

Walker PTA Meeting: THURSDAY MARCH 22 @ 7:00 PM
Location: John Hernandez & Kim Wobick's home: 8722 Drake Ave. Skokie

Attendees:

Stacey Porter	Inbal Fraiman
Darlena Simmons	Erin Sacluti
Junette Moseley	Lyndsay Kane
John Hernandez	Raechel Alexander
Kim Wobick	Keith Robinson
Ginger Lumpkin	Larry Kaul
Natasha Dobson	

Principal's Announcements

- Thank you for being so involved and all that you do!
- Safety and Security:
 - March 14th activities: Been in conversations with Dr. Gordon about clear language and codes and about our drills. We want to give parents more information. Working to make scripts for teachers (the district doesn't have these)
 - Kids have had 3 safety drills so far and will be having 3 more. A heads up will go out to parents before they happen.
 - An idea is to possibly invite parents to join the lockdown drill. So they can see what goes on to ease minds.
 - Or have a PTA meeting as a "debrief" of the drill so parents can have a discussion about how to handle it with their kids. Stacey is trying to see if the May Courageous Conversation topic could be about safety.
 - Parents feel that there is a lack of communication.
 - Walker has a resource officer that is shared with other schools.
 - There is a communication tool called "SLACK" – this could easily be shared with parents. It's an app that also alerts if there is a weather closing.
 - The district is talking about all these options.
 - We're working on making scripts and making sure that everyone (including subs) know what to do when a code is called. Talk of possibly changing the color codes to actual names.
 - Staff are given notice of when a drill is going to happen, but an idea is to do one without warning to be able to coach staff more.
 - After 4:30pm, the school doors will be locked, and parents will have to wait outside to pick children up from enrichment activities. Parents of DIME students, if you'd like to come in and watch class, please arrive by 4pm.
 - Walker is an official voting location. Ms. Lumpkin has been having conversations with the Assistant Superintendent and will be working on making sure the kids will be away from the voting area (esp not using the older kid playground).
 - The signage people were a bit aggressive this year, and some were afraid of hitting people in the parking lot. This unfortunately is out of our control – it's the responsibility of the voter group.
 - We should try to set up a plan for the next election in November – working with families to possibly avoid using the parking lot that day.
 - There will be an all school fieldtrip on May 8th.

Budget

- We're in great shape! Ending balance as of now is \$30,349.77. This will go down a bit when some of our bigger bills hit.
- PNO was great! Brought in \$12,892.02. It brought in more than budgeted and the residencies are now fully funded!
- Need to look into locating the box tops check – it probably got mailed to the school, not the PTA.
- Recent box tops made \$62 & \$112 (we had to submit two groups because of some late turn ins). This amount is typical for what we usually bring in.
- Walkerfest has \$3500 to spend and has only spent \$1100 so far. Things are going well. A new attraction is laser tag this year.
- Special Fundraising (restaurant nights, ect.) has brought in \$2,274 YTD.

Committee Updates

- Exec Committee Announcements
 - Executive Committee elections -April mtg
 - Current Slate (these are the people that have volunteered for the positions so far):
 - Co-Presidents: Erin Sacluti & Inbal Fraiman
 - Secretary: Darlena Simmons
 - Treasurer: Terry Velan
 - Other Nominations or those Interested in running – any and all are welcome!
 - Please encourage any members to come and be a part of the vote.
 - PTA Council Meeting: Tuesday, April 17 @. 7:00pm, Topic: TBD (once announced we will add to the calendar)
- School Board Updates:
 - Safety: The snow day from this year will be made up at the end of the year as a teacher institute day where ALICE training will be conducted. This is the next step in training staff for scenarios of school safety and is done in conjunction with partners at EPD and SPD.
 - ALICE is a tool that teachers are going to be trained in – about how to make decisions during an emergency.
 - Grants Concern/Question: Battle Books grants for older kids are titles that change every year. Are the books then distributed to classrooms evenly or stored for student access in the library. I would oppose any grant that leaves materials in a single room. I get housing them in a classroom for the battle season, but post that, the books should go to the students to find, read, enjoy, etc. Same for the younger battle, although those might be reused annually.
 - Battle of the Books: the books are labeled with Ms. Rouse's name and are stored in her classroom. If getting a grant to fund the new programs, can the books be stored in the school library – if the PTA buys them they should be open to the whole school. If she bought the previous books with her money, then she has the right to do whatever she wants with them.
- Engagement Committee
 - Yearbook is coming along. Flyers are going home this week. You have to buy online. You have the option of creating 2 personal pages. All 5th grade books have been ordered.
 - Teacher Appreciation Week: May 7 - May 11 (was previously stated for April 30th- May 4th, but changed to match the national date). Will be the same as previous years: Mon – buy lunch, Tues – Tea, Wed – Salad lunch, Thurs – Breakfast, Fri – still working on it
 - 5th grade farewell: Ms. Lumpkin mtg w/ teaching team this wk & will let us know plans & PTA needs
 - Just doing Camp Timberlee and picnic – still working on if doing a ceremony
 - "Kindness Club" idea: We need more kindness in this world. 3rd grade having more issues with meanness
 - Maybe set up a non-rewards thing

