

MINUTES PTO Executive Board Meeting

Monday January 12th, 2015

Attendees:

Eric Chisausky - Principal
Tracy Korbus - PTO President
Anne Deis - PTO President
Lauren Walsh - Vice-President
Margaret Chung - Treasurer
Ann Heenan - Assistant Treasurer
Carolyn Mannarino - Communications
Courtney Stach - Secretary

I. Call to Order 9:05am

II. Reading and Approval of Minutes December 8th, 2015 Executive Board - Approved.

III. Principal's Report

General Recap

- ¥ This is our first full week back, and so that's exciting! Martin Luther King Weekend is 1/17/15- 1/19/15.
- ¥ Eric catered breakfast, a thank you breakfast to the P.T.O.!!! Yummy and so nice. Thank you!
- ¥ MAP testing is going on this week, the winter benchmark to measure the student's growth from fall to winter.
- ¥ MAP is Common Core aligned grade testing: for grades, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th.
- ¥ Tracy asked about the FALL 2014 MAP math scores. Eric discussed some trends in the data.
- ¥ Do you attribute the lack of significant growth to a specific factor? Eric said you could not attribute the regression to one factor. Student growth so often comes down to delivery of instruction.
- ¥ Teachers are feeling better, despite the many changes and curricular demands of the recent. They are working hard to stay ahead of the curve.
- ¥ We are still working hard to find the time and place to get the teachers continued professional development to meet evolving demands.
- ¥ Monthly staff meetings, occur on Mondays. There is also a bi-monthly collaboration meeting; building based days and district based days where teachers and principals meet to collaborate and learn. These meeting are broken out by grade level and group focus meetings, to show what we need to learn- between buildings.
- ¥ For Example: Eric said his third grade teachers created a Google Classroom, where we are sharing websites, good teaching practices and sharing tools across the district

in third grade. If somebody goes to a workshop or a class, they are asked to share the information with the staff as not everyone can leave and go to the same seminars.

- ¥ Staff Development is a work in-progress.
- ¥ Professional Development person to inspire and grow the teachers.
- ¥ Eric mentioned an Einstein quote: If I only had an hour to solve a problem, I would spend the first 55 minutes to decide the right questions to ask and the last 5 to get the answer. Eric used this as an example to highlight the importance of questioning and inquiry in the classroom.
- ¥ Principal's Corner to be advertised in WWN.
- ¥ How does the information not get all spread out, what is the best way to post the Principal's Corner? Decision was made to post it to all media outlets for Walker and hyperlink from WWN.

Staff Meeting

- ¥ We are reviewing the concept of not making SELAS just a single week in the calendar.
- ¥ We are working to consistently review the monthly themes, RESPECT is the word for January 2015.
- ¥ J. Kyle Braid Awards - 4 and 4 are voted on for multiple things: grades and student leadership will be measured.
- ¥ At the Board Meeting, there was a conversation about the Math materials, the in focus math materials on display - Singapore Math. It's a process with the school board, highlighting and approving these materials.
- ¥ We are looking at the Metacognitive piece and what are we trying to answer and how are we getting there?
- ¥ Everyday Math- there is a belief that these materials don't work - doesn't allow kids the time they need to grasp the materials.
- ¥ **Math-In-Focus** pilot has an overwhelming happy review from both students and teachers.
- ¥ It's called **Big Ideas** at the Middle School level.
- ¥ It's 7pm - at Monroe School this evening 1/12/15, Committee as a Whole Board Meeting for D181.

PARCC

- ¥ We are getting ready for the PARCC testing.
- ¥ The PARCC assessment is March 2015.
- ¥ We talk about "prose and constructive responses".
- ¥ There is a composition piece where they are using the computers to compose.
- ¥ 'Why did John recognize his sister's feelings had been hurt?' is a very simple question from test in the past and the questions on PARCC may be a little more complex. Students have to respond in a type-written answer.
- ¥ The questions on PARCC involve more detailed answers and require more thought and then the typing piece to answer the questions.
- ¥ Sample PARCC question: 'You have to identify the main characters on PARCC and describe how the characters *evolved within the story?*'
- ¥ Theme and characters are being analyzed deeper than a basic question.

