

Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2022

Meeting called to order and minutes from March meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nothing new to report.

Correspondence: We received a letter from Long Island Cares. 2,050 pounds of food was donated by our families and they are very thankful.

Presidents Report: We cannot have a zoom and in person PTA meeting at the same time due to technological constraints. We feel the in person meetings are better for asking questions and people being more engaged.

Thank you to the PARP committee for all of the wonderful activities throughout PARP. Special thanks to Karen Ostrick and Mollie Newman as leaders of the committee.

Please submit your name for fifth grade committee for next year.

Fun fair will be on April 28th, 7-9pm.

Sip and Shop night will be at Crest Hollow on May 11th at 7:30pm.

Family Fun night is on May 31st. It will be a Family Fun Run and Dance from 7-9pm.

We are voting on the school district budget as a PTA. The budget will keep all current curriculum in place. Not to exceed the tax cap of 2.78%. Tara Ginsburg made a motion, Inna Choi seconded the motion to vote on budget. We voted as a PTA and a majority of the PTA members voted to approve the school budget.

Awards committee is to honor teachers, staff and PTA members. Please reach out if there is anyone you want to nominate.

Please sign up through sign up genius for the closing of PARP on April 11th for your child's class. You can read outside with your kids and their class.

Mr. Snyder's Report: We are in the process of wrapping on PARP. It's been fantastic. The kids have really been enjoying it, especially the reading logs.

Grades 3, 4, and 5 finished up taking the ELA state testing. Day 1 was great. Day 2 was challenging. Day 2 was the writing portion and it was hard on them. We need to focus more on writing as a school and a district. The pandemic contributed to us falling behind. Next year, the state testing will look a little different as they change the test each year. Tuesday April 26th and 27th, the Math state testing will take place over 2 days. The science exam is for 4th grade only. Next year there will be no science exam and then the year after will be for 5th grade.

Mr. Snyder sent out his placement letter for next year. Parents are welcome to make requests and all letters will be read and considered, however, all requests will not be honored. The school spends a lot of time on placement. For next year, there will be 3 classes for each grade except for 4th grade. There will be 4 classes for 4th grade.

Mr. Snyder addressed a question about kids eating in the cafeteria. He discussed how to rotate kids into the cafeteria to eat lunch. There are a lot of issues with space in the cafeteria. The cafeteria is only 1,400 square feet and the kindergarten classrooms are 1,200 square feet. They

will continue to eat outside when they can. A parent suggested the kids rotating classrooms for indoor recess so they can be in different classrooms with different kids.

We have a lot of holy days coming up. Ramadan, Eid, Lent, Easter, Passover, etc. We should reflect and appreciate how different we are but also how we are all celebrating during this time.

Awards: For those new to the school, the last PTA meeting of the school year, which will be held in the evening on June 8, 2022, is also an awards ceremony for those parents and staff members who have gone above and beyond throughout the year or throughout their time at Walt Whitman (for those with graduating children). It is truly a special night so we hope everyone can attend and we are so happy that it will be in person this year. We will be sending out a form soon if you would like to nominate a parent or a WW staff member to receive an award. All nominations will be kept confidential. Please submit your forms by April 25th and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Book Fair: Book fair will be outdoors May 17th. Look out for sign ups.

Fun Fair: We are really excited for Fun Fair on April 28th 7-9pm. Playground Athletes will be there to do relay races, etc. Arts and Crafts, DJ, Photo Booth, Raffles, etc. Please buy tickets, raffle tickets and food in advance using the link on the flyer. \$10 per child. Contact Cara Kaplan or Michelle Landauer for any questions. [2022 FunFair Flyer \(mcusercontent.com\)](https://www.mcusercontent.com)

Family Fun Night: Family fun night is back and will be held outside at Walt Whitman on May 31st. We are working on a really fun family “color run” followed by a glow dance party with a DJ! This is a free event for all Whitman families. Please save the date and watch out for the flyer! If you want to help with this event please let Tara or Niki know!

Fifth Grade Committee: Thank you for sending your 5th grader in wearing their 5th grade t-shirt for pictures. Reminder for upcoming fifth grade dates:

April 29th- 5th grade sweatshirt event hosted by Graff Lab Studio (In school event) - No parents needed

June 3rd- field day

June 8th-field day rain date

June 13th-Graduation

June 15th-Graduation raindate

June 14th-5th grade Picnic @ driftwood - no parents needed

June 15th-5th grade Dance

June 21st-5th grade Breakfast - no parents needed

Also, the legacy tiles are in and the 5th graders will work on them in school.

PARP: PARP stands for Pick a Reading Partner. All month long children have participated in activities and recorded their minutes read to engage in additional reading at home every night with family and friends.

the PARP reading Olympics were a huge success and Closing ceremonies will take place on Monday April 11, outdoors (weather permitting). Parents are invited (6 per class) to be with their child’s class as they “drop everything and read” bring some books and read side by side with your child’s class! Please add your name to the sign up genius at your class’s designated time.

Monday's event will also include our last parp dress up day- a "dress like your favorite athlete or Olympian" day!

And last but not least, Monday will also be the last day of our wildly successful "parp bedtime stories" series. We hope you've enjoyed hearing stories read by so many of our beloved faculty and staff.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful, community and learning event. We've had a lot of fun and hope you have too. Links for the final bedtime stories and to record your child's reading for the last week can be found on the parp calendar or the pta website.

