

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, August 8, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Location: Walker School

Attendees:

Courtney Ivaska	Nicki Devine	Michelle Redmond-Henley
Kelli Kaul	Raechel Alexander	Stacey Porter
Natasha Dobson	Katie Shonk	Al Bonney
Courtney Shapiro	Larry Kaul	Dee Johnson
Dara Ury	Erin Sacluti	Ayse Yekeler Bilgie
Kerry Daley	Inbal Fraiman	Katherine Walts
Carrie Shonk	Darlena Simmons	Junette Moseley
Donna Su	Terry Velan	Shana Sternstein
Kuan Su	Maureen Powers	Ellen Nagella
Mary Ann Jalandoni	Michael Corr	Anita Geevarghese
Daniel Ury	Michelle Kelly	Nour Ali
Maura Fitzgerald	Jenevieve Arceneaux	Uthman Salaam
Jan Margreth Preza	Erika Seaver	Cyndi Paredes
Antonyse Derrick	Michaela Marchi	Dorina Rasmussen

Principal's Announcements

- Thanks to the PTA, Exec Board and all the parents that volunteer and partner with us!
- I want to work to make sure parents have many different ways to get involved.
- Passed out notecards to parents to write down any questions/comments in case they weren't answered in the time allotted.
- I'm always a phone call away – please call my cell phone number (847-344-4366) or call into the school to set up a meeting. I will have 2 times in the morning and afternoon set aside. You can also email me and I will respond within 48 hours. Please feel free to contact me to have a personal chat. I'm an open door and want to hear any of your thoughts.
- Last year I had morning duty on the 3-5th grade playground, but this year I have set it up so I will be on both playgrounds through the week. This way I'll be more available to parents.
- We're going to start a Safety Patrol to help with Pick-up/Drop-off
- I'll be hosting a Coffee with the Principal on the last Friday of each month. At the first meeting we will discuss the starting back up of the Parent Advisory Committee.
- What we've been doing this summer:
 - Coming up with school goals
 - Planning and preparing for the opening of school
 - All our decisions/plans are rooted in equity
 - Want to raise the number of students that are "college ready"
 - Pushing students in curriculum so they are ready to compete globally
 - There are achievement gaps in our district:
 - 59% in math are meeting "college ready" benchmarks (norm is 50%)
 - 58% in math are making their gains
 - 63.8% in reading are meeting their goals
 - 39.6% in reading are making their gains
 - Black students are at 46% meeting and 23% making gains
 - 2nd language learners are at 22% making gains
 - Definitely room to improve!
 - Making sure that small group work and one on one learning is more of a focus
 - Major push to put everything under an equity lens – we want to make sure we are taking care of every student
 - You will receive communication about our goals & staff committee structures, so you can see who's doing what and know who to contact for certain things.
- I want to address some of the concerns about the incidents that happened at the end of the last school year.
 - Lunchroom safety

- I have talked to all of the lunch supervisors
 - We received funding to have them all go through training
 - Roles & responsibilities
 - Activities/Norms
 - How to speak to students
 - They will also be part of our PBIS kickoff
- School Safety
 - I've been working with a group of parents developing a workable schematic about how to make drop-off and pick-up safer
 - We are going to bring back safety patrol
 - We will be sending home a sheet with a map and reminders about procedures
 - We will need parent volunteers during the first 2 weeks of school.
- Emergency Preparedness
 - We will be doing our drills earlier this year
 - All of our staff had ALICE training
 - No more color codes, we will be using more clear language
 - Evacuate, secure & teach, shelter & place, medical emergency, & lockdown
 - The language & procedures are still being finalized by the district. Once they are set the district will be sending them out to parents
 - When we have drills at the school, I will send out an email a week prior so parents will have warning
 - At the next Coffee with the Principal, I will have a Skokie police officer joining us to discuss emergency situations
 - The last lockdown emergency that happened at our school and for the whole district was called by the district, so they were the ones to send out communication to parents. There are set protocols that are followed. Communication might not go out right away if the school is still securing the children.
- School Organization
 - I want to make sure that we have the best staff and that we are well organized
 - Our new hires are being finalized and will be a part of the next newsletter
 - We have a new Kindergarten teacher, 1st grade long-term sub, Special Ed director/Admin Support, Clerk, P.E. teacher, and teaching assistant
 - We are well underway in preparing for the start of the year!

