

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

Meeting called to order and minutes from September meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing new to report. There has been some fundraising since the last meeting.

Correspondence: None

Presidents Report: We have 194 paid PTA members, but we are trying to break 200 in our first round of membership. You must be a PTA member to participate in any PTA events. The car wash and fun run were postponed due to a pause in elementary school events from the delta variant. The book fair will go ahead outdoors this week. We are going to be able to have in person events with parents attending soon. We will send updates once we have digested all of the new information. We are looking forward to the fall festival on October 29, 2021.

Class parents have been selected and there will be a zoom meeting next week to discuss more with the class parents.

Thank you to Leslie Won and the Fifth grade committee for a successful decal fundraiser.

Thank you Lauren Cremer for a successful spiritwear fundraiser.

Don't forget to send money for the book fair with your kids or sign up for e-wallet.

Kindness day with chalk drawings took place last year. Looking to do it this year as well. The kids will draw with chalk outside of the school

Mr. Snyder's Report:

We have seen an uptick in students who have to be quarantined this year versus last year. The way quarantined kids are being educated is different than last year. The classroom teachers will post the information on google classroom. District employees will go over the work with the parents and students.

Pick one family for your quaran-team. One family who can pick up your kids if you can't make it.

There will be volunteer opportunities for PTA events for the parents. You will need to fill out a family ID check in for vaccination status.

There will be three clubs offered for this year. Student council, science club, and peer mediators.

Syosset was ranked well in Niche rating. Walt Whitman teachers were ranked #1 in Nassau County, #2 in the state and the Walt Whitman school was #11 in the state and #34 in the country.

The kids just took the NWEA. There are still some students taking the assessment so scores are not ready yet. Grades 3, 4 and 5 took the Cogats for Project Beyond assessment. Goal date is December 13th for going into Project Beyond.

Can 2nd grade recess out on the big field to play sports? Yes, some days. Mr. Snyder will poll the students to see what they want to do.

Arts & Ed:

Corey the Dribbler (former Harlem Globetrotter) Performing on October 14th.

Book Fair:

We are so excited to have our book fair outside and in person on Thursday, October 7th and Friday, October 8th weather permitting. Some classes will attend Thursday and some classes will attend on Friday. A flyer was sent home today with a letter attached explaining a lot of important information. Please attach a post it note if there is a specific book or series you would like your child to purchase. We are so grateful that the district is allowing us to hold the book fair in person but this year will be very different. We will be very limited with book fair staff so please be understanding if you don't love the books your child comes home with. We will try our best! Also, for the first time we will be using ewallet- the link to sign up for that is on the letter sent home- we will also blast it out. Ewallet allows your child to use your credit card to pay. Of course we will be accepting cash and checks as usual. This year we will be pre selling the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid book called Big Shot. The info was blasted out last night and is on our website. That will be available for sale until October 15th and the books will be sent home once Scholastic sends them to us. We are looking forward to an amazing sale! Please reach out if you have any questions.

Box tops:

Currently we have \$16.30 in box tops, goal is \$1000 for the school year.

Thanks to everyone who is scanning their receipts we are up 4 dollars since our last PTA meeting.

Please make sure to download the app and scan your receipts and look for bonus offers on the app for select merchandise that can give us extra money.

Directory:

Directory report - Michelle Kim and I are co-directory chairs so feel free to send any questions or requests to either or both of us.

1 - Our free online directory is only available to paid PTA members so please sign up for this year!

2 - Look for an email from the Directory Spot when your directory account has been reactivated for this year. Your same login info will work from past years once you receive that email.

3 - Once you join the PTA, please understand it takes us several days to update the directory. If it has been over 3 days since you signed up, feel free to email to check in.

4 - All of the info I have has been updated in the directory, including classes.

5 - Any new students or changes to your info, you can fill out the form online or just email me directly. If this is a new sibling but you are already in the directory, just email me the family connection and I can copy the info across your kids.

6 - If nothing has changed about your contact info, you DO NOT need to fill out a google form.

Discount card:

The discount card is back by popular demand! Support our PTA and save money locally with our wallet sized discount card. This program features local vendors offering discounts to any cardholder! Cards are \$25 each and valid for one year. You do not need to be a Whitman family to purchase a card so feel free to share with local family and friends! Many vendors from last year such as Sugar crazy, Victoria's market and Dennys - new additions this year as well such as dirty taco and the girls room. Cards are available to purchase on the pta website!! If you have already placed an order, they will be delivered within the week. Thanks for your continued support!

