

**Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes**  
**September 6, 2022**

Meeting called to order.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Sunita presented the budget, which was also emailed out. We voted on the PTA budget and it passed. It has not changed since the end of last year.

**Correspondence:**

Courtney read a card from the staff thanking us for the welcome breakfast. Also a thank you from Mrs. Garrett for the Jenkins award was read.

**Presidents Report:**

Melissa Forman and Inna Choi are the PTA presidents this year.

Thank you to the Fifth Grade Committee from last year for a great year with great events. Thank you to Jacqueline Braunstein, our outgoing PTA president, for a great 2 years.

Thank you to Mr. Snyder for all of your hard work throughout the year.

Thank you to the WW staff for an amazing year.

We have a lot of fundraisers up and running. Thank you Lauren Cremer for heading up Spiritwear this year.

Our discount card is back, please buy one for \$25.

In our October meeting we will be voting on our PTA bylaws, there are no changes.

Please read the chain of command and follow it for any issues that come up. Start with the PTA Committee Chairs for any issues specific to PTA events. For school related issues, please follow the chain of command on the website and start with the classroom teacher for concerns.

Please continue to come to the PTA meetings and stay active.

Please become a PTA member. You need to be a paid member to join committees, attend activities and access directory spot.

Sign up for our newsletter. It is emailed out every Monday morning and provides information and sign up links.

Join our facebook and Instagram pages. They are private.

Please fill out the Directory spot form if you are a new family or have a kindergartener.

Class parent applications deadlines are Friday September 16, 2022. There will be three class parents for each class.

**Mr. Snyder's Report:**

Thanks to our staff for getting the building and classrooms up and running for the opening of school.

New staff members are Laura Pariente as school nurse. All new members are listed on our WW

website. Ms. Afkham is back from Robbins Lane. Ms. Kozlowski got married and is now Mrs. Witzenbocker. Ms. Tropeano is now full time at WW instead of splitting between schools.

Enrollment is at 386 students. When Mr. Snyder started in 2013 there were 232 students in the building. WW is growing.

Music is on a cart this year because of how big the student class has become. OT is still on the stage in the gym. There are no classrooms left.

Next week grades 3, 4 and 5 will take the Cogat exams. This test is used for the Project Beyond program. The district has a strict standard of measure for Project Beyond.

The following week the students will take the NWEA benchmark exam. They will take this exam 3 times a year. There is a rate of error, especially for the younger kids. The test is designed so the students will miss 50% of the questions. As they answer the questions correctly, the questions will get harder. If they miss, they will go back down a level. If they go too fast a sloth will pop up telling them to slow down.

Picture day is September 20, 2022.

For transportation issues, we have a transportation department within the district to help as a liaison. Please reach out to the building to let them know but also the transportation liaison at the district, Claudia Harges. Please do not go straight to the superintendent with any issues.

Indoor recess will be in the classroom 4 days a week and one day a week in the gym. Space is a big issue given the class size. The students will eat in the cafeteria everyday.

Buses will generally get to WW around 3:15. They run routes for HBT first and then go to WW. There are not bus monitors but occasionally teacher aides will ride the bus. As of now, playdates cannot be accommodated using the busing system. They are too crowded.

Lunch is prepared at the middle school or high school and brought into WW in a warming oven. They bring in the choices based on what has been ordered in the past. It's possible they run out of a particular choice.

### **Board of Education:**

The Board stopped by to say hello and introduce themselves. The PTA brought up concerns regarding the amount of space at WW and the expanding number of students entering WW. The PTA is not happy with Music being on a cart and OT being on the stage of the gym. Dr. Rogers has a committee engaged in a demographic study and future enrollments to understand the space needs at each school.

### **Book Fair:**

The purpose of this committee is to raise funds for the PTA through the sale of books. It is also a great opportunity for parents to volunteer in the school!

The fall book fair will be held on Thursday, October 13 and Friday, October 14th.

During the book fair, parents are needed to help the students choose age and subject appropriate books, as well as to make sure that the students have enough money to purchase the items they want. A portion of the proceeds goes directly to our PTA.

We will post an online sign up sheet for volunteers a week or so before the fair.

Many thanks in advance to everyone who volunteers to help with the fall fair. If you are interested

in joining the committee please let us know! More information and a flyer will be available in October.

### **Box Tops:**

It's a program to help earn cash back by purchasing products. Download the box top app. Then you can choose our school. Simply scan your receipt within 14 days of purchase. You can also scan digital receipts.