- ¥ There are practice tests for the PARCC online.
- ¥ PARCC info has been tight on the tests, so teachers and parents cannot prep as well as they wanted to. The results of the PARCC testing may be lower as this is the first time we've used this testing system.
- ¥ Third graders are having trouble with the concept.
- ¥ The testing will occur in March 2015 and end of year, testing.

IV. Treasurer's Report

- ¥ Year End - we are at a little over \$80,000 in Walker School account.
- ¥ Holiday Bazaar went well and we netted \$2200 and 90% goes back to Penguin.
We have a loss of 82% versus a loss of a 100%.
- ¥ December and what happened with the Charitable Trust, we mentioned they screwed up between P.T.A. and P.T.O. but now everything is okay there.
- ¥ Outdoor Ed, we came in under budget!
- ¥ The Field Trip reserve has not been dipped into yet.
- ¥ We approved the budget last month, we need to increase it again. Student Leadership increased from \$750.00 to \$2,000 and Long Range Strategic Planning Budget increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000.
- ¥ We were talking about purchasing 40 iPads with app credits. We wanted to make sure it was useful. We also took into consideration - local business campaign, FUN RUN for 2014 and having had money left over from last year.
- ¥ Eric met with his staff and got their wish list, (65) iPads in total, an additional 2-for each per classroom, 24-25 on a cart. The idea would be 10-12 flexible iPads, floating into the classrooms as needed.
- ¥ In December, we approved an increase in Strategic Planning budget from \$10K to \$15K but now we may need an additional \$7K based on the recent staff meeting.
- ¥ We are purchasing the 60-iPads with this revenue.
- ¥ We have spent the money early this year: an entire classroom can use iPads this year, not just the 3rd grade.
- ¥ As we do this, we need to share the information of what they are doing with the technology. We want it on the website too, like video-clips. We want the response and pay-pal link on the website for the auction.
- ¥ Interview a teacher, to speak about the use of iPads in the classroom would be very beneficial.
- ¥ We need to also talk and promote our Learning Commons space which was a \$12,000 investment. The Principal's Corner is a great thing to advertise and share this information.

V. Technology Purchase

- ¥ Margaret Chung proposed to increase the Strategic Planning budget by another \$7K so that the Strategic Planning budget is increased to \$22,000. Margaret proposed the increase, and Lauren Walsh seconded it.

VI. Communications Report

- ¥ Carolyn is typing Flyer to Jan Martin for next week.

- ✧ Communications is moving along nicely, and the report is status quo.
- ✧ Principal's Corner will be a monthly hyperlink from the WWN.

President's Report

AESOP- Substitute Placement Schedule

- The President's Meeting, the teachers can select a preferred sub.
- Teachers can enter-in a preferred sub into the request system, and that is a fantastic idea.
- January 5th, 2015 the district began to use this new substitute teacher program.
- Now, there will be smart phone app, immediate technology response to sub-requests.
- It's tiered and pre-set, and just went live on January 5th, 2015.
- The old way of securing a substitute teacher, required a 'sub-caller' to call and secure subs across the district and this was a highly stressful job in some cases, now technology relieves the stress and increases smooth transitions from teacher's request for a sub to securing the substitute teacher.

On-Line Registration

- ✧ Gary Frisch- talking about Infinite Campus for online registration.
- ✧ He is taking time to work through the kinks, and familiarize himself with the registration process.
- ✧ He is going to use the P.T.O. presidents to test by the end of February 2015.
- ✧ Kindergarten Registration will be 2nd week of April 2015. It's not etched in stone but that is his guess.
- ✧ They are working on an evening registration option at one localized place.
- ✧ It's better offered at one building and keep consistent.
- ✧ P.T.O. fees specific to registration should be handled via sign-up electronically.

Five Essentials -

- ✧ Five Essentials survey is an important measuring tool school to school and it requires parent participation.
- ✧ Historically, the state required 20% to 30% school-parent participation. They lowered the participation percentage to 20% from 30% so that so that they could get more surveys collected across the state.
- ✧ We encourage Parents to let them know it's coming and to please participate.
- ✧ The Five Essentials review the School Improvement Plans.
- ✧ It's a survey that the state asks the school districts and teacher and parents need to complete.
- ✧ The survey takes a 360 degree look at the school.
- ✧ You are looking at the environment, facility and cleanliness.
- ✧ The responses come in from teachers and parents. At the Middle School level, the kids actually fill the survey out.

