

Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2022

Meeting called to order and minutes from December meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing new to report. There has been some fundraising since the last meeting. Please consider being treasurer next year and contact Theresa if you are interested.

Correspondence: We received a very generous donation from the Silberstein family again this year. Thank you!

Presidents Report:

We have a number of fun virtual events coming up for the kids to enjoy.

Thank you to the class parents for all of the fun class parties for the holidays.

The kids enjoyed the music program from Arts & Ed with Brent Daniels.

Thank you to the teachers and staff. We are so grateful for everything you do for our children.

International day is this Thursday.

Tonight we will vote for our nominating committee. They make the decisions for the executive board for next year.

Food pantry will run until next Thursday January 21st. Please bring non-perishable goods.

There is a competition by grade. Winning grade gets a movie day.

Virtual bingo is going to be coming up on January 19th. Please register through the email sent out.

Our mask fundraiser is still going on. See our website for the link.

The black chromebook cases are out of stock, we will post the link when they are in stock. Please keep checking if they are in stock.

Mr. Snyder's Report:

Thank you to all of the WW staff for pivoting through all of the changes this school year.

Thank you to all the families for the holiday gifts for everyone in the building.

There was a glitch with the NWEA today but 1st grade will do the math assessment tomorrow instead.

Check your email for a change in the quarantine rules from the district.

Arts & Ed:

We have Kate McMullan coming on January 18th. She will be going through her books with the kids. We will be doing a book sale for her books.

Bingo night:

We will be having a virtual family Bingo night on Wednesday, January 19th at 7pm!! An email went out today - please make sure you register to play by Sunday so we can send out your bingo cards. It is a free event and there will be lots of fun prizes and special guest bingo callers! Hope to see you then!

Box Tops:

We are at \$39 for box tops rewards. Please go on the app and scan your receipts.

Directory Spot:

Directory is available to PTA members only. Please become a PTA member and please submit information for the directory.

Discount card:

Our discount card price will be greatly reduced to \$10 just until the end of this month - buy for your local family and friends!! Cards are valid until September 2022. Limited supply available!

Cards are available to purchase on the PTA website!! Thanks for your continued support!

Fifth Grade Committee:

There is a valentine's day fundraiser going on. Fuzzy shorts and pants for sale. See the flyer that was mailed out. Orders due by January 28th.

5th grade parents need to upload their pictures for the yearbook.

Food Drive:

We are doing a food drive starting tomorrow and going through next Friday, 1/21. The grade with the most donations will get a movie day in their classroom.

Health Nutrition and Safety:

Please keep an eye out for our January Newsletter as well as two upcoming seminars

Cyber Bullying on January 31 at 7pm with Police officer Yolanda Turner will discuss the different types of bullying, some that go unnoticed by parents and the very real dangers of cyber-bullying - how to identify and how to handle these situations.

The second is a Celebration of Calm on February 9, at 7:30pm.

10 WAYS TO STOP YELLING, LECTURING, & POWER STRUGGLES. Get your kids to listen the first time. Stop defiance, disrespect and yelling. Stop whining, tantrums and sibling fights. Get kids off video games/screens without a fight. Create stress-free mornings, homework time and bedtime. perfect for kids aged 2-22.

International Day:

International Day is this Thursday, and we are so very excited. The presentation will be virtual and the countries presenting are: Greece, India, Australia, Egypt, Syria, China, and Norway. It should be a lot of fun this year as we created a storyboard where our student will become WW detectives and track Crusty Covie around the globe in order to get back our beloved WW Wolverine which was stolen by Crusty Covie. Simple games and questions about the presenting countries will lead our WW Detectives to the retrieval of the WW Wolverine. It should be fun so don't forget to ask you kids about it after school on Thursday.

Nominating Committee:

We took a vote for the non-executive members of the nominating committee. A majority voted yes for Amy Kern and Tracy Brown as committee members and Cindy Ho as alternate.

