

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, April 20, 2022 @ 7:30pm
Location: Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

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

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Allison Ackerman Bull	Katherine Walts	Erin Sacluti	Amy Wharton
Stacey Masliansky	Dotun Ayobade	Patty Vertiz-Harris	Erin Rams
Sarah Trulley	Jessica Bueltmann	Annie Millman	Dante Wharton
Ashanti Henderson	Kathy Ryan	Jenny Walsh	Dave Dobson
Darlana Simmons	Courtney Shapiro	Will Hobart	Michelle Henley
James Gray	Natalie Gillespie	Marissa Woodward	Jill Velan
Victoria Bardic	Edie Hertel	Shana Sternstein	Liz Leverentz
Michelle Mantel	Natasha Dobson	Cecilie Ryan	Liz Ribeiro
Michelle Cox	Kymika Okechukwu		

Principal's Announcements

- Mr. Gray apologized for canceling the Principal Chat before the PTA meeting. Next Principal Coffee is 5/13 at 9 am outside at Walker picnic tables.
- MAP testing again in May-Administered three times during the year, so more helpful than IL Assessment of Readiness (IAR) testing for Mr. Gray and many teachers.
- Rainbow Day is on 4/27, organized by Shawna Matten, to celebrate our rainbow of cultures and take a school wide photo at 9:30.
 - Donations of hats, bandanas, and scarves in any color can be dropped off in the main office.
 - Each grade has been assigned a color: kindergarten-red; 1st-orange; 2nd-yellow, 3rd-green, 4th-blue, 5th-purple.
- Book Fair felt like some normalcy returning. The students were so excited!
- Earth Day is this Friday, and students are encouraged to wear green and blue or any Walker spirit wear to show we care about our earth and community.
 - We have celebrated all week with announcements about reducing, reusing, and recycling at school, in the classroom, and at home.

Teacher Announcements

- Ms. Bardic thanked the PTA for all of their work and for sharing information with teachers through Ms. Cordingley so that non-classroom staff are also aware of what's happening.
- Has the Walker PTA been in touch to provide support to the Haven community or teachers? Haven has been part of PTA Council meetings and has not requested help from any other schools. We need to be careful about not being political in any support offered, as it's not allowed in the PTA bylaws and charter, but Allison Bull will reach out to Haven's PTA executive board to find out if they need anything we can provide.
- Ms. Hertel is excited to bring back student and teacher Battle of the Books on 5/4. 12 students and 7 teachers are participating. Due to space constraints and physical distancing, spectators are not allowed this year.
- Ms. Hertel is also working with Evanston and Skokie Public Libraries to help students obtain library cards for summer reading opportunities. K through 2nd grade will get paper copies of the

form, 3rd through 5th grade will get an email with an electronic form to complete. EPL will ship new library cards to Walker. SPL will ship new library cards to students' home addresses.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Book Fair recap. (Natasha Dobson)
 - Thank you to all the volunteers and people who came out to buy books.
 - Most successful Book Fair ever in terms of funds raised.
 - Raised \$9,500 in book purchases, more than \$3,500 in the coin drive that purchased books for students and remaining books on teachers' wish lists.
 - Thank you, teachers and staff, for accommodating the tables and cases in the hallway. Fortunately, they sent fewer cases this year that fit nicely within the space.
- Adults' Night Out 4/30 6-10 pm. (Michelle Mantel)
 - Register at <https://walker.memberhub.com/store?category=Adults%20Night%20Out>
 - Gathering at American Legion Post 42.
 - \$25 suggested donation, but everyone is welcome at any donation, including \$0.
 - Food truck will be there starting at 7 pm.
 - Cash bar inside and outside.
 - Outdoor games with fire pits and solo stoves.
 - Two major fundraising pieces are a 50/50 raffle and at 8 pm an hour of minute to win it games for restaurant gift cards.
 - Selling Walker hand warmers, blankets, and smore kits.
 - Mostly we need help spreading the word.
- Kindermixers for incoming 2022-23 K families 5/11 3:45-4:30; June, August dates TBD.
 - Teachers will try to attend in May.
 - Will have at least one weekend date.
 - Please spread the word to incoming K families who are not already at Walker. We will post on Evanston and district parent FB groups, but this does not reach everyone.
- Teacher Appreciation Week 5/2-5/6.
 - A lot planned to recognize Walker teachers and staff.
 - We have a gift for all and will be feeding them. Teachers will be asked to fill out a form by Friday to place an order for lunch.
 - Please look for Perfect Potluck signups in newsletters and on the Facebook page.
- Foundation 65's Honor a Teacher donations are due soon.
 - Teachers will receive a thank you letter with your personalized message. Gift amounts are kept hidden.
 - Details at foundation65.org/honor-a-teacher.
- PTA Council/PEP (PTA Equity Project) update.
 - Pick up native plants purchased or buy a few types available on 5/14 10 am-1 pm. Location will be confirmed.
 - PEP Fest 6/4 fundraiser for all schools and to celebrate all graduating 5th and 8th graders, incoming kindergartners in the district.
 - 11 am-6 pm at Washington Elementary School's playground and field.
 - Walker PTA and all other schools will have a booth with an activity or spirit wear or books to swap.
 - Looking for volunteers, community partners, vendors, sponsors, raffle donors: children can have an activity or sell something; if you have a business, you can have a booth.

