

Walker School GENERAL Board Meeting
Monday, May 18th, 2015

Attendees:

Eric Chisausky - Principal
Co-President - Tracy Korbus
Co-President - Anne Deis
Vice President - Lauren Walsh
Vice President - Dyan Ruth
Treasurer - Margaret Chung
Secretary - Courtney Stach
Communications - Carolyn Mannarino
Guest Speakers: Griffin Sontag **CHMS Principal** & Jenny Steinnebel **Social Worker**

Meeting Called to Order at 9:10am

- I. Call to Order
- II. Motion to Approve the Minutes from the 5/15/15 - Approved.

III. Treasurer's Report - Margaret Chung

- Operating Loss Projected at a \$2000 loss
- Fundraising - We had a \$22K projection - and made just under \$21K.
- \$33K Budgeted of Expenses and are projecting \$30K for next year.
- \$10-\$15K is the long range technology budget - We spent \$22K almost this year- new year almost \$10K is projected.
- This past year we are ending cash, \$30K at the end of the year in our bank account. In the new year, we will have just under \$40K.
- We are planning ahead and hoping not to have strange fiscal economic downturns, and want to be able to offer the same wonderful things for the school.

Treasurer's Statement

- \$94,000 cash balance, anticipation of it being near \$60K after expenses are coming through
- Our auction netting, \$18K, and our Spring Flower Sale was on the expense side - net us \$400-\$500.
- Motion to approve the budget.
- Budget was approved.**

IV. Principals' Report

- Updates across the district are coming in to close out 2015!
- There are many celebrations in May to join us~ Walker Wednesday News
- *Erin's Law Briefing - A social worker visits each of the classroom and safe touch and safe relationships. There is a specific Erin's Law curriculum mandated by the state; two different presentations for K-2, 3-5th. It goes pre-school to 12.
- *Cyber Safety - 4th and 5th graders on how to use social media safely.
- *Two Hour Staff Meeting today, the focus is school improvement.
- *In Focus Trainings have been going on for the last month or so, the materials are in and exciting. It's more application based and more successful than Everyday Math.

*Mrs. Fahlberg is having her grant presentation 'The Power of Reading' - 6-7pm. There is usually a reception, but Mrs. Fahlberg said she wants to find a way to give back to the school. She wanted to do a 'How to Your Read to Your Child'. Mrs. Fahlberg is sharing books she's used as a tool for teaching.

***Class Size** - We are reviewing the student class sizes in all of the grades. We have lost some students in 1st grade so 2nd grade will be 2-sections. We are watching the new Kindergarten Class. I will have a little more direction once we get finalization on registration and the Board's decisions tonight for D181.

*We have to look into the future and plan for teacher retirement.

*It's a very thoughtful process, the staff is eager to know who is where and I am working hard on this for 2015-2016.

*Dates: Kindergarten Sneak Peak, 5/29 and Mr. Jose Day 5/26!

*Report Cards are going home in the mail on June 9th this year because of the Teacher Institute Day. They are mailing them instead of sending home the larger envelope.

*Monday, June 8th is a final grading day.

*It's very busy right now and there is a lot of planning going on for the new year.

*There is talk of going to the Campus Portal at an Elementary Level.

*Student Leadership - Final Meeting, we did a video and recap of the year in review. It was a great year and learning experience for us.

V. Griffin Sontag - Jenny Steinnebel a Social Worker

- a. Parent Night - they pick up the kids moving into 5th and get them off to high school
- b. The kids came over last week, they got a tour, they met current 6th graders, they got to eat in the lunch room. They may want to practice the locker combination. Lockers and organization and getting to their classes. It causes the children angst. We want the best transition that we can have for them.
- c. On the Open House night at CHMS, we really try to educate you and teach you what to expect in the next 3 years of adolescence. We talk about who we are, what we believe and understand what is going on at the school.
- d. Social Workers' perspective, what should we be teaching our kids in 3, 4, 5? **Answer:** One of the biggest challenges is friendship. There will be a bunch of new friends, and this can cause some children angst. Social Media is a one of the other big things that Jenny talks to parents quite a bit. It's important to stick with your family rules. Recess during lunch does occur in middle school, and this a place where you can train inclusiveness now and then later.
- e. In 6th grade there is some jockeying for position among 'new friends' and 'new groups of friends'. Sixth graders try but don't know how to navigate that and they put others down in order to elevate themselves. Teaching them acceptance is most important. Adolescents like to dress like each other, act like each other, maintain their independence.
- f. Social Worker meets with kids every week who require assistance. When it rises to a principal level, then there is consequence.
- g. By 8th grade, there are kids that have found their groups. **Question:** What do you do for those kids that don't have their groups? **Answer:** They do find their way, by the beginning of 6th grade, Jenny is in the lunchroom all the time. Lunch is a way she can do a 'mini-lunch bunch among kids' and have a nice group gathering.
- h. Library opens 45-minutes before school and is open 45-minutes after school.
- i. An **Anonymous Tip Line** is a good idea and we are researching this for bullying.
- j. We added Science Olympia this year! We had some super-excited and talented kids/parents that went to state this year and there is a math team.

- k. Eco-Club is a fun organization offered to the kids that's science related.
- l. Study applied tech and update the lab for your 5th graders and 7th graders, and Griffin is dreaming of this being improved in future.
- m. Social Worker has extra assignment notebooks if lost, but work hard not to lose.
- n. We haven't talked about an homework assignment application on the iphones but we can discuss. That is a good suggestion; at present we are using assignment notebooks.
- o. In Focus Math is elementary and we are moving to Big Ideas in the middle school.
- p. Academics have always been great at the middle school, what has changed for the testing - there is a petition process for the up-a-level process. There is a committee from the district that is going to review those requests.

VI. Presidents' Report

- a. Staff Training on the new math materials
- b. Initial Feedback Very Positive on the In Focus Math

B. New BOE in Place

- President - Mridu Garg
- Vice-President - Richard Giltner
- Secretary - Jill Vorobiev
- *BOE asked to make final recommendation on class size
- *District is proposing 2 tier bus management system
- *District Parent Survey

VII. New Business

- A. Vote in the New PTO Executive Board Slate for the 2015-2016 school year. New slate was ratified.

Co-Presidents: Dyan Ruth & Lauren Walsh
Co-Vice Presidents: Jen Backus & Jacquie Korella
Treasurer: Jason Elk
Assistant Treasurer: Susan Tobolski
Secretary: Courtney Stach
Communications: Jill Levin

VIII. Upcoming Events

- A. Evening with Mrs. Fahlberg - 5/19 at 6pm
- B. CHMS Pizza Wars - 5/21 at 6pm
- C. Kindergarten Sneak Peak - 5/29 at 9am
- D. Field Day - 5/29 at 12:30pm and Spirit Lunch Day
- E. Recognition Assembly - 6/4 at 8:45am
- F. June Jubilee - 6/5 at 8:45am

Meeting Adjourned at 11:10am

