

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, December 16, 2021 @ 7:30pm
Location: Zoom Call

Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89465443563?pwd=T2hvVzNxQTI2czVXSCTQdmdnQWpVdz09>

Meeting ID: 894 6544 3563 PW: walkerpta

Attendees:

Stacey Masliansky	James Gray	Erin Sacluti
Allison Ackerman Bull	Samson Gewargis	Patty Vertiz-Harris
Ashanti Henderson	Dorina Aguilar Rasmussen	Michelle Redmond-Henley
Natalie Gillespie	Courtney Shapiro	Dee Johnson
Dante Wharton	Jenna Arceneaux	Pam Youngelman
Sarah Trulley	Raechele Alexander	Jennifer Gilbert

Introductions of people participating to start to get to know community members.

The prior meeting's minutes were approved.

Principal's Announcements

- If you were not at the Chat with the Principal, I recorded it and will send it out tomorrow.
- This is the first time we are distributing report cards via email from the school rather than district. Let's hope it goes smoothly tomorrow.
- Thank you for all of your support. It's been a challenging year for me, you as parents, and my teachers like Jenna. I appreciate all of you.

Teacher Announcements

- Ms. Arceneaux reiterated that it has been a difficult and challenging year, but the teachers feel very supported by the parents and families.

Executive Committee Announcements

- School-wide teacher and staff gift collection.
 - To show our appreciation for more than 60 teachers, support staff, and administration, we are taking up a school-wide collection to show everyone they are appreciated.
 - Each student will sign a card for their classroom teacher and in-class support staff and specials teachers (cards supplied by art and coding teacher Ms. Moon). Administration and additional staff will also get a card from the whole Walker community.
 - Deadline of Friday, 12/17 to contribute through Member Hub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/614965>) or cash dropped off by your student into the manila envelope with Ms. Cordingley in the front office.
- 59 kids signed up for 3rd-5th grade basketball.
 - Registration deadline was 12/13, but some teams may have space. Email Courtney Ivaska at courtney.b.ivaska@gmail.com if interested.
 - Games are Saturday at Robert Crown (Sunday for 3rd grade coed league) and the practice schedule is:
 - 3rd Grade Coed (7 students, open spots) - Wednesdays 6-7 pm

- 4th Grade Girls (9 students) - Thursdays 6-7 pm
 - 4th Grade Boys (16 students, two teams) - Fridays at 6-7 pm
 - 5th Grade Girls (13 students) - Tuesdays at 6-7 pm
 - 5th Grade Boys (10 students) - Wednesdays at 7-8 pm
- Cost is \$50 for the season. Scholarships are available; please contact Mr. Gray directly at grayj2@district65.net.
- Thank you to all the coaches who stepped up, including parents coaching teams their students are not playing on.
- Thank you to parent Anita Geervaghese and gym teacher April Likhite for spreading the word about the basketball teams.
- Reminder to submit vaccination card images.
 - If your child has received both rounds of their vaccine, please send the card image to school nurse Emily Erickson (ericksone@district65.net). She will save vaccine records in the system.
 - If your child has both vaccinations recorded, they will not need to quarantine as a close contact to a positive case unless they develop symptoms or test positive.
- Walker's Evanston School Children Clothing Association's (ESCCA) serves for families who need grade school children's clothing, shoes, and winter wear.
 - First serve was 12/15 6:30-9 pm at Joseph E. Hill administration building (JEH).
 - Next serve is 2/26 9:15 am - 12:15 pm at JEH.
 - We will collect clothing again before our February serve, but donations are accepted in an ESCCA bin on the west side of JEH at any time.
 - Especially needed are zip up hoodies (particularly sizes 10-14), sweatshirts (sizes 10-14), sweaters (sizes 8-12), long sleeve knit boys' shirts (sizes 10-16), lightweight coats (sizes 10-12), leggings or yoga pants (sizes 14-16), snow pants, and large gloves.
 - Please see this link (https://824876fa-cf0f-49e2-b460-4849c4671c58.filesusr.com/ugd/80ed8a_8089de9fc09746a7ad753b50a3303d31.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3p7aIDJlvBTmDzo0741dtpXft1J1juYaeANAEUE4yA2PE1f-wIIh58K-A) for all items currently being accepted.
 - Please email Annie Grossman at anniegrossman@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer at a serve (parents only to respect students' privacy) or help collect and process clothing donations before the February serve.
- Nominating committee for PTA leadership.
 - 2 Board members (Ashanti Henderson and Stacey Masliansky)
 - 3 PTA general members needed; please reply by February to present the slate of candidates in April.
 - Please email Stacey at staceymasliansky@gmail.com if interested or if you know anyone else who would be interested. There are only about 18 people on the call, and we welcome everyone to get involved, so spread the word far and wide.
- PTA membership levels, including no barriers membership, allow you to vote on PTA matters like budget items and PEP (PTA Equity Project) decisions.
 - A link to MemberHub and the no barriers membership sign up is on the PTA website now (walkerwoverinespta.com).
 - The next meeting is January, 1/20.
- Walker Cookbook is available to purchase on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store/items/493498>) at a suggested donation of \$10.
- PTA Council update.

- Volunteers needed for D65 community wide fundraising, including brain storming ideas and executing.
 - Ideas include partnering with sport teams, district wide plant sale.
 - Please email Allison at alliackerman@hotmail.com with any questions.
- Climate Action Team update.
 - Would you like to help implement lunchroom composting, improve recycling, make school events more eco-friendly and help our kids become more environmentally conscious? Join the new Walker Climate Action Team (formerly called Green Team)! This PTA committee is in need of volunteers to help create a more environmentally sustainable school community. If you're interested, please fill out the signup form at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D45AFA82CA3FCC43-join> and parent Jennifer Gilbert will follow up with you soon. You can contact her with any questions at jennifergilbert333@gmail.com.
 - Everything is going really well with the composting program. Every student is using the waste station at breakfast and lunch.
 - Thank you to Stacey Masliansky and Erika Bergsrud for volunteering with Elizabeth Gilbert to cover every lunch period. Winding down our volunteer needs as the staff becomes self-sufficient and 5th grade students help during breakfast.
 - Students seem excited to see how much they are composting versus sending to a landfill.
 - Next initiative will be decided at the start of the new year.
- Native American Heritage Month.
 - Thank you to parent Michaela Marchi and librarian Ms. Hertel for leading our students in celebrating. Michaela created two gorgeous bulletin boards and supported Ms. Hertel with morning announcements throughout the month.
- January is Poverty Awareness Month.
- If you would like to help Ashanti Madlock plan Black History Month in February, you can reach out to AshantiMadlock@sbcglobal.net.
- Spirit Week 3/14 to 3/18/22 planned by PTA (and next week planned by teachers)
 - We had one last year and it went well.
 - We will have easy outfits to plan, including a spirit day with red and blue or Walker wear after new spirit wear sales.
 - Teachers are also planning a spirit week for next week. Mr. Gray will send details tomorrow.
 - Monday is Walker gear or colors (red and blue).
 - Tuesday is Mad for Plaid with plaid shirts or pants or your favorite shirt and crazy hat.
 - Wednesday is Ugly Sweater, wear your worst or create your own, day.
 - Thursday is comfy, cozy, and ready for winter break pajama day.

Treasurer Update

- The November income totaling \$2,770 was \$10 from membership dues, \$2,560 from Adults Night Out (cancelled due to covid and weather concerns), \$25 from spirit wear, and \$175 from the pizza and movie community building fundraiser.
- The November expenses totaling \$605.17 was \$33.75 for technology fees, \$106.61 for flag football teams, and \$464.81 for the community building fall dance.
- The checking account ending balance was \$32,178.80 and the money market account ending balance was \$15,834.92.

Fundraising Committee Update

- November restaurant fundraiser at Jarasa Kabob raised \$150.
- December restaurant fundraiser on 12/8 half day was at Kansaku and raised \$312.
- January restaurant fundraiser on 1/10 half day location is TBD.
- New spirit wear will be available in spring.
 - Spirit wear sales are before the next spirit week 3/14-18.
 - Existing spirit wear, including adult clothing and Walker blankets and handwarmers, is available on MemberHub at <https://walker.memberhub.com/store>.
 - If you placed an order and have questions, email alliackerman@hotmail.com
- Please sign up at smile.amazon.com and select David E Walker PTA as your charity before you start or continue your holiday shopping.
- Volunteers are needed to join the committee to start planning for Walker Fest, a weekend all family carnival with games, bounce houses, prizes, etc. (tentatively 3/12/22).

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- The words to remember for this month are get involved! Dante Wharton has met with each affinity group and wants parents to get involved.
- Next up will be more opportunities, including the Next Steps program in the new year.
- FAN Events: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/upcoming-events/>; free, but registration is required to obtain a personal link.
- PEP update (Ashanti Madlock-Henderson)
- Black Students Achieve (BSA) update (Tina Vinson)
- White Accountability Group (Kelli Kaul)

Community Engagement Update

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Service Project-continuing annual toiletry kit collection for Connections for the Homeless.
- Day of service on 1/22 when parents and children have access to the school to beautify our building and bring joy to others.
- Bingo and dance with Mr. Marcus events return in spring.

Room Parent Update

- School-wide teacher and staff gift collection through 12/17.
 - Thank you to Stacey, Allison, and Ashanti for all your support to get the word out and accept contributions through MemberHub.
 - We are just shy of our goal and will likely get there by tomorrow.
- Classroom celebrations.
 - We tried to equalize winter celebrations across grades keeping in mind parents cannot be in the classroom. Many teachers chose their own projects, which is great, and parents offered goody bags and supplies as requested.
- Newsletter is in the works for the second week of January.

Volunteer Needs

- Walkerfest: If you would like to join the committee that helps plan Walkerfest, a carnival style event at school (tentatively 3/12/22), please contact Patty Harris (patevertiz@hotmail.com) or Michelle Redmond-Henley (redmond.mk@gmail.com).

- Nominating committee for PTA executive board positions that will vacate in June 2022.
- Consider whether you would like to serve on the PTA executive board as a co-president, secretary or treasurer.
- Join Walker Climate Action Team; email jennifergilbert333@gmail.com.

Community Update

- Walker mom of three, Yasmine Qader, is a middle school teacher in D65 and from Afghanistan. She is looking for support of her work with Afghan refugees seeking safety in the US at <https://gofund.me/fcb6e93f>.

Important Dates:

- December 17th: Deadline to contribute to all school teacher and staff gift collection
- December 24th-January 7th: No School, Winter break
- January 12th: Early Dismissal at 12:05
- January 12th: Walker Restaurant Fundraiser
- January 17th: No School, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 20th, 7:30 pm: Walker PTA Meeting
- January 28th: D65 Date Night Fundraiser

Adjournment