1. **Call to Order - 9:05am**

***ATTENDEES***

-Eric Chisausky - Principal

-Tracy Korbus - Co-President

-Anne Deis - Co-President

-Dyan Ruth - Vice-President

-Lauren Walsh - Vice-President

-Carolyn Mannarino - Communications

-Margaret Chung - Treasurer

-Ann Heenan - Assistant Treasurer

-Courtney Stach - Secretary

II. **Reading and Approval of the Minutes from the Executive Board Meeting October 6th, 2014**

III. **Principal’s Report**

-Halloween, special thank you for the Halloween Assembly, it was the best assembly in recent years per teachers/staff and best in a long time per parents! Great storyline and well-done overall.

-Report Cards in 2 weeks, 11-14-14. Parent Teacher Conferences 11-24-13, 11-25-14.

-Teacher Institute for Tuesday, 11-04-14, math and math implementation is the primary discussion.

***-Example of Teachers’ Institute Topic:*** *Reviewing the 8-Mathematical Practices*- It is a focus on professional development for all certified teachers. Delivery is a key component of learning the pillars of math.

-Eric said, we want kids to analyze mathematics like they are doing in reading text.

-We are shifting best-practices on helping our kids to ASK questions, make asking a question easier in the classroom for kids. With the rapid pace of learning, some of our kids are afraid to slow the class down and ASK. We want to make asking questions, COOL and WELCOME in the classroom to alleviate missing important details.

-Outdoor Ed- Wednesday/Thursday/Friday of next week 11-12, 11-13 & 11-14.

-Thursday is the big day for Outdoor Ed 5th graders, with a bulk of their activities scheduled this day for Outdoor Ed. Eric is planning to attend field trip on Thursday, 11-13-14.

-SELAS Meeting 11-10-14, district-wide, meet to decide what we are doing, new icon, new attention to lunch and recess procedures. Eric is presenting at this meeting to the other schools in the district.

-Three or Four Schools were sharing their SELAS overviews. Walker is up this year to present our SELAS program. We have a special SELAS meeting scheduled for Monday, November 10th, @ 1:30pm. It’s one-week before the PTO General meeting. (All parents are welcome to attend!)

-SELAS meeting will include a: slideshow, common language, recess, & student leadership team. Jeanne Osgood is going to invite the all the folks involved with SELAS district-wide. Allison and Eric will be doing it for the district SELAS people: Kurt, Jean and anyone else connected. You may get another principal in attendance and parents are welcome.

-Eric is going to condense and share the presentation for the General PTO Meeting on Wednesday, November 19th, too if people cannot make both of the meetings since they are scheduled so closely together.

-Gaga Pit- mulch-based platform, plastic bouncy ball, and semi-dodgeball. There can be 6-10 kids in the Gaga pit at one time. The word Gaga translates to - ‘Hit-Hit’ the Ball. It’s fun alternative play for the children as those that aren’t on playground equipment or playing free sports on pavement or field have a fun place to play too!

-We need a plastic printed sign with the rules adhered to the Gaga pit as soon as possible. There is novelty and a lot of kids want to be in there at one time. Nurse June and Eric are working on the wording and will get this to the Board for the sign to be made and adhered to pit for safety. The Eagle Scout who installed the gaga pit said he will post the rules for Walker as part of his project.

VI. **Treasurer’s Report**

-We have an $80,000 balance in our checking account.

-We did well in our Orange Ruler, still just a $1000 difference on this - Margaret investigating with Alex where the discrepancy is and will let us know.

-$17,000 net-net-net, and our original net-goal was $20,000. GREAT JOB! Great first fundraiser!

-Walker Wear $2,900 in sales, still have to pay for the clothes but strong numbers.

-Annual Report is done at the state level, thanks to Heinz & Associates. We got it done well in advance.

-Decide on technology purchase allotment, Margaret to decide on what is comfortable for future budgeting.

-End of school year, we want a year’s worth of expenses. $30-$35,000 - $42,000 left at the end of the year with $10,000 going to long range planning.

-We want between $60-$70,000 at the end of the school year.

-Teacher stipend, classroom enrichment is the biggest budget allotment currently at $5,400.

-Field trips we have a monetary cushion in there, as a precautionary measure.

-Outdoor Ed is already pulled out of the budget, so that is good.

-Technology budget being discussed- the range of spending being finalized between Board and Treasurers. The money for technology budget was gathered through Orange Ruler fundraiser.

V. **Communications Report**

-Wild Cat Weekly trending higher than average weekly, ‘clicks’.

-People are using it, love it and Carolyn is getting many thank yous from all of the parents! It’s hard to get through the Wednesday WWN, and the quick-snap shot is nice for parents.

-Wildcat Weekly pulls information from the WWN, PTO Website and any other ancillary updates, come in from committee chairs and parents at the school.

