

**Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2021**

**Meeting called to order and minutes from February meeting approved.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Nothing new to report.

**Correspondence:** We received a thank you note from Walt Whitman staff. The PTA brought in a dessert food truck for staff for Valentine's Day on the day before February break.

**Presidents Report:**

Thank you to Tracy Trivax for organizing the sweet treats truck for our very deserving staff.

A big thank you to Mrs. Beach for working with our children on the not just art fundraiser. We raised \$675 with her help and all of your support. Thanks to Dana Kuropatkin for organizing the fundraiser as well!

Thank you to Melanie Eisenberg & Cindy Ho for making the Valentine Craft so fun for the kids. They were responsible for the really cute birdhouse that your children brought home and we really appreciate their efforts.

Thank you to Lucille Polidoro for bringing in 2 great virtual assemblies last month - the multicultural dance show and Corey the dribbler. They were fun performances for the students and a nice way to break up their school days.

Thank you to Robin Greenstein, Karen Ostrick and our entire 5th grade committee for the zoom cupcake art event. It was a really fun way to spend the evening and support our 5th graders. Also, a big thank you to Lauren Cremer and Tara Ginsburg for designing, ordering and delivering the awesome sweatshirts and tshirts that the 5th graders received.

Speaking of 5th grade, we will be sending out our application for the 5th grade committee shortly so 4th grade parents look out for it soon!

Thank you to the nominating committee, Dana Kuropatkin, Courtney Schlow, Tara Ginsburg, Tracey Meyer and Michelle Landauer for putting together our 2021-2022 slate. We will be hearing from them later on and will be taking a vote on approving the slate as presented. We know that it is a difficult and important committee and really appreciate all of your help and hard work.

We are also forming our Awards Committee. For those that are new to the school this year or haven't attended the June PTA meeting in the past, the Awards Committee recognizes several PTA members for their hard work and contributions to our school at the last PTA Meeting of the year. If you are interested in being on this committee, please let us know now (feel free to write into the chat) or contact us in the next day or two.

PARP (Pick A Reading Partner) started this week and we have already had many fun activities in and out of school for the students and many more planned which will be discussed later in the meeting. Big thanks to Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Beach, Mrs. Trembley, Ms Kozlowski and Mr. Altieri for last night's bedtime stories. We have the best teachers and administration at Walt Whitman and greatly appreciate you all for taking time out of your evening to read us books. The kids loved it! We will celebrate PARP this year for the entire month of March so get ready to continue our Reading Safari!!! PARP Bingo night is this Monday at 7pm!! An email went out this week - please register to play by

tomorrow so we can send you your bingo cards over the weekend. It's a free event and there will be fun parp related prizes!! All PARP info and events are on the PARP tab on our website - <http://waltwhitmanpta.org> and will also be discussed in further detail later in the meeting.

It may be a month away but it's never too early to start working on your talent show acts!! Our talent show will be on zoom this year and family acts are welcome. We will have great prizes and can't wait to see our Wolverine talent on display.

Speaking of Wolverines, if you have not received your hat order yet, please reach out to us ASAP and we will deliver them. We still have hats from our second order so if you missed them the first time around, you can still order by going to our website.

We are looking for a tech savvy parent to help assist with the management of our website and possibly with sending email blasts. If you or someone you know of in the school is familiar with Wordpress or another website hosting platform please reach out to us. This is a very easy way to be more involved with the PTA without too much of a time commitment and even a role that can be done easily by a working parent. Thank you in advance for considering helping with this important role!

There are a ton of exciting events coming up. Please remember to check our website, emails and read the weekly newsletters to find out information. As always, please feel free to reach out to either one of us if you have any questions.

### **Mr. Snyder's Report:**

-Thank you to the PARP committee! We've had dress up days, decorating the halls, Lion King music as students came in for Music Mondays, bedtime stories, and Friday scavenger hunts.

-Feedback from the federal government says states have to do assessments. NY applied for a waiver but we haven't heard back yet. The exams for grades 3-8 begin at the end of April. We are hoping to have more information for the next PTA meeting in April.

### **Arts in Ed:**

Through the wonders of technology your school can enjoy the experience of a live Dare to Draw! assembly. During Mark Kister's Live Webcast Assembly, you'll feel like he is right there with your students! Mark will teach your kids to Draw! Draw! Draw! just like always, except he's in his studio, and you're at your school, classroom or home computer.

The lesson is live and personalized, broadcast through your own technology through Zoom or Meet. He'll answer your questions and talk to your students while he teaches kids LIVE how to draw with his award-winning zany technique.

### **Board of Ed Report:**

February BOE Meeting

Dr. Rogers- Time of year to prepare for the budget of the 21/22 School year. Discussed many moving parts due to the unusual year and how to prepare for September. Focused on putting together staffing plans to bridge multiple models to plan for the fall.

- o Staffing plans for more students in school
- o Advanced planning with multiple options
- o Anticipating no matter what the fall looks like that there will still be parents that will

prefer to send their kids virtually. That will be a part of the structure plan and is very hard to predict but again they are preparing.

