

Walker PTA meeting: Thursday, January 19th @ 7:30pm

Location: Zoom - <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82667847954?pwd=ajljWUgyWGZvblhONWVaUWFHT21Odz09>

Meeting ID: 826 6784 7954

Passcode: walker

Attendees:

Natalie Gillespie	Khristie Kaplan	Jackie Unger	Natasha Dobson
Darlena Simmons	Amy Wharton	Nicole O'Connell	Sarah Czepiel
Erin Sacluti	James Gray	Dante Wharton	
Allison Bull	Patty Harris	Christine Benson	

Principal's Announcements

- Dental Clinic next Tuesday for students (only if parents filled out form that was sent home)
- Our 1st district wide Spelling Bee is starting for 4th & 5th graders. It's optional, we have 23 students participating, competition will be on Feb. 3rd
- Half day on Feb 1st
- We have started a bunch of basketball teams, lots of players have signed up along with a lot of volunteer coaches!
- District rolling out Smart Tag system on March 1st- a way for parents and schools to track the buses. More info to come.
- Amy Wharton:
 - A big thank you for the funds to redo the teachers' lounge and for the generous holiday gift cards for the staff!

Teacher Announcements: Khristie Kaplan is PTA teacher liaison

- Want to echo the big thank you for the holiday gift cards for the staff and the funding of the teachers' lounge redesign!

Executive Committee Announcements

- Holiday Staff Gift Collection Results
 - Raised \$5700, gave \$75 gift cards to each staff member including the 3 bus drivers and 2 crossing guards (80 staff total). We had to cover a small amount of funds (will take from teacher appreciation funds) to round the amount up to \$75. We have more staff this year.
- Approved \$3000 for Teacher's Lounge Redesign Project
- Walker Boy Scouts adopting Walker Little Libraries - they will maintain and stock both libraries and have already fixed the glass in the one that was broken. Thank you for taking that on!
- Basketball teams have started. Tamiya Wilborn is Walker's district contact for any questions (email her at wilbornt@district65.net). The 3rd grade team is still managed through PTA, so if you have any questions, email Erin Sacluti (erinsacluti@gmail.com).

Treasurer Update

- Budget Update: Have reports for July through Sept. The approved budget is at the end of the minutes.
- Check Reimbursement Form: <https://forms.gle/5TUUA8DAi36PsaD59>

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Update

- FAN: Family Action Network retains videos of their programming. There are several interesting videos I would encourage you to watch. Please check out their site: <https://www.familyactionnetwork.net/video/>
- WAG: Shout out to Nicole & Kristine for making a survey to get a look to how we can engage a wide variety of people in our community.

Fundraising Committee Update

- Dec Restaurant Night Results: Jarasa Kabob - made \$150 total, the restaurant donated \$74 themselves and added 5% more to cover for Walker families that ordered but forgot to mention the event.
- Feb Restaurant Night: Noodles & Company at Old Orchard at 4-8pm
- Box Tops - received a check for \$110.80 last month
- Spiritwear coming in February! Working to finalize which company we will use. We got two designs from Ms. Arceneaux
- Amazon Smile is ending - Feb 20th is the last day

Adults Night Out

- Save the Date: Feb 25th
- A flier will be coming home tomorrow. Here's the event's website: <https://walkerwolverinespta.com/events-programs/walkers-adults-night-out-2023/>
- Going to be a great event focused on having a fun night and community building

- Free, just register on MemberHub (<https://walker.memberhub.com/store?limit=21&live=true&category=Adults%20Night%20Out>) so we have an idea of how many people are coming
- There will be a 50/50 raffle and other raffle prizes
- You can volunteer to help work the event (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d45acab2ea7f49-event?fbclid=IwAR04ha9gFNxusdAUhEc4oCQsSKnimyAV87mjZgle6leyrfiBz-F3iZTi74g#/>) and to bring in and share one of your favorite food dishes (like a small version of what we have done in the past for International Night) (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d45acab2ea7f49-culturally?fbclid=IwAR25Var2sYgRppoirTyvFGORQ3CxZqRazBFCoQyS3qZr1RUFwGHghMt6LWY#/>)

Book Fair

- Need volunteers to help plan the event and work shifts (esp for the Wish List Day (March 17th) and “Grands” Day (March 20th): Please email Natasha Dobson if interested (natashadobson13@gmail.com). A sign-up will go out soon.