- Garden Club update. (Katherine Walts)
 - North garden started by a professional landscaper with parent support years ago but has been neglected in recent years.
 - Currently a pergola, butterfly garden, raised beds that are dilapidated, broken bench, and hose and spigot.
 - Tremendous opportunity to start fresh.
 - A lot of interest and expertise in reviving the garden after first meeting.
 - Solid history of teachers and students who grew things during classroom time.
 - A lot of students use the area naturally to walk through or park their bikes.
 - Larger projects may need some assistance from the district or PTA.
 - Next meeting on Saturday 4/23 3-5 pm to weed and talk about what native flowering plants or trees and shrubs we want to choose (27 donated to Walker from PEP native plant sale).
 - Adults and children welcome at the next meeting.
- Field Day 6/1.
 - Excited it is back after two years off.
 - Mrs. Likhite has requested additional funds for a bouncy house, to be voted on later in the meeting.
 - District's wellness policy will limit which treats cannot be served, like ice cream.
- 5th grade farewell celebration.
 - Yearbooks and yard signs (about \$450-\$500) provided by PTA, remainder of budget will be given to fifth grade teachers to have a party, snacks, etc.
 - Promotion ceremonies need to be per class this year.
 - They will be 6/6 at 10:15 am (Oldfield), 1:45 pm (Ahmed), and 2:45 pm (Vrba). Students are still expected to attend school on 6/7 and 6/8.
- Teacher grant applications for projects funded by the PTA for next school year due by 5/13.
- Yearbooks for purchase (\$13.15 each) for K-4th grade and personalize pages for 5th grade 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.
- The next PTA meeting is 5/19 and we will try to hold it in person outside.

Treasurer Update

- March income included passthrough activity from the yearbook fundraiser (\$1,434), funds transferred for the climbing wall (\$9,863), and additional spiritwear for new teachers (\$390). Fundraising income totaling \$1,423.81 included Amazon smiles (\$766.50, a catch-up payment from many quarters), Adults' Night Out tickets purchased (\$205), restaurant days (\$327.93), spirit wear (\$119), and miscellaneous (\$5.38).
- March expenses included technology fees (\$33.75), Angel Fund contribution (\$487), and fourth and fifth grade basketball teams (\$150). We also contributed \$300 to ESCCA (Evanston School Children's Clothing Association) and \$200 to the Justin Wynn Foundation. The climbing wall was purchased for \$9,863 and should be installed in late June 2022. Total expenses were \$11,033.75.
- The March month-end checking account balance was \$31,704.52. The March month-end MMA balance was \$5,974.32 after \$9,863 was debited for the climbing wall.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- Black Boy Joy Book Fest, organized by Ms. Arceneaux and former Walker teacher Ms. Tertulien, on 5/19 at 5-7 pm.
 - Food truck and several speakers including Curtis Wideman, author of “Top Dog,” and William Moss, a horticulturist.
 - Please sign up by 5/9 to ensure enough meals are available.
- FAN Events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>; free, but registration is required to obtain a personal link.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Walkerfest 5/21 11 am-2 pm. Email walkerschoolfundraising@gmail.com with questions or if you are available to volunteer.
 - Historically it is inside in classrooms and hallways. This year it is going to be fully outdoors given the number of people expected to attend to keep everyone safe.
 - Requesting additional funds above \$4k budget given the higher cost of food, games, and vendors this year to be taken from Chest Tournament (\$1,200). Will be voted on during New Business with other budget change requests.
 - Remaining spirit wear budget line item of \$250 will also be used for Walkerfest to deliver an event comparable to past years.
- Restaurant day 5/4 at El Nuevo Tipico (3341 Dempster, Skokie).
- Please sign up at smile.amazon.com and select David E Walker PTA as your charity before you shop at this website.
- Please sign up for Box Tops for Education. Promoted referral bonus on Facebook in April, which brought in extra funds.