Parent Resource Group:

The Parent Resource Group will be hosting the Celebrate Calm virtual event on February 9, 2022 at 7:30 pm. This is a wonderful program for all parents in the district to attend. With Tips to Create a Calm Home, Stop Defiance, Disrespect and Yelling presented by America's Calm Coach Kirk Martin and his son. The flyer has been sent out. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Here is the link to rsvp:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfAeXa7657W6j_iyyWoKOO9hke1cE0w3HORbyvAketqScT_Qg/viewform

SEPTA:

SEPTA's next meeting is January 27 at 7:45pm. Several of the school social workers will be present an overview of the Social Emotional Learning supports provided K-12 (groups, curriculum, etc.). The district's Social and Emotional Learning curriculums and interventions are based upon the NYS Social and Emotional Learning Competencies along with the School Mental Health Education and Culturally Responsive-Education frameworks. Competencies include topics such as self-awareness, social awareness, ethical decision making, and more. At the elementary

level, buildings are using the Harmony curriculum, in addition to groups such as (but not limited to) social skills, anxiety management. At the middle and high schools, the buildings are using the Advisory and Wellness Programs, in addition to groups such as (but not limited to) stress management, executive functioning skills, and mindfulness. The district uses SEL supports such as Syosset's PRIDE, Restorative Practices, and Positive Behavior Supports. Please join us to learn and ask questions regarding these relevant programs.

Someone special craft:

With the cold weather and uptick in Covid, we are going to move the craft to later in the year (around mothers day and fathers day). Hopefully we can have parent participation for the crafts and run them outside.

School Board of Ed Report:

December 2022 BOE Meeting

Dr. Rogers Update:

- Priority to maintain in person learning
- Communicating to the community often with updates
- Continued issues finding bus drivers, keeping them healthy, substitute drivers are thinning out due to illness
- Dr. Rogers will continue to watch on a daily basis for busing updates
- Current numbers are concerning and are 4x higher than this time last year but good news is we understand the virus and people are getting vaccinated. The curve is looking similar to South Africa, hopeful data like South Africa even though current numbers are still high we will likely see it taper off and start to decline.
- Surge of students 3-5 days past NYE in quarantine and isolation. Approx. 60/40 split isolation (sick)/quarantine (contact). Surge will pass.

NY State New Rules for Quarantine/Isolation

- No Quarantine for close contact if vaccinated
- Eligible for classroom instruction and bus if un-boostered
- Eligible for extracurricular activities only if boosted or else 5 day quarantine
- Quarantine for exposure for unvaccinated students/staff reduced to 5 days
- Isolation for individuals testing positive for COVID-19 reduced to 5 day minimum (regardless of vaccination status)
- Must not have symptoms that persist

Audience to the public:

- Vaccinated vs. unvaccinated children – parent states they should be treated equally for close contact and quarantine, guidelines should be the same for everyone
- Request for more learning support virtually for those kids who have to be home
- Dr Rogers response – The School District has to follow the state guidelines, if we stray from the state guidelines we will expose ourselves to liability. Now that the quarantine time is soon reduced to 5 days there will be less issues needing virtual support. Students in isolation that have covid and should be resting not online. Those quarantined will have a shortened time frame and will get assistance from school when they return.

Rapid Test Distribution:

- Was a huge success

Upcoming Dates:**January:**

- January 3rd - First Day back from Winter Recess
- January 4th - PTA Meeting 7:30pm via Zoom
- January 10th - Monthly Board of Education Meeting 8pm South Woods
- January 10th - January 21st - Food Drive for Long Island Harvest
- January 13th - International Day
- January 17th - School Closed - MLK Jr, Day
- January 19th - Virtual Bingo Night

February:

- February 1st - School Closed - Lunar New Year
- February 2nd - PTA Meeting 7:30pm via Zoom
- February 14th - Monthly Board of Education Meeting - Budget Presentation 8pm South Woods
- February 21st - 25th - School Closed - Presidents Week

PTA Meeting Dates:

2/2 at 7:30pm, 3/3, 4/7, 5/10, 6/8

Spirit Dates:

1/14, 1/28, 2/11, 3/11, 3/25, 4/8, 4/13, 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17, 6/24