- First Budgets Meeting- Dr. Ruffo reviewed the Capital and Administration Sections of the budget. This Presentation is posted on the website.
- District Wide Safety Plan
  - o Fall of 2020 Cuomo signed a law to adopt a district wide safety plan to submit the continuation of operations plan in the event the governor declares a public emergency during a communicable disease and pandemic time- plans are due April 1, 2021
  - o Reviewed protocols- Primary responsibility- safety health and security of the Syosset school community
  - o Plan is on the Syosset's District website for review
- Superintendent's report:
  - o Governor announced on February 1st, schools permitted to have high risk sports. We had already started a sports program, Winter season happening now, with fall then spring season. We had a sports training program in the fall that Syosset athletes participate and continue on physical fitness and sports specific skills.
- Testing students periodically so that their participation in sports can protect others and continue with the program.
- Introducing spectators- spring sports will have live streaming.
- The state does Not require spectators contact information so it is too big of a risk to have people at the events watching for contact tracing purposes
- o Syosset Park- Amazon Warehouse - this project proposed as of last summer.
  - Following potential impact of construction on the site
  - How construction can be done more safely. The School District has no approval authority of any kind. They are considered an interested party and will continue to make opinions known and will give opinions to ensure safe protocols.
  - The BOE is continuing with involvement of interest and will continue with updates.
- o No Audience to the Public
- o Filling the Vacancy on the School Board for Chris Ulrich
  - The Board decided to leave the seat vacant until the Annual District Election which will be held in May.
  - The community will have the opportunity to vote on a replacement.

### **Box Tops:**

Box Tops need to be dropped off at the school (or Maggie's house) by 3/25. Scanned receipts can be done at any time. If anyone has questions, they can email [magpbright@gmail.com](mailto:magpbright@gmail.com).

### **Communications Committee:**

The Spring Communication Conference is set to meet with the administration on Tuesday, May 4th via zoom. The committee will have an in depth conversation with the admin on the following topics:

Technology

1. What are our school year/PTA events & assemblies going to look like for the calendar year of 2021 - 2022?

If you have any questions regarding these topics, please e-mail them to [susansuriel@gmail.com](mailto:susansuriel@gmail.com). Questions are due back by Friday March 12.

**Directory:** Access to the directory is for paid PTA members for 2020-21 school year only. Contact Dana Kralstein at [dana.kralstein@gmail.com](mailto:dana.kralstein@gmail.com) if you joined the PTA and are unable to access the directory. Also contact Dana if you have changes or additions or siblings to update.

**Fifth Grade Committee:  
Graduation:**

The district will discuss 5th grade events at a later date. We hope that we will be able to have some outdoor 5th grade events once the weather gets warmer and more people get vaccinated. The district is aware of the importance of celebrating 5th graders this year and will revisit it once they have more guidance from the governor.

**T-Shirts**

The t-shirts and sweat shirts have been given out to the in house students. Virtual student can pick up the shirts at the school during school hours.

**Legacy Tiles**

For the first time at Walt Whitman, we are providing an opportunity for your child to reproduce their artwork on a beautiful ceramic tile which will be displayed at the school on a "Legacy Wall."

Mrs. Beach has been working with the students on this amazing project. We ask that each family contribute \$30 as a 5th grade fundraiser and to cover the cost of the tile.

Payments can be made by clicking the link below.

<https://waltwhitmanpta.memberhub.store/store/items/712626>

**Health & Nutrition**

March is National Nutrition Month. In celebration of the month, the Health, Nutrition, and Safety committee helped coordinate bringing in Food Play Productions into each of the elementary schools. Students will enjoy a virtual juggling show, while learning the benefits of healthy food choices and exercise. Also ask your children about the healthy nutrition tips that will be shared throughout the month.

**Nominating Committee:**

The nominating committee announced the 2021-2022 slate. PTA members on the call voted and approved the slate. Congratulations to our new and continuing officers!

## **PARP:**

PARP stands for Pick a Reading Partner. It is a program designed to foster the love of reading in children by asking adults to set aside at least 15 minutes a day to read with children.

This year, we proudly invite you to travel with us on a “Reading Safari” and join Walt Whitman Elementary School’s “Safari into reading” challenge which started this week and will last for the whole month!

There will be many fun events throughout the month of PARP with bedtime stories read by our beloved teachers and staff every Wednesday evening.

Please get ready for other fun events such as a PARP/book themed Bingo night and the kids will have weekly mystery readers in school, and much much more.

Please be sure to have your child log their reading each night on the Google form to be entered to earn prizes for the most amount of minutes read! Prizes will be announced on Fridays!

We can't wait to meet you in our reading jungle!

## **Talent Show:**

The talent show will be on Wednesday April 7, 2021. The theme this year is Walt Whitman's got talent! It will be remote via zoom and we will have some really fun changes this year. We plan on having some of the WW staff as judges, some special appearances and performances, and there will be swag bags as well as prizes! Also new this year the children can perform solo and as a family act. We can't wait to see all the talent the kids have in store for us! Any questions, contact myself or Lauren Cremer.

## **Upcoming Dates:**

3/12	WW Spirit Day
3/15	Budget – Board of Education Mtg, 8pm
3/25	SEPTA General Meeting, 7:45pm
3/25	PARP Animal Awareness Field Trip
3/26	WW Spirit Day
3/26	PARP Closing
3/29-4/2	No School (Spring Recess)
4/7	Walt Whitman's Got Talent, 7:30pm
4/8	Zoom PTA Mtg @7:30pm
4/9	WW Spirit Day
4/20	Budget & BOE Mtg, 8pm
4/23	WW Spirit Day
4/28	SEPTA General Meeting, 7:45pm

**PTA Meeting Times:**

Thursday, April 8th at **7:30pm**, Monday, May 3rd at **7:30pm** & Wednesday, June 9th at **7:30 pm**

**Spirit Dates:**

Friday, March 12th- Friday, March 26th- Friday, April 9th- Friday, April 23rd- Friday, May 7th- Friday, May 21st- Friday, June 4th- Friday, June 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 25th