### **Cultural Unity:**

The Cultural Unity committee is having their first meeting on Wednesday 9/7 so I'll be able to report an update for the October meeting. It can be taken off the agenda for this month. Looking forward to a great year ahead!

### **Curriculum Enrichment:**

Steve Metzger is the award-winning author of more than 80 children's books, including "The Way I Act" (Character Development), "Pluto Visits Earth" (Science), and "Yes, I Can Listen" (California Reading Association Honor Book). During his lively interaction presentations on September 15th, Steve will:

- Read and discuss his new graphic novel, "The Bumble Brothers: Crazy for Comics!"
- Connect his books to attributes of mindfulness, including positively expressing feelings, making good decisions, paying attention, kindness, confidence, resilience, and gratitude.
- Discuss the importance of writing ("Lincoln and Grace") and developing "Voice," one of the six traits of writing ("Toto's Story").
- Show how a picture book is created--from idea to publication.

[www.stevemetzgerbooks.com](http://www.stevemetzgerbooks.com).

### **Directory Spot:**

Directory Spot – Michelle Kim will be handling the online directory this year. Feel free to send any questions or requests to her email ([michki21@gmail.com](mailto:michki21@gmail.com)).

1. The online directory via the website or mobile device through the Directory Spot app is free, however, you must be a paid PTA member to gain access. Previous members who have not signed up this year will be locked out this week.
2. If you have signed up, please look out for an email from the Directory Spot when your account is reactivated. The same login from last year should still work.
3. If you have changes or updates that needs to be made, please fill out the form online or email me directly and I will get your information updated.
4. All the information that is available up to this point is on the directory as of today (9/6), however, we do not have class information and we will not be receiving it this year. This is a tremendous change from previous years where we were provided class lists with student names in each class. That being said, we will be depending on class parents to help us fill in the blanks for each student's information on the directory if it is permissible.

### **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 21 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, Dirty Taco and Dennys - new additions this year as well such as Danny's Chinese kitchen and Dakotah salon. Cards are available to purchase on the pta website!! If you have already placed an order, they will be delivered within the week or come stop

by to see us wherever we are selling. Thanks so much for your continued support!

### **Fall Festival:**

Hi everyone, I'm Marina Meyerowitz. The fall festival will take place on Halloween, Monday, Oct 31<sup>st</sup> during school hours. The kids can wear costumes to school that day. Its outdoors on the field where we hire a DJ and set up various stations for the kids to play games and have activities such as pumpkin decorating, relay races, dance party, etc. It is a really fun event for the kids. We could use help, so if you want to be a part of the committee please let Cara Kaplan or myself know.

### **Fifth Grade Committee:**

We are so excited to make this a memorable and fun year for our fifth graders. We will have two fundraisers this month. Our first will be on Monday, September 19th. Dannys (a new delicious Chinese restaurant in Syosset) will donate 10 percent of proceeds from your order, whether its take out, eat-in, delivery or online order when you mention Walt Whitman. They have been very generous to our school so let's all order dinner that night to support this local restaurant and our fifth graders. Our second fundraising event will be the car wash on Saturday, September 24th. This will take place at Whitman and we will be charging twelve dollars per car. Please tell all of your friends and neighbors and come have your cars washed by the fifth grade students. Fifth grade parents, we will be sending more information about the car wash soon. We appreciate your support!!!!

### **Newcomer Social:**

The Gofmans are hosting the newcomer social on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> from 6pm-9pm at their house. This is for kindergartener parents. Please come and meet the other kindergartn parents.

### **PARP:**

PARP 2022-2023 is almost here! Two weeks of school! October 17-October 28. 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, PARP is early in the year! We proudly invite you to join with us for the "PARP Pumpkin Patch!" We will read and participate in activities and projects around a fun, fall, farm theme. This year's PARP will start off with an exciting school-wide "opening ceremony" event on Monday, October 17th. Kids will be encouraged to dress up on that day in their farm friendly best... Think: Farmer, Farm Animal, John Deer, etc. Prior to opening ceremonies, you will find a fun "pumpkin patch" project that will come home with your child by Friday, October 7th. We encourage you to have your child complete the project so they can be represented as part of our school-wide decorations and display. There will be many other fun events throughout the month of PARP, including a cozy day of reading with PAJAMA DAY, outdoor celebrations, and much more.

A calendar including all of the other fun events for the month will come out before the start of the event! And the most important part of PARP... 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!

