

Walker PTA meeting: Wednesday, November 13, 2019 @ 7:00pm

Location: Walker School

**Attendees:**

Terry Velan  
Mya Wilkins  
Erin Saculti

James Gray  
Anita Geevarghese  
Liz Ribeiro

Ellen Nagella  
Donna Su  
Inbal Fraiman

Courtney Ivaska  
Michelle Redmond-Henley  
Darlena Simmons

**Principal's Announcements:**

- I've scheduled coffees for the rest of the year, including two in the evening. They are on the school website's calendar
- Working with the PAC on scheduling more town halls. The first one went well, had around 60 people attend. There will be four more. The next one will be Jan. 23rd, topic is Safety. There will be one in Feb (topic Bullying), March (topic STEAM) and April (topic Testing). All will be at 7pm at the school.
- The middle of the year testing window is open and starting (teachers and I will send out emails about this)

**Teacher Announcements:** None

**Executive Committee Announcements:**

- Bookfair Results: Super successful! The coin drive brought in over \$900. Ms. Rouse's class brought in the most, but a bunch of classes brought in big numbers. We used this money to fund \$8 book vouchers for all free/reduced lunch students - 70 out of 115 vouchers were redeemed! We sold \$9,399.27 worth of books during the fair.
- Pizza Yearbook Fundraiser: 5th graders will roll out this fundraiser soon. They'll be selling vouchers for Lou Malnati's pizza for \$13 each, and the PTA will get \$5 for each one sold. The money raised will go towards buying all 5th graders a yearbook. We're working on figuring out incentives for the students to help promote sales. You can order them online in case you don't know any 5th graders. We'll send out more info once it's live.
- Directory: Has been sent out. If there are any corrections please email Darlena @ darlena.simmons@gmail.com
- Spiritwear Website: <https://bluesky.commonsku.com/shop/3cd0fb1d-1c53-4fdd-a070-a07f93aea839> Place orders by Monday. Once orders are in, we'll send out invoices. We have to hit a minimum of 24 pieces in order to place the whole order.

**Treasurer Update:**

- Not much change
- We hit our \$2,000 goal for the bookfair
- The Village Inn fundraiser did very well, but Culver's didn't (only \$36)
- We're waiting to see how Walkerfest does
- We are going to be low in School Supplies participation this year - in the low 60%. This is lower than last year, but we have a surplus from previous years to cover the shortage.

**Walkerfest:**

- Wristbands and meal deals are available for pre-sales (have already \$500 in pre-sales)
- Still need some volunteers for shift 2 (thank you to all who have already signed up!)
- We are good on candy, but full bars or toys are still needed (bring in by Friday)
- Turn in any raffle tickets sold
- New this year, we'll have a coffee & coat room for parents (it will be unsupervised - we are not responsible for belongings)

**Enrichment:**

- Launched Homeroom and is going well
- Have a couple of low enrollment classes:
  - Tues basketball (K-2), Let's Build It (K-2) & Martial Arts
  - West African Drumming
  - Mudlark

- Triple Play
- Young Rembrandts
- If you're having issues signing up, email Donna and she can save you a spot
- Y.O.U. schedules don't line up - off by 2-3 weeks
  - Mr. Gray to reach out to Y.O.U. about schedule
  - Would there be any vendors that would be willing to fill in the gap weeks? Like pro-rate, just pay for the 2 weeks that Y.O.U. isn't running. Donna will reach out.

### **Community Service Committee**

- Bernie's Book Bank Update: Bernie Book Bank finally picked up books yesterday. It'll take about 2 weeks to get the numbers back. We will probably use a different company next time b/c of all the disorganization.
- Sports Shed Update - we collected a nice size donation
- Future Projects:
  - Kid Winter Coat/Outerwear Drive starting Dec. 1st through the first week of Jan. Walker kids will get first picks before we donate them to the community
  - Jan. we'll be doing kits for the homeless again with Connections for the Homeless

### **Equity Committee:**

- FAN Events:
  - She Said: A Conversation with Megan Twohey (Nov 19th, 7pm, ETHS)
  - Raising UnSelfies: How to Raise Compassionate, Courageous Kids, Michele Borba (Dec 2nd, 7pm, Central School)
  - Building Empathy in a Fractured World, Jamil Zaki (Dec 4th, 7pm, New Trier High School)
- Next Steps: Act event this Wed. (Nov 20th, 6:30-8:30pm at Nichols). Childcare provided. Chance for Walker community to get together and talk about what's going on in our Walker community. Hoping to see more Walker faces, we only had 5 at the larger event. Please tell your friends! This will be the most relevant event to our community. Mr. Gray will be attending.

### **PTA Council Updates:**

- Dec 10th meeting is open to all - prepping for Black Lives Matter week
- A teacher from Dawes started a Black Chess Champions Club
- Looking into more LGBTQ+ training for parents about the curriculum
- Adapted from the National PTA by-laws about protecting rights for LGBTQ+, Park School added it to their by-laws and the PTA Council will be voting to add it to theirs at the next meeting.