Fall Festival:

The Fall Festival is going to be held on Friday, Oct. 29th. It's going to be held during school hours. We are still waiting on guidance on what activities are going to be allowed but at the very least the children will be decorating pumpkins in their classrooms like they did last year. We are

hoping they can play some games as well. As soon as we know more information we will reach out to the committee members for help.

Fifth Grade Committee:

Thank you everyone for supporting the chrome book decal fundraiser! It was a huge success hopefully the car wash will be rescheduled in the spring! 5th grade t-shirts will be distributed this week to the students.

Membership:

The PTA membership is nearing 200 members. We are so appreciative for everyone's support. For those parents and teachers that haven't become members yet we are asking if you could please do before October 21. The first NYS PTA dues are due October 31 and it would be fabulous if we had 250 (or close to 250) members by that first deadline.

Pie Sale:

We will be partnering again this year with White Post Farms. Support our PTA by purchasing delicious pies and breads at discounted prices for your Thanksgiving Dinner. Orders must be placed by Monday, November 8th. Look out for the order form.

Reflections:

This is an art program and it's a national competition. The theme this year is "I will change the world by". You can use any form of art, there are six categories. Art has to be in by October 22nd.

Mr. Snyder is offering a free homework pass to those who enter the competition.

SEPTA:

Please consider joining SEPTA if you haven't already. SEPTA is proud to serve and represent all schools in the Syosset Central School District and focus our efforts on students that receive services from the district ranging from speech, occupational therapy to inclusion classes, counseling and nursing services for food allergies. Membership is \$12 per person and once you become member you will be included in all emails and events sponsored by our unit. We are the only PTA that sponsors speakers to help and support parents with various issues.

October 25th Meeting at 7:45pm

Is our next meetings. We will be having speaker: Taiisha Calbert-Foster- the psychologist from South Woods MS will be presenting to membership how to get our children to overcome fear and worry through practical strategies that children can do with parents. This will be applicable to all student ages.

BOCES sponsored entry to Vanderbilt Museum on October 16. 9AM-11PM. Free for special need families. Preregistration is required. Go to <https://www.vanderbiltmuseum.org/featured-events/>

Fundraising

We are looking for donations of items that SEPTA can use in their raffle baskets. Any new items in original boxes or with tags we would happily accept. If you have any items, please [email syossetnysepta@gmail.com](mailto:syossetnysepta@gmail.com) so we can arrange pick up.

School Board of Ed Report:

September BOE Meeting

Superintendent's Report

Busing- Dealing with the challenges of the shortage of drivers. They are not alone and will continue to work through this.

Safety Considerations- Overall goal to make this year more normal than last year while continuing to keep everyone safe

Universal Pre-K- We receive a grant from the state to fund the Universal Pre-K program. In Dr. Rogers' email provides an update from the BOE meeting that states there will be 99 seats available for 4 year old children at no cost to families in the district. He also states a link will be provided for a lottery registration and posted on the district's website. They will be working with three locations to house the Pre-K, North Shore Synagogue, Greentrees and Kiddie Academy.

Audience to the Public

-Inquiry or plans with updates on Stillwell Fields- Community members who live close to the fields want to make sure they are provided with any updates. Dr. Roger's responds that they don't know if the county is offering the sale.

Spiritwear:

We sold a total of \$9,000, which is up from last year. There is a delay in shipment. We should have them in two weeks and then they will be delivered.

Upcoming Dates:

10/6 - 10/8 - Scholastic Book Fair

10/11 - School Closed Columbus Day

10/18 - Monthly Board of Education meeting 8pm @ South Woods

10/25 - SEPTA General Meeting 7:45pm via zoom

10/29 - Fall Festival (students only during school hours)

PTA Meeting Dates:

11/2 at 7:30pm on zoom, 12/7, 1/4, 2/2, 3/3, 4/7, 5/10, 6/8

Spirit Dates:

10/8, 10/22, 11/5, 11/19, 11/24, 12/3, 12/17, 12/23, 1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/13, 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17, 6/24