

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 @ 7:00pm
Location: Walker School

Attendees:

Courtney Shapiro	A. Hallins	Inbal Fraiman
Nicki Devine	Carla Green	Darlena Simmons
Raechel Alexander	Pamela Youngelman	Terry Velan
Larry Kaul	Michelle Mantel	Michelle Redmond-Henley
Erin Sacluti	Cecilie Ryan	Robin Saldanha
Ms. Maldonado	Allison Bull	Erin Rams
Lisa Levine		

Principal's Announcements

- Looking forward to seeing you all at Curriculum Night tomorrow
- Walker leadership is focusing on getting kids to their college readiness levels, esp in reading and math.
- Social and emotional learning is also a main focus (using PBIS and varying social/emotional classes)
- Another major focus is engaging families and students – making sure to expand opportunities to them.
- The new music teacher will be starting tomorrow.
- We are planning our Walk to School Day event – more info will come out soon.
- A big thank you to Ms. Likhite, who is heading our Safety Patrol. And another big thanks to all the parents that have been helping with this initiative – we couldn't do this without you!
 - Safety Patrol students started today – guiding students along, making sure they are going where they need to and not into the streets.
- Sept. 28th is the 1st coffee with the principal. We'll have an informal chat. You will also be able to sign up for the Parent Advisory Committee at that time.
- Emergency Codes have been finalized by the District. The teachers and staff have been trained and we will have another meeting about it this month.

Parent Questions/Comments

- Parent concern about not being able to find close parking in order to walk younger kids to the doors – esp. if the child is a wonderer (don't feel comfortable just dropping them off at the curb in the drop-off lane) and in the inclement weather.
 - This is an issue that the safety committee has been working on – the safety patrol students are going to be working with bringing/guiding the kids from the cars to the door.
 - The teachers watch the kids to make sure that they don't get too far into the field by the houses (near the 3-5th playground).
 - The details of this are in the process of being worked out. Looking into setting up a pick-up car lane (have a form sent home, if child is to be picked up by the car lane, then they will line up by the fence along Central and staff & patrol will make sure the child gets to the right car).
- Lunch time issue
 - Parent had student that said the lunch ladies are mean and force kids to eat food out of the garbage. Also that the student doesn't have enough time to finish their lunch.
 - Ms. Lumpkin's response: please contact me directly and immediately with this type of issue. This is a serious allegation that needs to be investigated.
 - As for the eating time, parents want both things (some don't want their kid to be told to eat and some do). So this needs to be handled case by case.
 - Ms. Lumpkin reiterated the message to the students during PBIS week, that they have the right to finish their lunch even if they run out of time. If they have lunch first, they can move to a specific table to finish and then join the rest at recess and if they have recess first, they can move to the specific table to finish their lunch and then rejoin their class once they're done.
 - Teacher aspect: Our Lunch staff are good people. Lunch is the toughest place to be in a school.
 - If your child is having issues having enough time, please contact their teacher – they might be able to help find a solution that works for your child.
- No pizza at the Open House this year.

Teacher Announcements

- Kids are happy and diving in
- The extra safety rules are really helping during drop-off & pick-up.

Executive Committee Announcements

- BBQ Recap – Went really well! Everyone seemed to have a great time.
- Spiritwear Update – We have sold a bunch (have maybe 20 left). We will be doing another order to sell at Walkerfest. We are also planning to do a pre-order in the winter, so if you have any ideas of what kind of clothing items you want, please let us know.
 - We should look into possibly restarting the program to give all incoming Kindergarteners a Walker shirt

