

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, May 18th @ 7:30pm

Location: In Person at Walker School Cafeteria

or [Zoom](#) -

Meeting ID: 826 6784 7954      Passcode: walker

#### Attendees:

Darlena Simmons	James Gray	Kathy Vyas
Erin Sacluti	Amy Wharton	Patty Harris
Allison Bull	Khristie Kaplan	Natalie Gillespie

#### Principal's Announcements:

- 12 days left of school!
- We had the Kindersing (Kindergarten music concert) today
- Grade picnics are coming up - they will be low key, all at Walker (since Central Park is under construction), teachers will email more info
- Field Day is May 31st, you can sign up to help: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084ea4a82ca7fd0-walker1#/>
- 5th grade will be going on a field trip to the Holocaust Museum on the 24th, exploring age appropriate information. The trip was PTA funded. All 5th graders have had lessons to understand what the Holocaust is.
- The District person in charge of the composting program mentioned that Walker is one of the schools that has the best set up and is doing a great job at composting.
- The students picked the name Billy Bob for the new tree that was planted in front of the school.

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

- Big thank you for all of the Teacher Appreciation treats and gifts! Rosati's was amazing and we all liked being able to pick out the color of the shirt we received.

#### Executive Committee Announcements

- Teacher Appreciation Week Recap - Thank you to all who donated food and treats for the staff!
- International Night Recap: had a great turn out, tons of food, kids had fun and saw lots of new faces.

#### Treasurer Update

- Budget Update
- April Report:  
<https://walkerwolverinespta.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/walker-pta-budget-and-treasurer-reports-2022-2023-apr.pdf>
- Check Reimbursement Form: <https://forms.gle/5TUUA8DAi36PsaD59>

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

- FAN: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/>
- We're doing a brief assembly (probably an hour) the morning of the 25th. Still finalizing the details, but shaping up to be a combo of a Bollywood performance, a KPop presentation and 1-2 speakers.
- A big shout out to Ms. Arceneaux and Ms. Hertel for leading and representing Walker in the Black Girl Magic Showcase held at ETHS. This program started at Walker with Ms. Arceneaux, and has now ascended into the middle schools and other district grade schools.

#### Fundraising Committee Update

- April & May Restaurant Night Recap: Buffalo Wild Wings (we didn't meet the minimum so no check) & Grecian Kitchen (made \$167)
- June Restaurant Night (June 6): Chocolate Ice Cream Shoppe on Dempster, 3-9pm, mention Walker when ordering
- Spiritwear: Made \$132.92 in first quarter, so far sold 23 items in second quarter (April-June). Will start ordering items for next year to sell in person at the Back to School Social. 25% off hat sale till May 21st and a new sale of 25% off everything starts May 22nd. We're adding water bottles and beach towels.

#### Community Engagement Update

- Walker Spring Dance Recap: well attended, kids had a good time, snacks were a hit and leftovers were used to teacher appreciation

#### Climate Action Team Update

- Earth Day cleanup was a success! Thirty people helped out and we covered the entire school grounds.
- We planted five trees at Walker on Saturday, May 6 with volunteers from Treekeepers and Natural Habitat Evanston.
- This week is International Composting Awareness Week. Jen G. provided a document of composting facts for morning announcements and a baggie of finished compost from Collective Resource along with resources for teachers so students can learn about how the food they compost in the lunchroom is turned into compost.
- Walker is participating in D65 End of School Classroom and Locker Clean Out. Reusable school supplies will be collected and donated to local agencies instead of being thrown away. Amy Wharton is coordinating this.

#### Garden Committee Update

- PEP Plant Sale pick up – Katherine will pick up plants & shrubs for Walker. Scheduling volunteer planting at Walker for Sunday 21<sup>st</sup>, 2-4p. The sale raised almost 15k for the PEP One Fund! And some of the leftover plants will go to all the district schools.
- Update – 3 new raised garden beds (all organic soil) , 2 new picnic tables in the north side garden. HOORAY!
- Invited teachers to take on gardening beds – 3 teachers responded (DeLuca, Wittenberg, Nelson)
  - Each raised bed already has a class project going
  - Please encourage other teachers and grade-level "teams" to keep garden related requests/ideas/communications open with the committee. Do they need curriculum ideas? Want a separate bed or other area of the garden to adopt and work with? Bugs?
- Updated budget ([https://walkerwolverinespta.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/walkergardenbudget\\_may2023-1.xlsx](https://walkerwolverinespta.files.wordpress.com/2023/05/walkergardenbudget_may2023-1.xlsx))
- Considering two things:
  - Host a Walker event in the garden area? Or include a garden tour or activity in a pre-planned event.
  - Budget/Process for starting a new Garden Club (before or after school) in the fall. Katherine can advise/help, but can't be there consistently. Please let her know if you'd be interested in running the club.
- Check out the Walker Garden Committee's Instagram page: [@walkergardend65](https://www.instagram.com/walkergardend65)

#### PEP Update

- Shared Expenses - Walker rep voted yes: 4 expenses that every school pays, so PEP will pay for all of the schools and then distribute funds to schools
- PEP Expo: Where all PEP reps will present their work, May 24th 5-8pm, open to community, in person at JEH
- PEP Fest: Saturday June 3rd, 11-5pm, on the Washington Elementary School playground, 914 Ashland ave, Evanston
  - Pep Fest is a family focused, collaborative community effort to raise PTA funds, that will be equitably distributed to support all of our school district 65 students.
  - This festival will feature family friendly FREE activities, vendors from ages kid to adult bringing us art, crafts, clothing, jewelry, goods, and food.
  - Our idea this year is to make the kids color/decorate a banner that will be hung in a community space (like JEH). Possibly do a book and spiritwear exchange. We need help running our booth. If interested, please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FAEAD23A0FB6-volunteer>

#### Volunteer Needs

- Walker Booth at PEP Fest: signup genius - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/508084FAEAD23A0FB6-volunteer>
- Someone to run a Garden Club for students: reach out to Katherine at [kkwalts@gmail.com](mailto:kkwalts@gmail.com)
- Field Day: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b084ea4a82ca7fd0-walker1#/>

#### New Business

- Announce slate for open Exec positions (Co-President & DEI Chair)
  - Kathy Vyas has volunteered for the Co-President spot
  - We are still looking for someone to take the DEI Chair spot. We are open to 2-3 people sharing the position. If interested, please reach out to Allison at [alliackerman@hotmail.com](mailto:alliackerman@hotmail.com)

#### Announcements

#### Important Dates

- May 20: YEA Fest, 10am-3pm
- May 24: PEP Expo, 5-8pm
- May 29: No School - Memorial Day
- May 31: Walker Field Day (June 1 rain date)

- June 3: PEP Fest, 11am-5pm
- June 6: Last Day of School
- June 15: PTA Meeting, 7:30pm on Zoom

Adjournment: Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Thursday, June 15th at 7:30pm on Zoom