

Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes
January 5, 2023

Meeting called to order. December meeting minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report – Sunita Hansraj

Please remember to submit the check request and revenue collection forms which can be found on the PTA website. We have \$120,000 in our bank account.

Correspondence – Courtney Schlow

There was a thank you card received from Karen and Bridget from the main office to thank the PTA for the generous holiday gift for the office staff and custodians.

Presidents Report – Melissa Foreman & Inna Choi

Thank you to the Silberstein Family Foundation for a very generous donation to the PTA. We really appreciate it and will put it to good use for the students.

Thank you to our class parents for all your work on the class parties for the holidays.

Thank you to Lauren Grams and Cindy Ho for organizing the Holiday Boutique.

Thank you to Karen Ostrick for organizing the Circus event, everyone really enjoyed it and the 5th graders especially.

Thank you to Tracy Brown for organizing the Holiday Toy Drive.

Thank you for those who have been contributing for the class board games.

January 23rd will be multicultural week.

Parents night out tickets are now on sale. All proceeds will go to PTA. Please buy a ticket and it is open to anyone, not just WW families.

Mr. Snyder's Report

Thank you for your generosity for the holidays.

Please sign up for the Pick Up Patrol app. There have been emails and reminds going out about it.

Report cards will be posted tomorrow by 10am.

NWEA will be over the next few weeks.

There is a new snack list posted for school parties. Please review it. You can now use outside vendors for class parties, however, the class parents have to use a form for outside vendors so you need to plan in advance so parents have time to review.

Tomorrow for grades 3, 4 and 5 the students can mix up who they sit with in the lunchroom.

New Business:

Lauren Grams made a motion to start an optional STEM/Robotics club during recess for all grades and to use PTA funds for the club. The club will be run by the Race Hub, which is owned by a WW family. The motion is to use funds from the PTA for the club. The cost is \$3,520. Sunita Hansraj seconded the motion. The PTA voted to approve the funding for the STEM/Robotics club.

Melissa and Inna surveyed the PTA on whether we should have the February PTA meeting during the day or at night. The PTA voted to have the February meeting during the day on February 1, 2023.

Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick

Multicultural week will bring in a program on hip hop. See below.

Discount Card - Dana Kuropatkin & Pam Bahiri

We still have some discount cards left!! Cards will be on sale for \$15 each! You do not need to be a Whitman family to purchase a card so feel free to share with local family and friends and buy as holiday gifts! Cards are available to purchase on the pta website!! If you placed an order and have not received it yet, please contact me. Thanks so much for your continued support!

Fifth Grade Committee - Dana Kurpotakin, Courtney Schlow, Leslie Won

January 23rd will be the fifth grade social for the fifth graders to ice skate with fifth graders from all of the elementary schools.

Please submit payment for legacy tiles. \$30.

Please get in boosters for the yearbook ASAP.

Fundraiser for Flow Society Shorts – Heather Egert

We will be hosting a fundraiser with Flow Society to sell Syosset branded Flow Society shorts. All proceeds will go to the PTA of the purchaser. More to come.

Multicultural Week - Jacqueline Braunstein & Gabby Platz

Multicultural week is replacing international day this year. Our committee is in the early planning process and could use as much help as possible to make this week a great success. International day as we all know and love will be a part of this week so if you would like to present a country please contact Jacqueline Braunstein or Gabby Platz. A sign up will also be sent out. We are hoping to have an evening event where we can share and enjoy food from around the world as well as some other fun ideas. Our committee needs volunteers to make it all happen so please contact us to sign up.

Monday 1/23 will be the kickoff. Copa de Walt Whitman is the theme.

Tuesday is international day. If you would like to present a country and have not signed up, please let Jacqueline and Gabby via email.

Wednesday is the Arts and Ed assembly on hip hop. There will also be an event with food in the evening.

Thursday is stories around the world activity in class.

Friday the kids can dress up for school.