-We agreed to add teachers to this email list, Walker@d181.org

VI**. President’s Report**

1. **Board of Education Meeting**

-We know the issues at hand, there seems to be a disconnect with parents and teachers and this stems from the district launch of their programs without proper preparation.

-We need follow-up from the district.

-The 8 Mathematical Practices plan for Teacher Institute is excellent and thank you!

1. **Superintendent Advisory Learning Committee**

-Teachers are taking it personally that children are bored in Math.

-Parents need to understand more to help their kids at home with homework.

-Learning for All, was released early, words their way, wasn’t on district website for weeks and weeks.

-District has changed things, kids cannot keep up, and parents cannot keep up. There is a frustration level for all.

-It’s not the teachers’ fault, because it’s the district rolling things out too early and it’s causing problems among faculty, students and then parents not able to help their children with homework.

1. **November General PTO Meeting**

-Kurt Schneider, Assistant Superintendent of Learning, is inviting Dr. White to our evening, PTO meeting. We have to make sure it’s productive. Dr. White can come prepared if we can organize the agenda and create a moderator scenario. The meeting will occur on Wednesday, November 19th, 2014, with an evening General PTO meeting.

-There was a suggested Evite perhaps to get more participation at Walker?

-They suggested a separate 1-pager with agenda, you are invited to and then list the agenda items. If you have questions, please email them in by a specific date.

-We are still working to confirm Dr. White will be attending.

1. **Playground Mulch**

-Ken Surma, Assistant Superintendent of Information Services & Operations confirmed paying for the mulch.

-Cedar Valley express did come out earlier in the year.

-Mulch depth and thickness provides safety on the playground.

-Tracy checking on last line in report from Ken Surma, ‘PTOs would need to be involved in monitoring or funding this item.’ Memo-dated 10-18-14 titled Playground Mulch, Playground Equipment, & 2015-2016 Registration

1. **2015-2016 Registration**

-All of the programming planning in Feb/March 2015- and Registration will be

4-13-15 for April 23rd, 2015.

-School supply kits, are being talked about as part of online registration.

-Our school supply contract at Walker is signed through next year 2015-2016 with our current vendor.

-PTO directory may be done online.

VI. **Committee Reports**

-**Student Leadership Team**- -Thursday, November 6th, 2014- NEXT Student Leadership Meeting- Lead by Example is the theme….ironing out the details today. Lay-out, scripting and the building blocks pre-video. Good leadership games; committee is getting supplies for Thursday.

We need a strategy for the kids to raise the money for FEED OUR CHILDREN.

**-SELAS – Discussion**

Word of the Month. Word Calendar: November - UNIQUE.

Incorporating it into the schools. Discussions at home should be emphasized, and the words should be carried over to HOME. Homework, 1x a month, where the parent has a discussion with their child. “We want to engage dialogue with what is happening at school,” said Eric. People have liked the word on the wall. Fridays, Tracy and Eric have been running to collect their nominations for positive student examples i.e. ‘A Great Reading Buddy’. It’s an announcement and they get to choose the song! I ‘DARE to CARE’ bracelet. We are making it motivational so kids aspire to get the bracelet and pick the song!

**-Auction**

Walker Auction is March 7th, 2015 at Hinsdale Golf Club.

Last week we visited space and determined the theme.

Our nominated chairpersons are: Maggie Lynch and Amy Phillips.

Originally we discussed a Black and White - Hollywood Glam - Lights, Camera~ Auction

We are working on entertainment - and want it to be fun and a nice night out!

Old Hollywood Photos and screen back-drop with company logos was mentioned, combined with a red-carpet entry.

Stephanie Stern is looking into Dueling Piano’s - pricing them out.

Courtney Stach is looking into a DJ options and pricing for dancing.

Photo Booth Idea was suggested and thought to be cute/Hollywood.

Food Stations - mini-burgers, salad/veggie station, make your own pasta station and dessert with coffee

Uber - Contract Circling cabs from 10:30-11:30pm for those leaving to go home in winter weather.

Valet Parking is an option for those driving themselves.

Easels with Auction Items in a section as people mingle and have cocktails

Time of event will be - 7-11pm.

-**Holiday Bazaar**

Kids felt empowerment with the ability to buy a gift for their family.

It’s a good opportunity, do for others.

It’s a SELAS opportunity too.

Learning curve on how to handle Bazaar is part of the negativism from last year.

Shopping can occur after school. It would help be less distracting.

Children should tuck away shopping sprees and pick up after school.

We want the teachers to be on board, and have and have not situation could be an issue.

Two lunches and then after school. The dates we have in mind: December 10-11-12th?

Decorating Walker School & Holiday Luminaria- for the school should be coordinated. We need to locate someone selling it.

**Meeting Adjourned** at 11:30am