

Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes
June 9, 2021

Meeting called to order and minutes from May meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report: New budget vote for next year and vote of confidence for use of funds over the summer. Both passed.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder's Report:

Several thank you's:

- staff rec lunch
- PTA Presidents, especially outgoing Pam Bahiri
- parents
- security staff
- teachers
- office – Karen G. has replaced Ms. Magnani. Ms. Macchia is retiring this year
- Mrs. Marinace is also retiring this year

-Field Day is this Friday. Masks will be optional since the event is outdoors.

-Masks will also be optional at 5th grade moving up ceremony

-Thank you to the social committee at Whitman for contributing to the Student Fund

-Theme of the year – “less attitude, more gratitude.”

Presidents Report:

Thank you for coming! We can't believe this is the last meeting of the school year!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Snyder and all of the teachers and staff for the unbelievable amount of work they have put into making this year a successful one. We know how much behind the scenes time and energy were spent making this year safe for our children and for that we are truly grateful.

If you have any reimbursements to submit to the PTA, please submit them by June 15th. If you have any questions, you can contact our Treasurer, Theresa Seedorf.

Being a 5th grader is a 'big deal' for students. It's a status that they've worked hard to achieve that comes with 'special' privileges and events that they have looked forward to since kindergarten. The Fifth Grade Committee is a group of 5th grade parent volunteers who have been working together with the school staff to ensure that every child has an extra special 5th grade experience during their last year at Whitman. They have been busy all year planning for the yearbook and all of the fun events, while it was not a traditional year, they still made things as exciting as possible for our 5th grade students. Many thanks to Carla Delia & Susan Suriel for chairing the committee as well as all of the committee members who worked to make this year so special.

Janine Comanducci
Lauren Cremer
Melissa Forman

Jamie Korn
Tara Ginsburg
Robin Greenstein
Barbara Krilov
Tracey Meyer
Pam Newman
Karen Ostrick
Lucille Polidoro
Jennifer Poitrimol
Janine Rubendall
Bailey Springer
Lauren Weissman
Audrey Zak

We would like to especially thank our outgoing 5th grade parents on the committee for all of their hard work throughout their years at Whitman. You will all be greatly missed.

Staff Rec

Our staff is the best & we hope they enjoyed our celebration for them. Special thanks to our committee chairs, Inna Choi, Robin Greenstein, Karen Ostrick and Lucille Polidoro as well as the committee members, Dana Kuropatkin, Jen Poitrimol and Carla Delia, for helping to put together an incredible celebration, especially given the restrictions this year.

Field Day

Thank you to Lauren Cremer for designing and ordering the awesome T-shirts for field day that all of your children should have received by now. Also, thank you to Melanie Eisenberg for helping out with field day this year too. Let's hope for some good weather for Friday!

Arts in Ed

We would like to give a huge thank you to Lucille for all of her years bringing us incredible and educational assemblies. Most recently, the kids had a great time with hollyrock entertainment participating in a virtual game show. Our last assembly of the year was a virtual anti-bullying show yesterday that the kids enjoyed. Thank you, Lucille, you will be incredibly missed at Walt Whitman and we truly appreciate all of the effort you have put in to our arts in Ed program over the years.

Class parents

Thank you to all of the class parents this year! Usually, the highlight of being a class parent is being able to see your child in his or her school environment. While that couldn't happen this year, we truly appreciate all of you for volunteering anyway to give the children fun class parties and organize ways to thank their teachers.

We would also like to thank our awards committee, Melissa Forman, Cindy Ho, Dana Kralstein, Dana Kuropatkin, Janine Rubendall and Tobi Wechsler who also had to think outside the box this year and worked hard to figure out a way to honor the very deserving award recipients virtually. We can't wait to see your awards presentation!

Quick reminder - Don't forget to order your school supplies - the deadline is June 30th.

Also, thank you to everyone who signed up for committees. We will reach out over the next few days to committee chairs and please save the date...our welcome back picnic will hopefully be in September!

Most importantly,

We are very excited to introduce and congratulate our 2021/2022 executive board:

Co Presidents

Jacqueline Braunstein

Melissa Forman

Treasurer

Theresa Seedorf

Corresponding Secretary

Courtney Schlow

Recording Secretary

Lauren Grams

VP Education

Karen Ostrick

VP Events

Cara Kaplan

VP Fundraising

Dana Kuropatkin

VP School Store

Pamela Bahiri

Delegates

Lauren Cremer

Tara Ginsburg

Inna Choi

Tracey Meyer

Gabby Platz

Tracy Trivax

Congratulations to all! We know it will be a wonderful year!!