Parents' Night Out - Tara Bensol & Niki Gionis

Please join us for Parents Night Out Super Bowl Pre Party on Friday, Feb 3rd at the main event in Farmingdale! Tell your friends - guests are welcome! Full open bar, tons of food, amazing raffles and fun games!

We need all the help we can get with obtaining raffle donations as well as planning. If you are interested in joining the committee please let us know! We are hoping for a huge turnout for a fun night with amazing raffles - please mark your calendars now! Proceeds will benefit the PTA.

SEPTA – Danielle Sandjaby

SEPTA is hosting virtual Yoga & Meditation classes starting 1/20 8pm 50 minutes for students K-6 for SEPTA members.

Our next meeting will be Virtual
Via zoom on January 26th.
Presentation for the meeting will be

Communication.... What is it? The speech pathologist's role, and a guide for parents on how to best support their child's speech and language skills. By Atara Simpson, Speech and Language Therapist (Prompt certified)

Be on the lookout for the google form to sign up for the meeting.

What is SEPTA?

SEPTA: Special Education Parent Teacher Association

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>

School Board Reporter - Tara Ginsburg & Carly Laffie

Stilwell park update- connected with the county. Very productive conversation. They are thinking about the park and need for improvement. They want to do this with engagement with town and then us after the new year. Who and how can we be partners with them. An update to the board after the new year

Long standing project- HS start time- BOE interest based on a lot of research for those students to get more sleep. Some states actually require HS to start after a specific time to get them more sleep (California). Transportation is a challenge. And length of day for HS and middle versus elementary. There is an overlap with dismissal so they would need twice as many buses. Another big challenge, recently, there aren't enough drivers to drive additional buses. No easy solutions. Group of trade offs to look at and weigh. Consultant to provide three alternatives. There really are two that are plausible.

6800 students enrolled in our buildings and providing transportation to non public schools (300 additional). We are a universal busing district. Everyone is eligible. 119 routes. 610 bus runs. Traditional to and from. Mid day runs. And late buses for clubs and athletics. 40 students assigned per bus on average.

Elementary more ridership
Middle and HS less ridership
3- scenarios - on the district website

Viable Scenario- middle school goes first- Then HS Then elementary After school activities will be easier to maintain

Next step- health benefits. Logistical constraints, weighing those two things. Presented trade offs.

Audience to the public:

- Parents asking district about the Mascot use and directive from NY state by the end of the school. They want to know why they haven't heard anything from when this first came out a month ago. Adopt a new mascot. Working together to move forward and having positive change.
- Village Elementary parent inquiring about policy relating to taking photos in the building.

BOE voted on senior citizen person with disabilities and limited income tax exemption. They didn't say how many people are affected or the impact that it will be but we will have to make up to difference.

Dr Roger's going to the state to see if we can keep the name Brave not Braves. Strategizing and public outreach forming committees.

School Store – Pam Bahiri

Thanks for continuing to support our school store by sending your children with money! If you are interested in volunteering, we will be adding a slot to each grade and there are still spots left for some grades or feel free to contact me the night before or the morning of because we sometimes have last minute volunteer cancellations. If your child is in grades K-3, please be mindful of the sign up limit of 3 times per child. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions!

Ways and Means – Tracey Meyer

On March 18th, the Harlem Wizards are returning to Syosset for a fun game with our Syosset School District staff. Tickets will be \$20 per person. There will be a game during the day and during the evening. Sponsors will be featured on a t-shirt we will be selling. Please consider signing up to help at the event and/or to be a sponsor.

Upcoming Dates:

January:

1/3 - Classes Resume
1/5 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm VIRTUAL
1/9 - Board of Education Meeting 8:00pm @ Southwoods
1/16 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
1/23 - 1/27 - Multicultural Week

February:

2/1 - PTA Meeting
2/3 - Parents' Night Out @ Main Event
2/6 - Board of Education Meeting 8:00pm @ Southwoods
2/20 - 2/24 - President's Week - NO SCHOOL

Spirit Dates:

Every Friday