

PTO General Meeting
Wednesday, February 4, 2014

I. Call to Order 7:05pm

II. Approval of the minutes from the January 12th, 2015 Executive Board Meeting

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 12th meeting. Motion approved.

III. Treasurer's Report

- For iPad purchases, the P.T.O. is contributing the following: we are asking to increase from \$15,000 up to \$21K.
- A motion was made to increase the budget to \$21,042 to the purchase of the iPads.
- Motion to second the 'budget increase' for the technology was proposed and approved.
- The 5th grade outdoor trip was the biggest expense that we had to pay of recent.
- Jim Basketball Jones was the last check written. This involves team Building exercises, historical, cultural pieces of the Walker experience.

IV. Principal's Report

IPad Usage in the Classroom

- We are finishing up our winter benchmarks, triple data, and it gives us a dashboard view of our students.
- We are hosting this P.T.O. General Meeting to help provide an overview of Spring 2015.
- We are sharing our processes and goals with the technology purchased for our children and teachers.
- Our technology initiative is very important, you may recall the Orange Ruler fundraiser hosted this fall specifically for more/updated technology purchases.
- The Walker Technology program overview, is that we have 4 mac book carts that contain the MacBooks, 100 for the building, 270 some students, so we have a 1-to-3 ratio on lap tops.
- In addition, we have iPad minis, there are 2 to 4 per class room.
- There was a grant awarded through D181 foundation for a 1-to-1 initiative.
- Walker is on the ground floor for the iPad initiative.
- All technology is being used at an academic level- now and for use in year's to come.
- These technology items are tools, ***not toys***.
- You may recall your old trifold poster board presentation in the science fair? it has now been replaced with the iPad for dynamic presentations.
- There is strict rule on the iPads that they are only used for academics.
- Examples of this Year and Last Year: We've approved funds to purchase 65 additional iPad minis- a class set of 25 as a mobile cart to be checked-out. We wanted to be creative on how to make them available. Teachers want to use them and ***use them well***. The back counter top in the Learning Lab has two charging stations, and there are two charging stations for 10 iPads. We are up on the iCloud and more synched.
- There will be 12 or so in the Learning Lab. We wanted each class to have 6 iPads for small groups while working on different parts of the curriculum.
- The protective cases are also a part of the purchase process to preserve our investment as well as specific software for kids to learn with and from per grade-level.
- In addition, the Apple TVs are been purchased. Apple TV allows us to walk into any class and project on the screen. It's a quick and fast and nice way to operate and teach.

Flexible Grouping in the Classroom

- Eric is showing a couple clips on how this is being used. It encourages a style of collaboration among students and among teachers. They are working and developing the process. They are working on a graphic organizer, kids-peration, kids can chart their thoughts and bubble them together. This is fun in PE, they use iPads, and there are strict expectations. The students here are finishing a gymnastics unit. The sequence was 3-definitive movements to be evaluated by the PE instructor. The filming in the classroom 'ups' the performance across the board for the students.
- Mrs. Serrano did a Virtual Ocean project, it was a very integrated and involved the kindergarten students while filming it on the green screen.
- There will be Puppet Pal presentations, in the Turtle Tea on the 20th of February. They are doing a level of research for Grade 1.
- Board of Education will review the proposed digital learning initiative, do an in-depth study and build a curriculum.
- The technology plan is in a transitional phase. The question is, to what extent does technology improve achievement results?

PARCC Testing

- PARCC will occur twice per year, using this national standardized test.
- This is different than the ISAT. This will give us national comparison.
- There are some short facts, that you may or may not be aware of.
- The test will be 3-short weeks. There is an unpredictability quotient.
- At Walker, we felt our best bet - 1-week per grade level.
- It's going to be a 2-hour testing block, for example, 3/3/15-3/6/15, and we are starting with the 4th grade.
- The schedules per each school are very different, schools' have to figure out who's proctoring, and other kinks have to get worked out. The test block is 9:15-11:15am.
- The specials teachers have to take them and work around the testing block.
- The students need to be out of their seats more than any other week; the PE class to relax them and help them focus.
- There is anxiety with the test. Teachers are anxious, is it because of new technology, and other items.
- ISATS, we used to do gum and water to ease anxiety. We have to decide on this for PARCC.
- The typing classes are full at the park district level.
- The class run by Ms. Griffin is going so well too, so thank you Nicole and Kelly from CHPD.
- Teachers, we are going to teach to the common core, and use the data to drive our instruction.
- A single question has multiple sub-sets. The accessibility tools to copy, highlight and paste.
- PARCC is 100% aligned to common state standards. There has been a lot with conceptual and procedural knowledge: reason and use logic and open-ended questions.
- It's not a growth measurement.
- PARCC is not an optional test.
- Friday 2/6/15, the parents should be receiving the MAP reports. Then, we will be doing more test results in May.
- Eric believes this is the most meaningful one, and so these results are the most interesting. Teachers can own the time from the start to now, to see what they have done with the kids since they have been under their watch.
- We are reviewing each child's growth
- There is a difference between ***new knowledge*** and ***deeper knowledge***.