Garden Committee Update

- Goals for Calendar Year:
 - Install at least 1-2 new raised beds for growing food in the spring (preferably elevated/not ground level).
 - Generate student/teacher interest in the Walker garden (caterpillars/butterflies? worms? seeds/plants? birds? other??)
 - Plant new and more pollinator-friendly flowers and plants in the existing butterfly garden and in the existing "nature" area on north side - annual and perennials to attract interest/beautify/pollinators.
- Met with SAGE Evanston and ordered seeds
- Looking into doing an indoor plant sale

Community Engagement Update

- Walker Acts of Service - MLK Project: Finished on Tuesday. The Girl Scouts put together 70 kits with all the donated supplies.

PEP

- Good meeting this week.
- Working in committees to make recommendations on all areas - a work in progress
- Surveys to PTA will be coming out within the next few weeks:
 - One is for capital projects - what do schools want funds for that the District won't cover - like updating playground equipment or a new garden fence.
 - We did the benches, climbing wall and gaga pit before One Fund started.
 - A sound system and stage lighting is needed - it's original to the building and doesn't work. Gray got quotes that are around \$80k.
 - New traffic flow for the parking lot?
 - How to use the funds for things that all schools & PTAs use/pay for: like ESSCA donations, Zoom accounts - admin type things (tax assistance, insurance) - do shared support services to get a better deal.

Volunteer Needs

- Book Fair (email Natasha Dobson: natashadobson13@gmail.com)
- ANO
 - Work the event: (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d45acab2ea7f49-event?fbclid=IwAR04ha9gFNxusdAUhEc4oCQsSKnimyAV87mjZgle6leyrfiBz-F3iZTi74g#/>)
 - Share a Dish: (<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0d45acab2ea7f49-culturally?fbclid=IwAR25Var2sYgRppoirTyvFGORQ3CxZqRazBFCoQyS3qZr1RUFwGHghMt6LWY#/>)

New Business

- District Wide Native Plant Sale: Orders will go live hopefully on Monday. All funds go directly to One Fund. Pick up day will be May 13th. Last year it raised \$11k
- Will be looking for donations for snacks and drinks for teachers during conferences in Feb. A sign up will go out soon.
- We will be looking for people to volunteer for PTA leadership positions soon. We need volunteers for a nominating committee. If you or anyone you know are interested, please reach out. Allison is rolling off her exec board position, so we will need to fill her position and a couple of others.

Questions:

- Student mentioned that the basketballs used at recess are flat and not good. How is recess equipment managed?

- There is a staff member that checks on the equipment and replenishes as needed. Amy will reach out to her and see if things need to be refreshed.

Announcements:

- YEA! Festival is back this year. May 20th, 10am-3pm at Raymond Park: All schools are asked to participate - all students have a piece of artwork on display. There's crafts, music, imaginative play. They are asking for donations from PTAs and parents. The district is working with them and helping out too. Here's the website for more info: <https://www.yeaevanston.org/>

Important Dates

- Jan 16-20: MLK Service Project
- Feb 1: Early Dismissal & Restaurant Night
- Feb 13-16: Parent Teacher Conference Week
- Feb 16: PTA Meeting
- Feb 17 & 20: No School
- Feb 25: Adults Night Out

Adjournment

Mark your calendars! Our next meeting: Thursday, February 16th at 7:30pm on Zoom

		Expenses	
	Activity	YTD	Budgeted
Overhead	Bank Fees		\$100
	Insurance		\$200
	Miscellaneous		\$300
	Office Supplies		\$400
	Technology Fees		\$825
	PTA Council Dues		\$150
	PTA National/State Dues (No cost memberships)		\$50
	Calendars		\$550
Engagement	Angel Fund		\$500
	Back to School Social		\$1,000
	Athletics		\$1,000
	Field Day		\$500
	Fifth Grade Farewell		\$500
	First Day Coffee		\$150
	KinderMixer		\$50
	Community Social Events		\$4,600
	Garden Club		\$500
	Yearbooks		\$750
	Chess club		\$400
DEI Initiatives	DEI Parent Groups		\$1,100
	Heritage Months		\$200
	One Book One School		\$500
	Next Steps		
School Support	Teacher Appreciation		\$2,000
	Grounds Beautification		0
Education	Teacher Grants		\$1,200
	Chess Tournament		\$1,200
Community	YEA		\$250
	EISMA		***\$625 (credit)
	ESCCA		\$300
	Justin Wynn		\$200
	Books & Breakfast		\$250
Fundraising	ANO		\$2,750
	Year-Round Fundraising		\$1,000
	Spiritwear		\$1,000
	WalkerFest		\$5,000
	Book Fair		\$250
Total			\$29,725
PEP Disbursement			\$29,738.37