Treasurer Update

- \$800 collected in PTA dues so far (over what we expected) and \$500 in donations
- We went a bit over our budget for the BBQ, but not by much
- Lego club has 14 kids signed up and Chess Club has 22 – we met the number of students we need to run the programs in the positive
- Walkerfest sold \$400 in pre-paid wristbands
- Spiritwear is almost at breakeven, so we will be good to order more soon.
- School Supplies Update:
 - We have exceeded our goal budget at \$700 over what we need to fully fund it for the year.
 - 272 kids participated last year, so far we have 259 this year
 - 65% have paid in so far, 74% last year (we have 398 students at Walker this year)
 - We are looking to be able to reduce the cost for reduced/free lunch students next year
 - Please survey the teachers for feedback before changing anything next year
 - We buy from School Warehouse Direct because they are vetted by the district
 - We know that teachers can get better deals at local stores, this is why we approved them sending in their receipts for reimbursement from their funds. Teachers love this option.
 - Families can work with Alicia to do a payment plan if needed to pay their supply fees
 - Maybe we can brainstorm with other schools to see how they do their programs – see if there's anything we'd like to use to increase participation
 - The main reason we switched to this program is for equity
 - We are a Title 1 school (40% of our students are free/reduced lunch – so we are doing pretty well with our participation numbers)
 - The equitable feeling is felt in the classroom, but we need to make sure that feeling is reaching the parents
 - Are people bringing in supplies? Teachers will be getting back to us with numbers. Is there any way to work with organizations that give supplies to students, to help close the gap?
 - Maybe we need to advertise throughout the year. During conferences, teachers can talk about the program to the parents – show them what the fee funds.
 - Our bottom line goal was to meet our dollar amount (which we have). In the future we hope to possibly raise the teacher/special program budgets and reduce the cost for free/reduced lunch students.

Safety Patrol/Parking Update

- 5 moms have been helping/taken this issue on (last year a parent was grazed by a car and multiple children were almost hit).
- We aren't creating any new policies – we are just trying to enforce the existing rules and signage
- If you want to walk your students to the door, that is awesome and please do – if you get there a bit early, it will be easier to find parking.
- We haven't approached the back parking lot yet – we will tackle that once the younger lot is smoothed out.
- On inclement weather days (rain, icy, snow, low temp.), please have patience – it gets crazy! If you have children that go in both doors (one in the K-2 and one in 3-5th) you can drop them both off together at the front main door (you can use the circle drive as long as the busses are gone).
- Pick-up:

- Children under 8 have to be picked up by an adult, but an older sibling can pick them up if there is written consent by the parent.
- You can idle in your car (if your kid is over 8) to wait for them, just pull forward.
- Kids coming to cars (esp. for the back lot) need to be ready to go directly to the car so the line is not held up.
- The crosswalk on Central (near the K-2nd lot) gets blown through a lot! We are calling the Village to try to get a crosswalk sign put in. We need our Walker Village to make noise to get it put in (they claim that they haven't had any complaints). We might start a petition.
 - In the meantime please call: Samantha Maximilian, Traffic Engineer at the Village of Skokie, phone: 847/673-0500.
 - Here is what you can say: Hello, my name is _____, I have a child that attends Walker Elementary School, located at 3601 Church St, Evanston, IL 60203. I would like to speak to Samantha Maximilian, Traffic Engineer at the Village of Skokie. I need to discuss the extremely dangerous traffic situation in front of my student's school, on Central Park between Church and Davis. The lack of appropriate signage to indicate that there is a crosswalk that goes between Arcadia and the school and the lack of a digital speed sign on Central Park between Church and Davis, have led to some very dangerous near misses. The most recent incident took place on Wednesday, September 12th at approximately 3:36pm. An adult who was in the crosswalk nearly got run over by a car that was speeding and failed to stop. Something needs to be done. We would appreciate if the Village would provide signage as soon as possible.
- PLEASE help us out – we need more parent volunteers! We will start a sign-up genius and blast it out soon.

New Business - None

Volunteer Needs

- Walkerfest, sign-up link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e49adae2ca2f85-walkerfest>
 - We're having new carnival games and inflatables
 - It will be more Fall themed next year – time was too tight for this year
 - Need more volunteers! 6th grade and up are welcome to volunteer
 - We have reached out the ETHS and the middle schools to get volunteers
 - Recommendations to reach out to the Athletic & Band departments for volunteers
 - Village Market donated for the big raffle prize
 - If the raffle tickets come in in time, they will be sold at the Open House. They will be going home in Friday folders for the next 3 weeks.
- Bookfair
- Parent Teacher Conferences Potluck – a sign-up will go out closer to the date
- Girls Play Sports Chaperones – Just need an adult to be in the room, super easy
- Flag Football – Looking for an additional coach
- Reading & Math Tutors – an hour a week to sit with students to read/do math. Contact Stacey Masliansky (staceymasliansky@gmail.com)

Important Dates

- No School: Wednesday, Sept. 19th
- Coffee with Ms. Lumpkin: Friday Sept. 28th @ 9am
- School Improvement Early Dismissal: Wednesday, Oct. 3rd @ 12:05pm
- Walkerfest: Saturday, Oct. 6th @ 12-3pm
- Bookfair & Parent Teacher Conferences: Oct. 15-18th

Adjournment

Our next meeting: Wednesday, October 10th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria