

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, September 15th @ 6:30pm
Location: Walker School Cafeteria

Attendees:

Mustafa Bilgic	Allison Bull	Sarah Czepiel	Stacey Masliansky
Natasha Dobson	Dave Dobson	Liz Pawlak	Shana Sternstein
Erin Rams	Adrienne Adams	Patti Vertiz	Henry Wilkins
Liz Ribiero	James Gray	Amy Wharton	Khristie Kaplan
Dante Wharton	Henry Wilkins	Grace Suhrthim	Enisa Jakceponic
Christine Benson	Nicole O'Connell	Jim O'Connell	Carrie Bradean
Darlana Simmons	Erin Sacluti		

Call to approve last meetings minutes: Approved

Principal's Announcements

- Great to see people in the building. Thanks for attending Curriculum Night!
- The 1st fire drill happened this week. There will be 4 in total. 1 next month. A bus evacuation drill will be soon. We will also have a lockdown drill with the Skokie Police. I will notify families ahead of time and there is an option to opt your student out.
- We'll have a safety meeting in October for families
- We have a new staff member who is called a school concierge - Ms. Fisher. She is the first point of contact when you come into the building.
- When you pick up your child at the front, we will ask for your ID and run a quick background check (this happens for everyone coming into the building)
- From VP Amy Wharton:
 - Thank you for coming out tonight! Ms. Fisher is super friendly and getting to know the kids - she is a great addition to the Walker family.
 - Lunch is all in the cafeteria this year. Kids can sit wherever they want - no assigned seats
 - Watch out for parent teacher conference info coming out soon

Teacher Announcements: Khristie Kaplan is PTA teacher liaison

- Will there be a student directory?
 - Yes, we just got the info from the district and are starting the process of building it. It will come out digitally. Room parents might be in the process of putting class lists together.
- Do we have spiritwear?
 - We have some leftover stock and will be getting new items soon.

Executive Committee Announcements

- Thank you to Andrew Weflan (a Walker parent) for setting up our Little Libraries! There are 2 now on our school property - one near each entrance (K-2 & 3-5).
- The new climbing wall was installed over the summer. PE Teachers love it!
- On the first Friday of school, the PTA treated teachers to coffee and pastries
- Ice Cream Social went well. Large turn out. Thanks to C&W and Malachi Weaver's (a Walker student) Family, for supplying the ice cream! The PTA covered the cost.
- Calendars - going home this week, will have all of our events listed
- Books & Breakfast Program:
 - Books & Breakfast is a before school program that offers a healthy meal and homework support to Evanston Elementary students. At Walker Elementary, the program will begin on Tuesday, 9/27. We will meet each morning from 8am to 8:50am in the gym. Our mission is to help students start their day prepared for learning - physically, emotionally and academically!
 - Teachers will identify kids that need support and B&B will reach out to families

Treasurer Update

- Vote on budget: Postponed till next month (the treasurer is out sick)
- We have a proposed budget
- We have received \$29,738 from the PEP Distribution (PTA Equity Project - all PTAs pool their money raised and it then gets dispersed back out based on an equality & equity formula). We do need PEP reps for Walker, we have 2 seats open. Liz Ribiero is our third rep. PEP is a sub committee of the PTA Council, they meet once a month for 2 hrs. Reach out to Erin or Allison if interested.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- Committee hasn't met yet, we will be next week to map out our plans.
- Our goal is to be a part of every event happening at Walker to focus on the DEI in every program.
- BSA (Black Students Achieve)
- WAG (White Anti-Rasict Group) focuses on what can we do better throughout the community. It started out as a group that did a workshop together

Fundraising Committee Update

- Made \$615 from spiritwear at the ice cream social. You can order spiritwear from our online store: <https://walker.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true>
- Each month we will have a Restaurant Night on the half days (school improvement days). This month it is at Herm's Palace.
- Our year long fundraising is Box Tops for Education and Amazon Smile
- We'd love any volunteers to help out.
- Adult's Night Out: our committee had our first meeting, we're researching locations. Date is set for Feb. 25th

Community Engagement Update

- Dance 10/8, 3-5pm, outside if nice weather, led by Mr. Marcus of DIME
- We will have little free events for families throughout the year and we try to tie a community service project to each event.

Volunteer Needs

- Chess club: Mustafa Bilgic is bringing the club back. We got 2nd place last year in the tournament. We're looking to meet on Friday mornings (8-8:50am). Looking for volunteers to help supervise (don't need chess knowledge). This is so kids can prep for tournaments (kids need to know how to play) - set up like a drop off extracurricular class.
- Garden Club: contact Katherine Walts at kkwalts@gmail.com
- Room Parents Needed for: Specials (Art, Coding, Drama, Library, Music, P.E.) contact Erin Sacluti (erinsacluti@gmail.com) if interested in helping - just need a few more
- Books & Breakfast Program:
 - Walker parents, Northwestern students and community volunteers make up an amazing team of tutors at B&B each morning. Our goal is to give as much individualized attention to students as possible. Are you interested in being a B&B tutor? Tutors typically commit to one morning a week and receive training to provide reading or math support. We also need substitute tutors to join us 3-4 times over the year!
 - Please reach out to Nimrah Tariq, Walker Site Director, at nimraht@booksbreakfast.org or visit our website, www.booksbreakfast.org/volunteer to sign up!

New Business

Announcements

- K-4 students only: Buy your yearbook now (by Sept. 30th) and save 10%
 - www.treering.com/validate Passcode: 101507041679653
 - PTA will purchase yearbooks for all 5th graders (will do a fundraiser later in the year to cover cost)
 - Teachers can purchase a copy
 - They are under \$14

- My65, Foundation 65's annual benefit event (supports literacy): Palmhouse on Howard on October 6 from 7-10 pm
 - Hugely attended event by Walker families
- The PTA Council is celebrating fall with a Pumpkin and Fall Decor Fundraiser to benefit D65 PTA One Fund! Pre-order your pumpkins and fall decorations for pick up on Friday, September 30th at Dawes Elementary School on Oakton and Dodge from 4-7pm. Pre-orders will be available until September 25th.
 - [Place your order here.](#)

Important Dates

- Sept. 13-25th: PTA Council Pumpkin & Fall Decor Fundraiser
- Sept 15-Oct 15: Hispanic Heritage Month (we have a committee to do a heritage month presentation each month - this month it's a bulletin board presentation. If interested in helping, contact Anita G.)
- Sept 17, 10am-2pm: Evanston Community Literacy Fest @ ETHS
- Sept 21: Walker Restaurant Night at Herm's Palace
- Sept 26: No School - Rosh Hashana
- Oct 5: No School - Yom Kippur
- Oct 6: My65 Event for Foundation 65
- Oct 8: Walker School Dance @3pm
- Oct 10: School Picture Retake Day
- Oct 12: No School - Teacher Institute Day
- Oct 17-20: Parent Teacher Conferences
- Oct 20: PTA Meeting @ 7:30 (will vary from month to month if on Zoom or in person)
- Oct 21: No School

Adjournment