

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, December 15th @ 7:30pm

Location: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82667847954?pwd=ajljWUgyWGZvbHhONWVaUWFHT21Odz09>

Meeting ID: 826 6784 7954      Passcode: walker

#### Attendees:

Allison Bull	Natalie Gillespie	Sarah Czepiel
Darlena Simmons	Nicole O'Connell	Rachael Alexander
Khristie Kaplan	Dante Wharton	
Amy Wharton	Patty Vertiz-Harris	

November Minutes are approved

#### Principal's Announcements:

- We had a great Chess Tournament event. A big Thank you to all who came and helped!
- The 1st & 2nd grades had their concert this week, the first in person concert since 2019. It was great and really nice.
- We will be having a Spirit Week next week. A flier will be going home about it.
- Have a happy and healthy break!

#### Teacher Announcements: Khristie Kaplan is PTA teacher liaison

- Teachers would love it if fliers to go home can be given to teachers by Thursday so they don't have a scramble to get them to the kids on Friday.

#### Executive Committee Announcements

- Claim Your Lost & Found Items: Dec. 15 & 16: A bunch has been claimed so far
- Holiday Staff Gift Collection: We will keep it open through Friday. Monday we'll get the gift cards and pass them out to staff on Wednesday.
- Sports Teams Update: It's a complicated situation with the new planning, but it's getting there. 3rd grade is set and will be through the park district. 4th & 5th will be run through the new district program. Aiming to start in January.
- Chess Tournament Recap: Went super well, made a good amount of money. Could have used more volunteers, but the group got it done and all had a good time.
- 5th Grade Fundraiser Recap: Made enough to cover the cost of yearbooks, plus extra. We sold 211 certificates and made a little over \$1000.

#### Treasurer Update

- Budget Update
  - Chess Tournament netted a little over \$1000
  - Will get budget reports ready for upcoming meetings - just still figuring out a format for them.
- Check Reimbursement Form: <https://forms.gle/5TUUA8DAi36PsaD59>

#### Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- New Report Cards: December 16th brings a new report format that includes a new grading scale as well as identification of skills that students need in order to grow. Make sure that you are reviewing the new report cards and speak with your homeroom teacher when you have questions.
- FAN: Feel like you were there! Family Action Network retains videos of programming. There are several interesting videos I would encourage you to watch such as...Courageous Discomfort: How to Have Important, Brave, Life-Changing Conversations about Race and Racism (<https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/events/courageous-discomfort-how-to-have-important-brave-life-changing-conversations-about-race-and-racism/>) and The Stolen Year: How Covid Changed Children's Lives, and Where We Go Now (<https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/events/the-stolen-year-how-covid-changed-childrens-lives-and-where-we-go-now/>). For others: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/video/>
- WAG: No update

#### Fundraising Committee Update

- El Nuevo Tipico results: Earned \$100

- Upcoming Jan Restaurant Night: Chipotle in Skokie, Jan. 11th @ 4-8pm (must meet \$150 minimum of business to get money back)
- Spiritwear: Planning on doing it in February in time for Spirit Week that will be the week before Spring Break.

#### Adults Night Out

- Save the Date: Feb 25th
- Deep into planning, working on getting together raffle packages
- Looking for more volunteers

#### Book Fair

- Need volunteers: Please email Natasha Dobson if interested ([natashadobson13@gmail.com](mailto:natashadobson13@gmail.com))

#### Garden Committee Update

- Will be sending out a survey to teachers for their garden needs/wants

#### Community Engagement Update

- Bingo Recap: well attended, all had a lot of fun and leftover snacks from the Chess tournament were used at this event.
- MLK service project will be the next community event. More details to come.

#### Volunteer Needs

- Book Fair (email Natasha Dobson: [natashadobson13@gmail.com](mailto:natashadobson13@gmail.com))

#### New Business

- Vote on funding teacher's lounge redesign
  - Proposal/overview: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EeSk-cJlhVFvuudVTJAieSdCt5r39UOsTvoygX9-5FM/edit>
  - Pre Covid the walls were painted and they started to organizing
  - As we came back into the building last year and this year, staff are wanting to give it a face lift and get more seating.
  - Currently there are just 2 large tables with 3 chairs each, which takes up most of the space.
  - We'd like an area with 3 cafe tables (seat 2 people), plus another seating area with a couch and chairs, and then a production area (copier, fridge, laminator, etc.)
  - Want furniture that's easily cleaned.
  - Over the last 6 weeks, staff have been cleaning out the clutter and are now ready for the next step of getting the new furniture.
  - The proposal totals \$2477
  - The PTA started saving funds last year (under the new PEP rules), and since this proposal has come in under budget, we have the money to fund it now instead of needed to save for another year.
  - No fee to remove old furniture. The district will reuse what can be saved and throw away what can't.
  - Currently there is a fridge, coffee maker, and microwave. Maybe add a toaster?
- Vote:
  - Allison put up a motion to fund the teacher's lounge redesign project with \$3000 (adding a little cushion room in case of extra expenses).
  - Natalie seconded
  - All were in favor
  - Motion Passed

#### Announcements

#### Important Dates

- Dec 26- Jan 9: No School - Winter Break & School Improvement day
- Jan 11: Restaurant Night
- Jan 16: No School - MLK Day
- Jan 16-20: MLK Service Project
- Jan 19: PTA Meeting

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Thursday, January 19th at 7:30pm on Zoom