Parent Questions/Comments

- Emergency preparedness
 - For parent volunteers, can they get training?
 - Guests & Subs will receive a packet about procedures when they come to the school
 - Subs will already be trained
 - There was a lot of confusion about how to pick-up the kids when the lockdown happened
 - In that case, the call was done by the district, so the district was in charge of the communication
 - Emails were sent out in batches, that caused a big problem district wide
 - Ms. Lumpkin will find out if she has the authority to send out parent communication during those calls – since it's done by the district. When the district makes the call, Ms. Lumpkin is not in command, she has to follow procedure. But she will see if direct communication is allowed.
 - In this kind of situation, follow your usual routine unless told otherwise
- What is the district doing to achieve the goal for more equity? Are we getting more staff?
 - We are hiring people who are in support of the district's commitment to equity
 - Teachers are getting training on racial bias & equity
 - When a student walks in the door, we want to embrace their race, color, & culture – we want to include what that can bring to the table
 - Culturally responsive teaching is a process and will take time

- Are our student numbers going up because of the Rhodes change?
 - We were at 370 students last year, and are currently at 383
 - Our numbers have risen slightly, but not dramatically
 - We have 6-8 families from Rhodes coming to Walker
 - Class assignments will be sent out on Monday
- PTA Equity Committee is wanting to set a standard to do Courageous Conversations across the community
- Emails will go out about how to join SEED – a group that talks about race, gender, etc that impacts how kids learn
- Ms. Lumpkin has been pushing for a vice principal, but has gotten a no from the district. We are 1 out of 4 schools without one. But we have been given an Admin Support person this year.
- If communication slips past Ms. Lumpkin, please reach out to the Clerk to schedule a meeting or drop by the school, she is usually there.
- While we had a sub clerk last year, they didn't know procedures at times (asked parents how security worked)
 - Ms. Lumpkin will do a better job to make sure the person in the front office knows the procedures.
- School Busses
 - The Transportation department will send out emails about the schedule
 - We are working with them to make sure we have the rosters, along with the bus drivers, and have constant communication with parents
 - Bus students have tags on their backpacks with their bus info
 - Students will be safe – Ms. Lumpkin will stay with a child until they are connected with their parent – she has even Ubered kids home
- The next three Thursdays from 4-6pm, parents can come and chat with Ms. Lumpkin.

Teacher Announcements – None at this time

Executive Committee Announcements

- Calendar Update – we are working on making a printed calendar with all important school dates and PTA events. It will be coming home in the first Friday folder of the school year.
- School Supplies Update – please pay the supplies fee if you haven't already. Each teacher will be starting out with \$620, and a smaller fund will be given to the 3 smaller departments. We are doing well so far in collecting the fees.
 - Account Balance: \$10,296 (Approximate: \$11k is budget and \$14k is needed to stay even from last year)
 - Donated amount: \$270
 - Total # of students paid: 174
 - Total # of Families paid: 125
 - # of reduced students paid: 40
 - # of reduced families paid: 24
 - Paid by grade: K:27, 1st:26, 2nd: 30, 3rd: 30, 4th:29, 5th: 32
- Facebook Page Changes – We are setting rules for our page to create a positive and respectful place. Raechel Alexander has volunteered to be the page monitor.

Budget

- 2017/2018 Financial Results Summary
 - Revenue: \$38,484, Expense: \$31,246, Budget Surplus: \$7,267
 - Balance Sheet: Approximate
 - Cash (main operating account) starting FY 2018/2019: \$20,000 (net of \$1000 Foundation 65 donation and \$500 Cope donation which came out of reserves)
 - Highlights for FY 2017/2018
 - Chess had a budget surplus of \$988
 - PNO had a budget surplus of \$3,179

- Overall budget surplus over \$7k
- Review Proposed Budget for 2018-2019 School Year
 - Goals/Changes/Questions
 - Improved controls/checks & balances for Chess Club
 - Financial Statements on Quick Books
 - Separate P&L for Chess? – doesn't see a big need for this, the past 3 years they have been in the black or short by nothing more than \$100
 - Implement Inventory Management/Cash Box Procedures
 - Can we make revenue off of our memberships?
 - We don't now because part of it goes to pay IL PA dues and we would have to raise the cost to make more money
 - Junette did a couple of drives last year to get membership numbers up
 - We have no-cost events planned for this year to help bring the community in
 - Please bring people to our events – that's a way to get more people to join and take part.
- Vote on Proposed Budget
 - Erin Sacluti moved to pass the budget
 - Raechel Alexander seconded it
 - Everyone voted yes to pass – **Budget passed**

Committee Updates – We are changing it up a bit this year. We are doing a blend of committees and event based volunteer groups. We will have a Fundraising Committee (Erin Rams volunteered to be a co-chair, but we still need someone to co-chair with her). At the 1st day coffee we will have signup sheets for events so people can volunteer. Please sign up!