### **Reflections:**

This years Reflection's theme is Show Your Voice. The first deadline will likely be mid-late October. I will have more details for you at next months meeting but if you think your child would be interested in participating please have them start thinking about what this theme means to them and how they would want to present it. For those of you not familiar all students are invited to participate each year to use various forms of art or media to express their take on the theme. Participation is usually low so we encourage you to please take a shot this year.

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

Introduction - Tara Ginsburg & Carly Laffie

We are here to give you monthly updates for the monthly BOE meetings along with helping our WW PTA advocate and answer questions.

Brief Superintendents report:

- Updated 2022-2023 COVID Guidelines are posted on the Syosset Website for your reference.
- Dr. Roger's was excited to announce this summer was the Largest enrollment in summer school. Students have the opportunity to learn all year round.
- 20 major projects were going on this summer and the community approved the energy performance project. Some facilities project underway, include:
  - solar power installed at the high school,
  - roof replacements at the high school and South Woods,
  - improvements to the walkway at Pell Lane to make it safer for pedestrians and athletes,
  - boiler replacements and underground fuel storage tank removals, and
  - two athletics projects: refinishing the high school main gym floor (which is now complete) and adding lighting to the new turf field, which we hope to have operational in early October.

No Audience to the Public.

### **School Store:**

For those new to the school, the school store is a PTA run fundraising store that sells fun school related supplies that your child can buy during their lunch period on select Thursdays this year. Parents can volunteer to work a shift on the PTA website. The shifts will be by grade. The first school store will be held on Thursday, September 23rd. Kindergarten parents can begin volunteering in October.

The School store teaches your children to count money and understand it's value with inexpensive, fun supplies to choose from such as scented pens, emoji sharpeners, smart phone shaped memo pads, lots of pencil case options and so much more. The cost of these items range from \$.25 to \$5. We will also be selling water bottles, insulated lunch bags, excuse pads and school magnets. Prices for those items will be sent out via email. We only accept cash. Don't forget to volunteer on the PTA website but please limit your sign up to 3 sessions per child so there is space for other parents. It's a fun way to see your kids and help raise some money for the PTA!! Always feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions!

### **SEPTA:**

What is SEPTA?

SEPTA is a district wide PTA whose primary role is to promote acceptance and inclusion of all by providing resources and support to parents, teachers and children who receive special education services through an IEP, 504 Plan, related support services such as resource room, counseling, speech, occupational or physical therapy and students who are twice exceptional or gifted. Please join below!

<https://syossetsepta.memberhub.com/store>

We hope you join us on September 20th at 7:45pm at South Wood's library.



SEPTA Membership  
Form 2022-23 final.pdf

### **Spiritwear:**

Lauren Cremer displayed the spiritwear that is available for sale. Contact Lauren to buy. Spirit day is every Friday.

**Welcome back picnic:**

The Welcome Back Picnic will be held this Friday, September 9th from 5:00-7:00 PM and will be a really fun event. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the picnic:

- Admission is free but you must be a Walt Whitman family to attend
- Food will be provided by Frantonis but must be pre-ordered by tomorrow through the link that went out with the flyer; there will also be an ice cream truck with ice cream for purchase
- This is not a drop off event. Please supervise your children and help us to keep all the children safe and away from the parking lot.
- Children who need to go inside to use the bathroom must be attended by an adult.
- Please bring a blanket or towel to sit on.
- Members of the Syosset varsity kickline/cheer will be attending to show off some of their skills!
- We need parent volunteers at the event so please contact us if you would like to help out!

We can't wait to see everyone there!!

**Upcoming Dates:****September:**

9/8 - WW Open House 6-7:30pm

9/9 - WW Welcome Back Picnic 5-7pm

9/12 - Monthly Board of Education meeting 8pm @ South Woods

9/16 - WW Welcome Back Picnic (raindate)

9/20 - Picture Day

9/20 - SEPTA General Meeting 7:45pm

9/24 - 5th Grade Car Wash

9/26-9/27 - NO SCHOOL Rosh Hashanah

9/30 - Newcomer Social

**October:**

10/3 - Monthly Board of Education meeting 8pm @ South Woods

10/5 - NO SCHOOL Yom Kippur

10/6 - WW PTA Meeting 7:30pm

10/10 - NO SCHOOL Columbus Day

10/13 - 10/14 - Scholastic Book Fair

10/17 - PARP Begins

10/24 - NO SCHOOL Diwali

10/31 - Fall Festival (in school)

**Spirit Dates:**

Every Friday.