wear update.
 - Pre-orders and online orders totaled \$363.76. \$179 earned from committee's extra clothing order.
 - Some students were disappointed the hoodies were sold out.
 - Car magnets and remaining clothing are available for sale on MemberHub.
- Restaurant day recap and upcoming.
 - Do not have a number from Farmhouse yet.
 - Postponing El Tipico 4/6 given PEP's restaurant week the same date.
- Walkerfest will need parent volunteers. We have students committed from ETHS's service club
- Please sign up at smile.amazon.com and select David E Walker PTA as your charity before you shop at this website.

Community Engagement Update

- Bingo 4/9 1:30-3:30 pm
- Spring dance with Mr. Marcus 5/7 3-5 pm.

Room Parent Update

Volunteer Needs

- Book Fair set up, wish list day, shopping days, and tear down 4/7-4/14.
- Adults' Night Out 4/30-running minute to win it type games.
- Walkerfest: To join the committee that helps plan 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).
- Join Walker Climate Action Team; email Jennifer Gilbert at jennifergilbert333@gmail.com.
- Join new Garden Club; email Katherine Walts at kkwalts@gmail.com.

Announcements

- Reminder to submit vaccination card images.
 - If your child has received both rounds of the covid vaccine, please send the card image to school nurse Emily Erickson (ericksone@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 Wednesday, April 20th.
- Walker Cookbook is available to purchase on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/493498>) at a suggested donation of \$10.

Important Dates:

- April 4th-8th: Physical and Virtual Coin Drive for Book Fair
- April 9th-13th: Book Fair
- April 9th, 1:30-3:30 pm: Bingo
- April 20th, 7 pm: Coffee with the Principal
- April 20th, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting
- April 30th, 7 pm: Adults' Night Out
- May 7th: Spring Dance
- May 19th, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting
- May 21st: Walkersfest
- June 1st: Field Day

Adjournment