Have a wonderful, safe and healthy summer!!

Board of Ed Report:

Syosset BOE Meeting

May 10, 2021

Appointment to Tenure at Walt Whitman

- Mariana Beach
- Rebecca Garrett
- Megan O'Toole

Congratulations! They earned tenure in 4 of the hardest years. We thank them for their hard work and we are so lucky to have them join our WW family.

Superintendent's Report

- Remedial Action Work Plan at Former Cerro Wire Property
 - o Amazon Warehouse must comply w/ the NY State Brownfields Program.
 - o We had been waiting for the Dept of Environmental Conservation which announced its final remediation program. It is no diff than draft plan proposed in Dec 2020.
- SCSD had offered critiques to the draft plan, requesting additional soil testing, use of additional soil testing to drive decisions regarding soil removal, more robust community air monitoring plan instead of generic plan, which were not accepted.
- Universal Pre-Kindergarten Grant Research
 - o In this year's state budget, SCSD received a \$670,000 grant (\$5,400 per student) for UPK.
 - o This is new, it has never been allocated before for SCSD.
 - o The grant allocation is far too low and our schools do not have space, especially now during Covid – it is not feasible for Sept but the District is looking into models.
- Statement on Incident at SW
 - o The District investigated a bias related incident at SW.
 - o There were multiple incidents, diff students expressed diff types of bias, at least one of them became physical. Racism, bias, intolerance, and hate has no place in Syosset.
 - o Teaching kindness, empathy, respect, and tolerance must start young and never end.
- Diversity & Inclusivity Task Force Update
 - o The Taskforce kicked off January 2020, right before the pandemic.
 - o Taskforce Mission: to explore opportunities to encourage and expand upon the socially cohesive climate within our schools and among the student body, staff, administration, and community.
 - o 2020-21 school year by ethnicity: White 51%, Asian 42%, 5% Latino, 1% Black, 2% Other
 - o 4 Subcommittees:
 - Student Experience
 - Curriculum & Professional Learning
 - Community Outreach
 - Human Resources & Hiring Practices
 - o Attorney John Gross from Ingerman Smith
 - o Explained privacy laws that prevent the District from providing specific information to the public.
 - o Explained the difference btwn restorative justice vs exclusionary discipline.

Audience to the Public

- 2 Seniors asked the District to consider allowing seniors to be back at school as often as possible.
- 19 parents expressed concern regarding the incident at SW and offered suggestions for more extensive efforts for District-wide work promoting inclusivity.

May 18, 2021

School Board Election Results:

- School and Library Budgets passed.
- Stillwell Propositions failed b/c one of the two failed and both needed to pass to move forward.
- Shany Park, Brian Greico, and Lisa Cosica were elected as BOE Trustees.

Directory: Access to the directory is for paid PTA members for 2020-21 school year only.

Contact Dana Kralstein at 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. Feel free to send sibling info for incoming kindergarteners and I can add them over the summer.

Fifth Grade Committee:

Moving up ceremony - 6/15 rain date 6/16 & 6/17

Breakfast - 6/21 rain date 6/23 - this date is subject to change if the yearbooks come in early
Picnic - 6/14 rain date 6/23 (combined with breakfast if it rains on 6/21 and 6/22)

Legacy tile - please order if you have not done so already; if you are a virtual parent and your child has completed their legacy tile, please reach out to Pam Bahiri

Staff Recognition:

The Staff Recognition Luncheon Committee had our even on Friday, May 14th. We hoped to show appreciation for our building teachers and staff for their tireless and incredible work. It was an outdoor event with individually packaged lunch boxes catered by lavarone's. They each received a small surprise gift. It was a really nice event even though parents couldn't be present.

Upcoming Dates:

6/11	Field Day
6/14	BOE Mtg @ 8pm
6/14	5 th Grade Picnic (rain date 6/23)
6/15	5 th grade graduation
6/15	SEPTA General Mtg @8pm
6/18	WW Spirit Day
6/21	5 th grade breakfast (rain date 6/23)
6/25	WW Spirit Day
6/25	Last Day of School!

Spirit Dates:

Friday, June 18th – Friday, June 25th