- School Board meeting, we take a look at what percentages met their growth, the numbers are very interpretive. MAP is the only measurement from Fall, to Spring to Winter.
- MAP is the one test you can really see that what you have been doing as a teacher is getting through to the child.

Commentary on Learning for All

- Tracy added, Learning for All, what does it mean? How does it affect my child?
- Learning for All is giving the teachers and the teams a better handle on what is going on with our children.
- The team is sitting down and zeroing in on each child. The benchmark meetings are good, we are looking at students 3rd, 4th, 5th grade math units.
- We want the most students able to do algebra by 8th grade.
- Parents have asked to challenge children more, and there are some students that have been moved up a grade level in math. If you have a child, learning at a faster pace than 3rd grade versus 4th grade, - they need more challenges, some just get it- depth of knowing happens more in 4th grade.
- There are things a classroom teacher can do by prompting a student differently, and a teacher has to understand the student and know how they think.

V. President's Report

- A. District will replace iPad Units that were part of the @D181 initiative, (1:1 technology).
- B. February 9th the BOE Meeting - Administration will ask board to approve the proposed Digital Learning Initiative.
- C. February 23rd BOE Meeting 0 administration will ask board to vote and approve the New Math materials that are currently on public display (Math in Focus for K-5 and Big Ideas for 6-8)

Stem Questions to Promote the 8 Mathematical Practices

- We are in the initial stages of the 8 Mathematical practices; it's a teacher's understanding of a child's ability.
- These questions stem from the common core.
- We have a group of kids we want to accelerate.
- How Can We Help This Child and How Can We Further this Child?
- We focus in on grade level learning and then work to help those kids who are struggling.
- .PDF on Stem Questions to Promote 8 Mathematical Practices will be attached to this document.

8 Mathematical Practices

- In February, 2/27/15, Depth of Knowledge, Karen Hess is coming to do a Teacher Institute Day. There is no school that day.
- The 8 Mathematical Practices are in all of the schools, and how to use tools and how to reason and logic a problem out.
- Flexible and fluid groups are helpful to do something flexible with them.

Five Essentials Survey - January 12-March 13

January 12-to March 13th - It was lowered to 20% response. It helps Eric to improve the school. It helps with parent participation. It's all the things parents want to say. There is a link on the district website. <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois-pilot>

VI. New Business

A. Auction

March 7th at Hinsdale Golf Club - Come Join Us for Lights, Camera, Auction! The event is 7:30-11:30pm and we are featuring Underwater People and a quality array of auction items. Tickets are on sale today on our P.T.O. website!

B. Spring Family Fun Night; the date is being determined.

C. From the Desk of the Principal is working nicely! Lots of excellent feedback and a great way to hear about our school!

D. New iPad Purchases (see above notation under Treasurer's Report)

E. Discussed Moving Science Fair to April 2015, after Spring Break

F. Spelling Bee is March 6th, 2015

VII. Old Business

A. Student Leadership Team - Feeding Our Children Worldwide

This was an excellent event with the Rotary Club, kids teamed to compile and package dried food in plastic sealed bags and box them for children in the Philippines. The kids loved the work and helping others and it was a wonderful experience for all! Thank you, Tracy and Anne for coordinating this event and thank you, Eric for your oversight and for all your support in helping our kids become leaders!

Park District Report

- 2/20/15 Daddy Daughter
- More Typing
- 3/13/15 Mother Son 'Minute to Win It'
- Pool Passes 16th of March non-residents start the 23rd
- Super Camp Expo - March 2nd at Prospect School

Meeting Adjourned: 8:30pm