

## Agenda

### Attendees:

Darlana Simmons	Victoria Bardic	Liz Ribeiro	Genevieve Comeau
Kathy Vyas	James Gray	Kymika Okechukwu	
Nicole Gilman-O'Connell	Amy Wharton	Amanda Hulse	

### Principal & Vice Principal's Announcements:

- Thank you to the parents who have filled out the 5essentials Survey. We met the 20% minimum, so we will be getting the results.
- IAR testing is wrapping up, just have a few more students finishing up this week.
- April 1st is election day. Walker is an election site in the gym
- April 3rd we will have our Kindergarten open house. Please spread the word to new families in the area.
- In April there is a Blueberry award where lots of books (fiction & non-fiction) involving earth day/nature themes are nominated. We are going to do a "One World, One Book, One School" event where we will get a copy of the award winning book for each class to read at the same time during the school day to celebrate Earth Day.
- Working with Darlena S. (PTA) and Clara K (Childcare). and the District to update and improve our playgrounds - adding a basketball hoop, paintings to the blacktop, and more. Thank you PTA for funding the improvements.

### Teacher Announcements: Victoria Bardic is PTA teacher liaison

- Thank you from Ms. Likhite and Ms. Hertel for the new mats and seats. They are excited to use them.
- A request for book fair GRANDS day next year: can we set up a sign up sheet/google forms teachers can know who will be having an adult to come take them to the fair during lunch/recess. It will make the process smoother.

### Executive Committee Announcements

- Treasurer Report:
  - Budget has been updated to reflect February
    - Fundraising was quiet: \$115 from Noodles & Co. night
    - Expenses: purchased the library seats & gym mats, metals for all basketball teams that played in the district teams, and buying soccer balls
    - \$2,600 raised from the coin drive!
    - Getting soccer goals, basketball hoop, and looking into more ideas for the playgrounds
- Become a PTA Member! <https://walker.givebacks.com/store?limit=21&live=true&category=Memberships>
  - In order to vote for new officers in May, please sign up soon - you need to be a member for 30 days prior to vote
  - There's a no-barriers membership available
- Volunteer Needs: [Click here to sign up!](https://bit.ly/WalkerVolunteer) (<https://bit.ly/WalkerVolunteer>)
  - Save the Date! Our May 19th PTA meeting will be volunteer appreciation night - we want to thank all of our amazing volunteers so please plan to attend!
- District 65's Structural Deficit Reduction Plan - Help Shape the Future of District 65 - Join a Planning Committee!  
Applications close 3/24/25  
[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1\\_UJYbAKO\\_seRYQ35iDTtY4zFfmgUOb\\_Sn0HRgbse1sM/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.6cfk49ctcmpl](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1_UJYbAKO_seRYQ35iDTtY4zFfmgUOb_Sn0HRgbse1sM/edit?tab=t.0#heading=h.6cfk49ctcmpl)

### New Business

- Need volunteers from Family Reading Event on April 6th 10am-noon
  - Because Math Night is such a success, we wanted to have another academic event. This is a new event with special guest readers, reading program partners, and more! Come in your pjs, have some food and enjoy the reading activities. We will also have a "Leave One, Take One" table, where you can bring a gently used book and swap it for one somebody else left.
  - <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054FAEA82CA2F49-55754016-walker>
- Spring Sports Registration is open now through March 24th – soccer, track & field, tennis  
<https://www.district65.net/families/athletics-enrichment/athletics/elementary-spring-athletics>
  - When registering, you will be asked if you'd like to help coach

- Looking for people to be new incoming Co-President, Secretary & Treasurer-elect (this position will shadow the treasurer to slowly ease into the role for the next year)

### Committees Updates:

- Community Engagement
  - Bingo Recap: Fun event, families had a great time, Thank you Robin for such a great event!
  - Book Fair Recap: Went really well. Total sales was \$12k. Thanks to all who participated! Big thank you to Katie & Liz for organizing!
- Fundraising Committee
  - Spiritwear Options:
    - <https://1stplace.sale/30464>
    - <https://www.bonfire.com/store/walker-elementary-school-pta/>
  - Givebacks: <https://www.givebacks.com/how-it-works>
  - Boxtops: <https://boxtops4education.com/s/get-the-app>
  - Spring Fundraising Appeal - month of April
    - Goal \$10,000 - special prizes for ALL classrooms and a school-wide prize when we meet our goal
    - We do this instead of having to charge families for our events
    - More info to come after Spring Break
  - Dine to Donate: Portillo's on April 9th, Dengeo's will be the May restaurant
  - Mabel's Labels Fundraiser  
[https://mabelslabels.com/fundraising/support?fbclid=IwY2xjawJFP1FleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHUOb4QilsBe0VgeNwllvkULeSzbqB-Lq1J8-gPqWEJBZDDVjw7RYkg0SNA\\_aem\\_XireBxCWuUHnNRokkU9O5A](https://mabelslabels.com/fundraising/support?fbclid=IwY2xjawJFP1FleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHUOb4QilsBe0VgeNwllvkULeSzbqB-Lq1J8-gPqWEJBZDDVjw7RYkg0SNA_aem_XireBxCWuUHnNRokkU9O5A)
    - Watch for a flyer soon. This is a way to get fun labels for all your kids stuff. Shout out to Sarah T. for finding this fundraiser and setting it up. There's a 20% sale going on now.
- Lost & Found: please label all students' items, the lost and found is overflowing again. Have kids check for lost items.
- PEP
  - Liz sent a survey link to Mr. Gray, Ms. Wharton, Kathy & Nicole to get ideas on collective fundraising and grants
  - PEP Fest is looking to be in the Fall next year - will probably combine it with the pumpkin/flower sale. May has become too busy for families to schedule it then.
  - The group is working on upcoming equity training at the PTA level since so many changes are going on at the district level. A community member has offered to do the training for free.
  - Looking to do another hygiene and supplies drive.

### Open Discussion

- See something interesting or cool at another school? Share what you find! Share your ideas!  
[walkerptagroup@gmail.com](mailto:walkerptagroup@gmail.com)

### Important Dates

- March 24-28: Spring Break
- April 3: Walker Kindergarten Open House at 5:30pm
- April 6: Spring Reading Celebration
- April 9: Early Dismissal & Dine to Donate at Portillos
- April 18: No School
- April 19: Walker Earth Day Project
- April 21: PTA Meeting 6:30pm @ Walker Cafeteria
- April 23: 6th grade Chute Orientation
- April 30: International Night (moved from the 23rd)

Adjournment: We hope to see you at next month's meeting on Monday, April 21st at 6:30pm in the Walker Cafeteria!