New Business

- School Safety Committee
 - Pick-up/Drop-off has been a mess. Some parents have gotten together and worked with Ms. Lumpkin to make a plan to fix it
 - Please parents help! If you see something, say something. It's going to take us all to get things working.
 - We will have a staff presence – cones, more signage, safety patrol belts, and adding whistles.
 - We've gotten a list of what the Village will do and won't do to help the situation
 - We are working on coming up with a long term goal/solution so it stays with the school and will not end once the parent volunteers move on.
- MemberHub – A new website & app that the IL PTA has purchased for all PTAs in our state to use. We will be setting this up over the next couple of months and will roll it out to everyone once it's completed (possibly replace our website). It is like a Facebook for PTAs – has message boards, a directory, volunteer signup sheets, a place to share documents, and an e-commerce store
- 2nd & 5th Grade Residencies Update
 - Michaela Marchi works with the teachers to set up this program.
 - It gives the children an extra chance to glow and succeed in something extra in literacy and the arts, and to explore themselves and culture.
 - We partner with Changing Worlds, a non-profit
 - 2nd grade learns about bugs – last year they became those bugs and put on short plays (made costumes, worked with stories & directing). They also did theater workshops.
 - 5th grade did a session about Hip-Hop – learned about DJ-ing, breaking, MC-ing, and rapping and worked with the theme of their school community and activities.
 - These residences are what the PNO pays for
 - It's a 10 week program that meets for 1 hour a week
 - Check out some videos of the final projects from last year on our PTA Facebook page.
 - Michaela would love some help planning this year!
 - Maybe we can look into adding a grade – possibly 3rd
- Lost & Found - Courtney Shapiro has volunteered to help makeover our school's lost and found. We will be having 2 metal racks where we can hang all items for easy identification. If anyone would like to help

get it set up and maintain it please let us know. We hope to have it ready by the beginning of the school year.

- Enrichment Classes – Donna Su is heading this committee and passed out the Fall Schedule
 - There will be some free classes
 - We will have a late bus on Tuesdays
 - One person will be working with Ms. Lumpkin on the registration process
 - We are exploring setting up a Polish language/culture class and an African Culture Club
 - We are signing up for a grant through Skokie
 - Please come check out the enrichment fair on Sept. 6th
 - Deadline to sign up for classes is Sept. 7th.
 - Fall session: Sept 10 – Nov 3, Winter session: Dec 3 – March 1, Spring session: March 4 – May 24
- We will have a proposal form soon, so if anyone (parent or staff) has an idea for the school we will have a process to go about making it happen.
- Spiritwear
 - We have a new design this year. Adults are grey with black sleeves. Kids a grey with either blue or red sleeves. The left chest will have the Walker logo and then Walker written on the sleeve
 - Shirts and backpack keychains will be for sale at the BBQ
 - We will be giving the old ones to the office to pass out to new families, we kept some to give away as raffle prizes at events, and then we will have the rest for sale for \$5 each to liquidate.
 - Proposal: To gift the kindergarteners shirts for fieldtrip identification – we will talk to staff to get buy-in
- Service Project for MLK Day
 - We will collect items all week then on Friday invite all to help make the packages
 - We need someone to help organize and finalize plans

Volunteer Needs

- First Day of School Parent Coffee – donate baked goods
- Back to School BBQ & Enrichment Fair
 - Spirit wear Table
 - Grills
 - Set Up/Clean Up
 - Food Line Management
- Walker Rep for the PTA Council Meetings
- Walker Rep for PTA Equity Committee – Michaela Marchi volunteered
- Walkerfest: Ticket booth, games, prizes, food – looking for a bunch of volunteers! Needing raffle helpers

Important Dates

- First Day of School Parent Coffee: Monday, August 27th, 9:05am – will set up a sign-up sheet soon
- Back to School BBQ & Enrichment Fair: Thursday, September 6th @ 5:30pm
- PTA Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 11th, 7-9pm
 - We need one or two parents to represent Walker
 - You get to hear what other schools do – eye opening to see what other ideas are out there.
 - They meet on the 3rd Tuesday of each month

Adjournment

Our next meeting: Wednesday, September 12th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria