

Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes
December 6, 2022

Meeting called to order. November 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 \$100,000 in our bank account. Tax return to be filed shortly.

Correspondence – Courtney Schlow

We received a beautiful thank you letter from the Bristol thanking us for the Thanksgiving Feast.

Presidents Report – Melissa Foreman and Inna Choi

Tonight we will be forming our nominating committee. The committee will consist of three executive committee members and 2 non-executive committee members. Jacqueline Braunstein, Theresa Seedorf, and Cindy Ho are the executive committee members on the nominating committee. Tracy Brown is the alternate for the executive committee. Sam Lebenhart and Neha Sharma will be on the nominating committee from the non-executive committee. Consuella Helms-Jeune is the alternate for the non-executive committee.

Jacqueline, Inna and Melissa had a meeting with Dr. Rogers about the space issues. See below section on the space committee for the details of that meeting.

Thank you Courtney Schlow and Carley Goodman for a successful pie sale.

Thank you Jacqueline Braunstein, Pam Bahiri and Niki Gionis for an amazing Family Fun night.

Thank you Cindy Ho, Rachel Levenson and Karen Ostrick for wonderful Thanksgiving luncheon.

Holiday Boutique is next week. See below for more information.

Multicultural week is the week of January 23rd. See below for more information.

Parents night out is Friday February 3rd. See below for more information.

We posted a complete list of people who work in our building. Please consider giving for the holidays.

Mr. Snyder's Report

Thanksgiving feast was so much fun. It's a nice opportunity for our kids to see how we give back to the community. Thank you for all the volunteers.

This week is circus week. When the students attend their PE classes they learn their circus acts. Fifth graders will perform on Friday. Fifth grade parents can attend on Friday.

Curriculum lessons will take place throughout the year for parents to attend. Your child's teacher will be in touch with more information.

Please do not pass each other in the parking lot when dropping off and picking up kids. It's not safe for the kids.

Winter concert is on December 21st at HBT.

Early dismissal on December 23rd at 3pm instead of 3:15pm. Please be at the bus stops earlier.

New Business:

1. **Nominating Committee** – See above
2. **Meeting Times** – Will do January meeting virtually. Maybe do some meetings during the day to accommodate babysitting needs for evening meetings.
3. **Sensory Wall** – Parents and teachers will work together on creating a sensory hallway for the kids to enjoy.
4. **Lunch and Recess** – Mr. Snyder will allow the kids to mix with other students in other classes if they can all include each other and no one is left out. If Mr. Snyder sees any kid being left out, he will stop it. Once the kids are ready he will allow them to mix.
5. **Donations of Games for Indoor Recess** – the PTA will create an amazon wish list for parents to buy games for your child's classroom for indoor recess.

Parent question about indoor recess - There will also be rotating gym times when there is inclement weather. There are also clubs for each grade during recess. Parent suggested mixing up the kids for indoor recess so they can play with other kids during indoor recess in the classroom. This is under consideration.

Allergy and Nutrition - Inna Choi

A special Allergy Committee was formed in Sept to update the District's policy on food services and safety practices regarding allergies. The three major topics include:

1. Expanding the approved snack list
2. Researching local vendors
3. Use of permission slips for bringing in food from external vendors

If you are interested in joining this committee and are available to meet once a month at 830am on zoom, please let Melissa or Inna know.

Communications Conference - Jacqueline Braunstein

The communications conference committee met last month with the district administration. Topics included an elementary report card update, college admissions process, SEPTA, overcrowding in schools, fairness and equity amongst schools, high school start time and mercy first. If anyone has any questions or would like more information about any of these topics please contact Jacqueline Braunstein.

Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick

Circus is going on this week. See Mr. Snyder's update.

Discount Card - Dana Kuropatkin & Pam Bahiri

We still have some discount cards left!! Cards will be on sale for \$15 each starting tonight! 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

Attention 5th grade parents- we are still working on the yearbook. Please upload your photos if you have not yet done so. Please reach out if you need any help or have any questions. This week is circus week which is a very special week for fifth graders. Fifth grade parents are invited to the performance on December 9th at 1:30. We are still selling the awesome new Walt Whitman car magnets for 5 dollars each. Save the date- January 23rd will be a fifth grade social at the Syosset Woodbury skating rink. We will be inviting fifth graders from the seven elementary schools. This is a big fundraiser for us so please promote to your friends from other Syosset schools. Thank you!

Holiday Boutique - Lauren Grams and Cindy Ho

We are excited to be hosting Holiday Boutique in the library this year on Thursday, December 15th and Friday December 16th. The set up will be similar to the book fair. We will be selling items for the children to purchase for the holidays for family members/friends ranging in price from \$0.75 to \$20 from our traditional vendor, Little Shoppers. We will also be selling items from Top Trez ranging in price from \$3 to \$30. Please send your children in with cash or check that day. In the past, we have also provided for students who may not have the economic means to shop at Holiday Boutique with the help of Mr. Snyder. If you would like to contribute, please let us know and we will provide the money to Mr. Snyder so he can provide to the students in advance of the sale. If you are a family in need of any assistance, please let Mr. Snyder know. We would love for all of the children to be able to buy gifts for their loved ones. We are full on parent volunteers. Please contact myself or Cindy Ho for any questions.

Holiday Toy Drive - Tracy Brown

Annual toy drive is going on now at the school through December 20th. Unopened and unwrapped toys.

Multicultural Week - Jacqueline Braunstein and 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.

Parents' Night Out - Tara Bensol and Niki Gionis

We are in the initial planning phase for our Parents Night Out event scheduled for February 3rd (please note the date change). 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 with benefit the PTA.

Parent Resource Group - Jacqueline Braunstein

The parent resource group hosted a very informative and helpful presentation about internet safety called "don't press send" last month. If you are interested you can view a recording at the syosset council of ptas YouTube page.

Reflections – Theresa Seedorf

Thank you to all of those who submitted. We definitely had a last minute push and the kids should be proud of their work. All participants should be hearing from Mr. Snyder. As of now the district winners have been submitted to Nassau County for the next round of judging. Please let me know if there are any questions.

SEPTA – Danielle Sandjaby

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!

- I have 3 flyers here for you come and look at if you'd like
- SEPTA membership sign up \$12
- Membership goes towards these amazing presentations and scholarships
- Meeting & location & presentations schedule for SEPTA meetings

- virtual Yoga & Meditation classes start 1/20 8pm 50 minutes for students K-6 no charge for students.
- Thank you for everyone who came out to the last meeting about Executive functioning and adhd

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

The Presentation for this 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.

As always if anyone has any questions concerns or just would like to talk. I can make myself available. Wishing everyone a healthy and happy holidays, and new year!

School Board Reporter - Tara Ginsburg & Carly Laffie

November 7th Superintendents report:

No update on stillwell- Dr. Rogers outreached and will keep the community posted Enrollment study- received first draft, in regards to population growth, final draft for review very soon. Work is still being done, investigating different resources.

Elementary level- to pilot a program to change dismissal, "pick up patrol". Need to change the normal dismissal procedure.

Transportation- working with consultant in regards to changing the start time of the schools- timing 140 buses each day. Looking into the Impact it would have on all three levels... ongoing work and will keep you updated

Nassau IDA- Amazon pilot payment, amazon paid the county, IDA and nassau are in discussion the second payment. (Industrial development agency). BOE has worked hard to make sure these payments are being complemented in a timely matter.

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!

Space Utilization Committee - Jacqueline Braunstein & Tara Ginsburg

Our committee met with Dr Rogers, Dr. Curry, Mr. Cardillo and head of facilities Greg Hamilton. We are at a bit of a stand still until the district demographic study results come back by the end of this year. There are many different challenges to expanding and building on school property on NYS and we could direct our advocacy toward our state senators, assembly people and the governor. If you would like to help with a letter writing campaign, please let me know. In the meantime we are going to ask for additional blacktop to be put down at our school to maximize the ability to get outside after inclement weather. Please let Jacqueline Braunstein or Tara Ginsburg know if you have any questions.

Upcoming Dates:

December:

12/5 - Circus Week Begins

12/6 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm

12/9 - 5th Grade Circus Performance

12/12 - Board of Education Meeting 8:00pm @ Southwoods

12/15 - 12/16 - Holiday Boutique
12/21 - Winter Concert 7pm @ HBT
12/26 - 1/2 - Winter Recess

January:

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

Spirit Dates:

Every Friday