- “Ben’s Bells Project”: a non-profit started Kind Camp, free materials, to try to spread kindness
 - We talk about staying healthy so why not spreading kindness?
 - Could build upon the sharing circles
 - We’d need to register the school, there’s no financial commitment, not part of the curriculum, all volunteer based, hang posters, challenges for the kids, gives ideas on how to welcome new students (make a welcome packet)
 - Carrie Shonk wants to get more involved – maybe she’d like to help with this project.
 - Ms. Lumpkin loves the idea and can see how her and her teams (PBIS) can use this.
 - Maybe give this to the student council to run and be in charge of so it’s student to student.
 - Junette and Raechel to head this and plan out.
 - 5th grade puberty talks? Came from a PTA Council Listserve question of what does your school do for “mother/daughter” or “father/son” talks.
 - In April, our school has a basic birds & bees unit
 - Kids are maturing a lot earlier nowadays
 - Does the PTA want to set something up for 4th/5th grade? Allow an opportunity for the conversation to happen. If happened during school, it would be more equitable. We need to look into what other schools do. Maybe have Sharon Robinson and some other professionals come in. Stacey will talk to Ms. Lumpkin to see what exactly Walker does and then we can look farther into it.
- Education Committee
 - 2nd & 5th Residency Update: In motion, Changing Worlds is doing great. March 8th 2nd grade started. 5th grade also started and are doing a hip-hop project. The invoice should be coming in soon.
 - College & Career Day: Monday April 9 Contact: Lyndsay Kane
 - So far we have 13 volunteers, we would like to triple that (have 3 per classroom)
 - Invite neighbors and friends – please spread the word!
 - International Night: Date: May 10 Contact: Isabel Machado-Vickers
 - Need people to help with the planning
 - Courageous Conversations: April planning, Tentative event date: May 17
 - We want to have at least one Courageous Conversation activity this year. Trying to get it set. If anybody wants to help plan, please let us know.
- Fundraising Committee
 - WalkerFest: Sat. April 21, 11a-2p @ Walker. Contact: Stacey Masliansky
 - Volunteer Sign-ups are going on
- School & Community Partnerships Committee - None
- STEM Committee
 - Working with Lyndsay on STEM Panel as part of C&C Day

New Business: *Discussion & VOTING on the following items*

- 5th grade class gift? Group of parents & 5th gr students together painting hall opposite of the staff lounge and both single bathrooms in that hall. Request from Ms. Clara.
 - Maybe we can start this this year – as a service project they can do
 - Need to check with the district if they need to approve
 - If painting doesn’t work out, maybe they can donate a bench or plant a tree, or get a proper lost and found “station/organizer”
 - The PTA would help facilitate
- Mini Sound system for kids to listen to at lunch (Marcus took his) – Raechel to get in touch with Courtney Shapiro to get one donated.
- Covering K request for Jr. Battle Program (Ms. Rouse’s inquiry)

- We already approved 3rd grade. Ms. Rouse already purchased the 3rd grade books and rewards herself because she wanted to get it started. She wants to know if she can be reimbursed for these and hold off on Kindergarten.
- Can we get the numbers on how many kids are participating – looking at the equity part
- Maybe instead of a t-shirt prize it could be a book prize
- We'd like to have Ms. Rouse come and present in April more about the program
- We'll wait on Kindergarten until we get more info.

Volunteer Needs

- Collage and Career Day
- International Night
- Walkerfest
- Teacher Appreciation Week

Open Discussion

- If having flyers to put in Friday folders, please turn them in by Wednesday at 4pm – Raechel is helping Gabi with this while she transitions.
- District PTA Equity Talks
 - A group that's looking into PTA budgets and funds – comparing to see how some schools are more equipped compared to others in the same district.
 - Talking about maybe making a system to try to level out the playing field – all put into a pot and split
 - PTA council could be a conduit for this, but maybe need something that has less turnover
 - These conversations are still happening and will hopefully come up/end with make a system.
 - It's an emotional conversation/issue but important it's happening
- What are we spending the Teacher Support Funds on?
 - We have done gift cards in the past (in a way of reimbursing the teachers out of pocket expenses). Last year we didn't and used the money as a buffer to implement the new school supplies system.
 - We'll talk to the teachers about their school supply needs – esp. the new teachers – maybe we can use these funds to add to the school supplies funds.
 - John & Alicia will go to the next staff meeting in April
 - Maybe we can do gift cards and add to the supplies fund
 - All classes got \$620, some teachers are under budget, some went over, and some are right at the total

Adjournment

Next Meeting: EXECUTIVE OFFICER ELECTIONS! Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:00 pm

Erin & Pat Rams' Home: 9536 Avers Ave. Evanston