Community Engagement Update

- Bingo recap.
 - Everyone had a good time.
 - Enjoyed combining it with Book Fair kick off.
 - In lieu of food budget, purchased some \$5 and \$10 Book Fair coupons for prizes.
- Free spring dance with Mr. Marcus 5/7 at 3-5 pm.
 - Theme is It’s Everybody’s Birthday.
 - Posters and signage in all of the languages spoken at Walker.
 - Candy and birthday traditions from around the world incorporated into the dance.
 - Goody bags with potentially international candy and cupcakes.
 - Working with a local shelter to sponsor children and donate birthdays in a bag (disposable cake pan, cake mix, frosting, candles) to Connections for the Homeless.

Volunteer Needs

- Adults’ Night Out 4/30: Running minute to win it type games.
- Walkerfest 5/21: To join the committee to plan a carnival style event at school, 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 Garden Club; email Katherine Walts at kkwalts@gmail.com.

New Business

- Voting on PTA co-presidents (Allison Ackerman Bull, Erin Sacluti), secretary (Darlena Simmons), and treasurer (Natalie Gillespie) for 2022-24 school years. Motioned, seconded, passed as presented.
- Transferring \$150 to Field Day budget from YEA. Motioned, seconded, passed as presented.
- Transferring \$1,200 from Chest Tournament fund, which is not taking place this year, to Walkerfest. Motioned, seconded, passed as presented.

Announcements:

- Chess Playdates Fridays at picnic tables around 3:45 starting 4/22.
 - Allen Alexander and Mustafa Bilgic, 4th grade parents, will organize weekly after dismissal.
 - Parents must pick up students first and stay, this is not a drop off activity.
 - Weather permitting; if it rains or coordinators are not available and you do not see them at picnic tables, it is cancelled that week.
- D65 Climate Action Teams' third Film Festival 4/22 at 6:30 pm in Rotary Auditorium (1560 Sherman Ave).
 - Screening 10-second environmental films created by students and repurposed instrument drumming circle led by teachers John Carroll and Arturo Fuerte.
 - Visit <https://10secondfilmfestival.com/> to submit a film by midnight 4/21 or to view past audience favorites.
 - Tickets are free, but required for entrance with a limited number available at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/10-second-film-festival-tickets-291097690027>. Current Rotary guidelines require proof of vaccination and masking inside building.
 - Students who submit a film and attend will be entered in raffle for fun, experience-based prizes from Museum of Science and Industry, Incite Dance Center, Evanston Mayor and Sustainability Team, Quad Indoor Sports, Jessie Hearn Photography, Waste Shed, Evanston Art Center, One River Art School, Lighthouse Beach, and School of Rock.
- ETHS Family Literacy Night 4/27 at 6-8 pm.
 - Free event with ETHS staff hosting activities in several spaces to include children's reading circle, arts and crafts, book giveaway, quiet reading room, fun literacy games, and raffles.
 - Located in ETHS Senior Courtyard.
- GPS Community Field Day FUNdraiser 5/1 at 1-4 pm at ETHS track and field.
 - Open to all ages.
 - Entry tickets are \$15 for an individual, \$50 for group of four.
 - Raffle tickets are \$10 each, three for \$25.
 - Register at teamgps.org/events.
- "How to Talk to Children About Climate Change," an EPL Climate Action Program on 5/4 at 7-8 pm at Robert Crown Community Center.
 - Genie Albina, former D65 teacher and Earth Week Environmental Curriculum lead and parent coach, will show us how to bring compassion, understanding, and action to this conversation. Register at evanston.libnet.info/event/6354335.
- 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 (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, May 19th.
- Walker Cookbook is available to purchase on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/493498>) at a suggested donation of \$10.

Important Dates:

- April 22nd, 3:45 pm: Chess playdates start
- April 22nd, 6:30 pm: Climate Action Teams' Film Festival
- April 27th, 9:30 am: Rainbow Day School Wide Photo
- April 27th, 6-8 pm: ETHS Family Literacy Night
- April 30th, 6-10 pm: Adults' Night Out
- May 1st, 1-4 pm: Girls Play Sports FUNdriaser
- May 2-5th: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 4th, 7-8 pm: "How to Talk to Children About Climate Change" discussion
- May 7th, 3-5 pm: Spring Dance
- May 11th, 3:45-4:30 pm: Kindermixer with teachers
- May 13th, 9 am: Coffee with the Principal
- May 19th, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting
- May 21st, 11 am-2 pm: Walkerfest
- June 1st: Field Day
- June 6th: Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremonies
- June 8th: Last Day of School
- June 9th, 7:30 pm: PTA Meeting

Adjournment