

Walker Elementary School

PTA Meeting Minutes

September 8, 2008

Mary Jo called the first meeting for the 2008-2009 school year of the Walker Elementary School PTA to order at 6:33 pm. There were 21 members of the PTA present and 6 teachers.

Approval of Budget & Treasurer Report/Kari Simpson

- Handed out Budget from last year and indicated how it was broken down by priority.
- Jennifer Engel made a motion to approve the Budget and Bobbi Regalia seconded the motion.
- Mary Jo discussed membership and indicated that anything less than \$75.00 is 100% tax deductible.

President's Report/Mary Jo Jatczak

- Oct 30th there is a worldwide mock election day. Encouraging kids to vote.
- Oct 8th is national walk to school day which encourages kids to walk to school and there is website that explains more about it which is walktoschool.org
- Will be running a contest for students to submit a design for Walker Spirit wear.
- Reflections is kicking off for the year and are currently looking for a chairperson. This year's theme is "WOW".
- Looking into having Randy Peterson come to Walker. He works with kids to write songs. Bobbi Regalia indicated that PTA's intention is to do this in conjunction with Young Authors Night.

Vice President's Report/Tonie Kieliszowski

- Discussed PTA meeting etiquette and that in order to speak or vote you need to be a Walker PTA member.

Ways and Means/Jennifer Engel

- Main Fundraiser will be Mr. Z's. Will be sending home the packets on Wednesday September 10th and will run from September 11th thru September 24th.
- Thought that we should hype it up to the kids during lunch hours.
- October 21st from 3:30-6:00 is product pickup. Prizes both individual and family will be in the package that day.
- Mary Jo asked regarding payments and Jennifer indicated that will accept either cash or one check written to Walker PTA and will hold this check for 2 weeks.

Reading Program/Cindy Ray

- Will kick off at the end of October.
- Accumulating parents that are interested in being reading parents. There should be a reading parent for every room and they need to track each child.
- Kids are required to meet a monthly goal to receive the monthly rewards.
- Described the reading program for the PTA members new to Walker this year - the different goal levels and that at the end of the program there is a carnival.
- This year the students will be sent home with the t-shirt order in the kick off packets that they receive.
- Will also be doing Great America, the waterpark, and Pizza Hut certificates as rewards.

Family Events/Tonie Kieliszkowski & Bobbi Regalia

- Will be holding first Family Event on October 17th from 6:30-9:00 pm. It will be the Halloween Family Fun Night.
- The first Family Event meeting will be September 15th at 6:00 pm.

Membership/Tiffany Krahn

- Currently going well we had 86 members within the 1st week.
- PTA cards will be going home with the kids.

Phone Directory/Gina Kirkpatrick

- Currently a work in progress. Will be sending home final requests for anyone to be in the directory.
- Completion goal is October.

Teacher's Report/Ms Cyskiewicz

- Introduction of the 4th/5th grade teachers.
- Are focusing on kids and anxiety. Encouraging parents to talk to their kids regarding their day at school.
- Are spending time getting to know the new students and making the students and their parents feel comfortable. Encouraging parents to have their kids on a consistent schedule ie same bed time every day. Want kids to eat a huge breakfast and bring in healthy snacks. Feel routine is very important.
- Looking into camp Minikana this year. Will leave on Monday morning and return Tuesday at 3:00 pm.
- Ms. Chandler indicated that the new students were adjusting well. Johanna Noll explained that Lincoln students were paired up with others they knew.

Principal's Report/Johanna Noll

- West Allis West Milwaukee formed a district wide committee and policy to focus on healthy nutrition among schools. This committee is looking at types of foods kids are eating in the lunchroom. As PTA and teachers should not use unhealthy food as rewards should focus on healthier rewards. Schools can an award for implementing healthy nutrition practices throughout the school.
- Feedback regarding this year's registration was that it was very successful and there was a huge turnout.
- PIN nights are in progress. The focus now is designed to inform parents what is happening in the classroom and how as parents they can help.
- There are several new teachers in the school. Ms. Boreman in kindergarten, Mrs. Kaisler in third grade and since we are now a Title 1 school there is an extra teacher available.
- Almost all the classrooms have smartboards which will not only be used for class but for announcements. Are able to listen to announcements through the website. There will eventually be a link to see announcements throughout the year on the website. There will no longer be the Walker Star.
- WIDPT selected Walker school to participate in their Wheels in Motion program. They will work for 10 days in the afternoon with the 5th graders. They will bring in engineers and scientists to talk about bridges and building.

President, Mary Jo Jatczak, adjourned this meeting at 7:35 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Gina Kirkpatrick, Secretary.