### **New Business:**

- Girl Scouts present bookstore recommendations
  - We have the largest troop in the district -47 girls across K-8th grade
  - This project earns them their bronze award
  - Worked with all the juniors in Girl Scouts
  - Suggestions for the Bookstore:
    - Separate the older/younger kid books - make it easier to find wanted books, can put one store upstairs and one downstairs
    - Let kids make book suggestions to put in store
    - Possibly let kids pay with Paws
    - Have mostly books, but some fun pencils & erasers
    - If a kid donates a book they can take a book
    - Have open every Friday or every other Friday and at school events
    - The Girl Scouts can help run the stores, but not be the lead/in charge
    - There should be books that are hard to get at the library, so more incentive to use
    - Not sure on the location of the one on the 2nd floor - don't want to put in the library so books don't get confused with store ones vs library ones.

- The challenge was to narrow down all of our ideas to the doable/realistic ones - working through all of the options and having to agree on them.
  - We did a lot of brainstorming, put in a lot of effort/teamwork.
  - We got help from many people and want to thank them - our leaders, Ms. Hertel, Ms. Hall and everyone else who played a part.
  - It was a seemingly simple project, but had a lot of complicated issues.
- We want to thank the Girl Scouts for their work on this project and for helping clean out the current books in the store.
- Vote on Teacher Grant for LGBTQ+ books
  - Request from Ms. Bardic, wanting a set of LGBTQ+ books for the classroom. We liked the idea and wanted to expand it and get multiple sets for the library so the whole school can use them.
  - We asked Ms. Hertel if she'd like to join the request - if she had other titles to add and to see what we had already.
  - The ask is for 30 different books that are LGBTQ+ themed to live in the library for students and teachers to use. The cost will be no more than \$500. Ms. Bardic's titles are around \$150 and Ms. Hertel's titles are around \$300.
  - Darlena put the motion out, Mya 2nd it, all were in favor - vote Passed
- Vote on Teacher Grant for author visit
  - Ms. Hertel has a request for \$400 to have an author visit during school for 4th & 5th grade (it's an author of one of the Bibliomania books - the district reading program). The author cost has been split with Bessie Rhodes and the airfare cost is split with 6 different schools.
  - We have \$1,500 in the budget for teacher grants. We didn't have any last year, and we don't have any others yet.
  - Mya put the motion out, Ellen 2nd it, all were in favor - vote Passed
  - We should look at events for other grades as well.
- Bathroom Improvement Grant - December Vote
  - School ask - plan to paint (sand, prime & paint all stalls) both sets of bathrooms (1st and 2nd floor), motivational decals, and a sensory mural decal that will go by the gym.
  - Total cost is \$1900 (\$900 for the paint and decals and \$1,000 for the sensory mural)
  - We want to wait on this vote until next month so we can see how Walkerfest does.
  - We do have \$4,000 budgeted for "teacher support" (which we want to rename to "school support"). We have in the past used this money to give the teachers gift cards at the end of the year, but would like to use the money for a gift to the whole school.
- PNO (parent questions):
  - Need to raise \$6,000 to cover the art residences, hoping to raise \$15,000 total
  - Art residences have been at Walker before any of the exec board got to the school. We're not sure if other schools have something similar.
  - Just wanting to look at the big picture. Are these still wanted? Is this something the district could pay for?
- Bookstore: If anyone would like to take on a project, we need a lead to run this!

#### Volunteer Needs:

- Walkerfest (Nov 16, 11am-2pm): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e49adae2ca2f85-walkerfest1>
- Evanston Woman's Club Craft Bazaar (Nov 24, 12-4pm):  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0f44adae2aa20-walker>
  - Last Thursday we put together the sachets with the kids in after school care (they had a lot of fun putting them together). We still need adults and kids to help work the booth.
- Walker ESSCA Serve Day (Dec. 3, 6:30-9pm): contact Carrie Shonk at [carrieshonk@yahoo.com](mailto:carrieshonk@yahoo.com) (last one for the year)
- PTA Movie Night (Dec. 7, 3-5pm): We'll have the students vote on what movie to watch. Reminder, this is not a drop-off event.

#### Important Dates

- Walkerfest: Nov 16, 11am-2pm
- Next Steps Action Event: Nov 20, 6:30-8:30pm

- Evanston Woman's Club Craft Bazaar: Nov 24, 12-4pm
- Deadline to Register for Winter Enrichments: Nov 25
- Fall Enrichments End: Nov 26
- No School - Thanksgiving Break: Nov 27-29
- Winter Enrichments Start: Dec 2
- Walker ESSCA Serve Day: Dec. 3, 6:30-9pm
- PTA Movie Night: Dec. 7, 3-5pm
- PTA Council Meeting: Dec 10, 7-9pm
- Early Dismissal - School Improvement Day: Dec 11, 12:05pm

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Wednesday, December 11th at 7pm in Walker Cafeteria