Planting Sale/Planting Day: Plants sale is coming up. No pre-ordering plants, you can buy them the day of the sale. The plant sale will be on May 6th and the planting day at school for the leftover plants is May 9th.

School & Community: The Syosset Council will be running a new drive to support The Center for Developmental Disabilities which is located directly across from SHS starting 4/25 thru 5/20. There will be two ways to donate. At your school, where a collection box will be provided and through an Amazon link located on the flyer. We are very excited to be helping out our local community! Thank you all in advance!

School Store: Today was our first school store in 2 years and it was a huge success. Thank you to all of the parents who sent their children in with money today - we made \$944 which is definitely a record in school store history and we hope the kids had a great time shopping during their lunch period! For those that are new to the school, the school store is open on select days after the kids have eaten lunch and before recess. Future dates will be announced soon so please don't worry if you forgot to send your child with money today - the scented erasers will all still be there next time! At School Store, your kids can get the coolest school supplies all while supporting the PTA and learning about money - no credit cards or checks! As of now, we cannot have any additional volunteers but we will keep you posted if that changes and we are hoping next year will be back to normal with parent sign ups for each school store. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

SEPTA: Our next SEPTA meeting will be in-person on April 26th at South Woods Middle School in the cafeteria at 7:45pm. We hope you can make and look forward to seeing you.

School Board of Ed Report:

March BOE Notes

Superintendents Report-

- District Calendar has been updated for 21-22. Please note the closure for Eid-al-Fitr has been moved from Tuesday 5/3/22 to Monday 5/2/22. Additionally, the 22/23 calendar was amended as well to 4/21/23 closure date. To view the district calendar, you can reference the district's website.
- Masks optional shift has gone well and everyone has been treating each other with kindness and individuals are feeling safe
- The district has updated their covid protocols for illness, exposure and isolation. Again, this has been updated and posted on the district's website
- The HS performed Adams Family which they did a remarkable job on. A clip of it is available on the website

· Some more exciting news! Girls Varsity Hip Hop Kickline team won Nationals!! Syosset Varsity Kickline's Hip Hop team was recently named the Small Varsity Hip Hop National Champions 2022 at the NDA National Championship Competition in Orlando Florida. Wooooo Hoooooo!!

· Dr. Rogers briefly mentioned bringing back the topic of Start times for the HS now that the Covid surge is coming off as being a hot topic. No more details have been mentioned

Audience to the Public-

· Parent discusses vaccines- discussions detailed whether or not it will be mandatory and concerns. For more details in this discussion item, you can view it from the BOE video.

Dr. Rogers responded that it is up to the state whether or not to mandate the vaccine and SCSD follows the state vaccine mandate protocols. It is not up to the BOE or Superintendent to make this decision.

Annual District Election & Budget Vote - April Report

Our committee currently has a flyer available with all the budget information dates as well as a Toolkit that includes important information on the budget, voting locations, voter registration and links to previous presentations. We also included key definitions of budget terminology. These materials were sent in the weekly PTA update emails. Please be sure to review these materials and share with neighbors who may not have seen the toolkit.

This year the annual district election and budget vote will take place on May 17. Should there be more than three candidates running for Board of Education trustee positions, Syosset Council of PTAs will host an in-person Know Your Candidate forum on Wednesday, May 4 at South Woods.

The last Budget Information Session is Monday, April 11 at 8 pm at South Woods. All meetings are live streamed so you can watch at home. You are also welcome to attend in person. The budget hearing will take place prior to the May BOE meeting on Monday, May 9 at 8:00 pm.

We will continue to provide updates at our PTA meetings but please feel free to bring any questions or concerns you have to me.

Staff Recognition: Staff appreciation is in process. We will be doing a breakfast for them so they can all be together. The theme is "You Donut How Much We Appreciate You".

Upcoming Dates:

April:

- April 11th - Monthly Board of Education Meeting 8pm South Woods
- April 14th - 22nd - **School Closed** - Spring Recess
- April 28th - Fun Fair 7 - 9pm

May:

- May 2 - **School Closed** - Eid al-Fitr
- May 9th - Budget Hearing & Monthly Board of Education Meeting 7:45pm South Woods
- May 10th - PTA Meeting 10:30am
- May 12th - Kindergarten Orientation
- May 13th - Staff Recognition
- May 17th - 18th - Spring Book Fair
- May 30th - **School Closed** - Memorial Day
- May 31st - Family Fun Night 6-8pm

June:

- June 3rd - Field Day
- June 8th - PTA Meeting 7:30pm
- June 8th - Field Day rain date
- June 13th - Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- June 13th - Monthly Board of Education Meeting 8pm South Woods
- June 14th - Fifth Grade Picnic
- June 15th - Fifth Grade Dance & Moving up Ceremony Rain Date
- June 20th - **School Closed** - Juneteenth
- June 21st - Fifth Grade Breakfast
- June 24th - Last Day of School!!

PTA Meeting Dates:

5/10 at 10:30am, 6/8

Spirit Dates:

4/8, 4/13, 5/6, 5/20, 6/3, 6/17, 6/24