Digital Learning Initiative

- ¥ The Foundation is supplementing this 18-month process and a technology curriculum planned around the district.
- ¥ Dr. White will be able to replace outdated units across the district, and continuing to build our supplies of iPADs.
- ¥ The General Meeting for January 26th is going to be moved from 9am, that day, to February 4th at 7:00pm start-time so more parents can attend. Tracy is working to find out if Kurt is available to help share the technology piece in our curriculum in tandem with our iPad purchases. This is our Digital Learning Initiative.

VII. Committee Reports

Student Leadership

- ¥ Thursday, January 29th, is the next after school date for Student Leadership Meeting.
- ¥ Thursday, February 12th is the next Student Leadership meeting.
- ¥ Rotary Club if Hinsdale is matching our \$600 for Student Leadership. Thank you, Tracy!!

Winter Fun Family Night Date Change

- ¥ Winter Family Fun Night- Amy Phillips and Michelle Carvelato, moving the date to April 2015.
- ¥ We didn't want to have it backed up to closely to the Auction date of March 7th, and February 6th and the 13th are too soon, so we are looking in a date in April 2015 - **SPRING FLING**, inside, but more of a Spring theme.

Auction & An Understanding Auction Funds: What They Pay For in Child's Lives at Walker School

We want parents to understand the need and use of the technology purchases, and support our effort.

Things to Share with the Parents that they May Not Know:

- ¥ Technology, Room Funding for Classroom Stipends- Supporting Our Teachers.
- ¥ Attached below, are some examples of the requests from the teachers per classroom for the 'extra needs' that get paid through the classroom stipend monies.
- ¥ Serrano- Ceiling Hangers, Binders, All About Me, Popcorn Party - ABC Days, \$200
- ¥ Perkowski - Desktop Word Wall - Stickers, Sharpener, Miscellaneous for Treasure Box
- ¥ Lee- Books and Supplies for Classroom, Stair for Class Room, Super Glue
- ¥ Rug, writing tools, rugs, organization/office
- ¥ Science based curriculum - at Outdoor Ed Field Trip and is an excellent team building and science field trip away from their families. 5th graders at Walker love this field trip and look forward to it every year. The kids learn, do physical team building courses and dissect owl pellets and do other fun science studies on nature. It creates quite a learning experience and a great memory for our children.

The **Walker PTO** would like to thank you for your continued support over the years. All of your generous donations go toward enhancing the education and overall education

experience for all students at Walker. For your information, we have listed below some of the top items/activities that make up the bulk of our PTO budget.

- Strategic Planning

Budget - \$10K-\$15K annually. Over the past 3 years this budget has funded over 110 iPads and a new learning lab!

- Assemblies and in-school field trips

Budget - \$6K annually

- Classroom Stipend

Budget - \$5K annually and funds things such as books for the classroom and additional classroom supplies that reinforce what the students are learning and make the classroom more inviting. Although all teachers are given a classroom budget out of the building fund, we help provide those extras that promote a more dimensional learning experience

- Outdoor Education

Budget - \$3,500-\$5,000 annually (depending on number of 5th grade classes). This Walker experience is a science based curriculum and also incorporates physical education and foster independence and collaboration. This is undoubtedly one of the students most memorable experience!

- Spirit Lunches

Budget - \$3,100 annually

- Classroom parties

Budget - \$2,000 annually

- Staff Appreciation

Budget - \$1,800 annually

- Miscellaneous

Student Leadership

Spelling Bee

Family Fun Nights

Ice Cream Social

Art Awareness

Betty Crocker

New Parent Welcome

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

¥ For 2015-2016 we discussed the following for the Holiday Bazaar Schedule:

¥ 1-Evening

¥ 2-Afterschool

¥ It was a success and welcomed by the parents and students again this year!

Box Top Funds Discussion

¥ Susan Sebulushi's number to Lisa Deering, to help take over box top collection.

¥ Ann Heenan is talking to Lisa Deering.

¥ Box tops needs to know that Walker P.T.O. changeover from Walker P.T.A.

¥ There should be a check that came in November for the Box Tops.

1. Box Tops collection should be all caught up.

1. 2014's came in November so that is the normal box-top check pattern.

1. Parents need to check the expiration date on the box tops.

Adjournment - 11:25am