

## **Walt Whitman PTA Meeting Minutes February 1, 2023**

Meeting called to order. January meeting minutes were approved.

### **Treasurer's Report – Sunita Hansraj**

The budget has been updated for the following:

1. Racehub under Curriculum Enrichment (\$3,300). This is the STEM/Robotics club during recess for all grades.
2. Student Appreciation under PTA Sponsored (\$4,000). This is for various PTA sponsored events including an ice cream truck for the school in celebration of multicultural week.
3. Playground Improvements (\$10,000). This is for improvements to the playground and gaga pit.

The PTA voted to increase the budget for the three items listed above. Approved.

We currently have \$132,357 in the bank account.

### **Correspondence – Courtney Schlow**

None

### **Presidents Report – Melissa Foreman & Inna Choi**

The Council of PTA is running a school and community restock drive for the pantry at St. Edwards throughout February. There will be a bin in the lobby and also an Amazon wish list to ship directly to St. Edwards.

Thank you to the Multicultural Committee for putting on a great week for multicultural. Each classroom had a nation to represent for the week. We are bringing in an ice cream truck for the whole school. Thank you to parent volunteers for multicultural week.

Parents night out is this Friday night at the Main Event in Farmingdale.

Grades 2-5 will be going on an Arts and Ed field trip to the Bellmore Playhouse.

Enter your information into Directory Spot. You can submit the info on our PTA website.

Feel free to reach out with any questions.

### **Mr. Snyder's Report**

The curriculum celebrations have been wonderful so far. They will continue throughout the year. Thank you parents for coming. Please do not wander in the hallways during curriculum celebrations. Please only leave through the main doors when you are in the building.

Thank you to the parents involved in multicultural week. It was amazing. The kids were really excited and were sharing all about the countries they were learning about.

### **Curriculum Enrichment – Karen Ostrick**

Grades 2-5 is going on the field trip on February 9<sup>th</sup>. They are seeing She Persisted at the Bellmore Playhouse. Based on a book by Chelsea Clinton.

K and 1<sup>st</sup> will see The Frog and The Toad in June at Bellmore Playhouse.

Mad Science is coming in March and Brett Daniels (music assembly) will be coming virtually in March.

March 6<sup>th</sup> will be the author visit.

**Fifth Grade Committee - Dana Kuropatkin, Courtney Schlow, Leslie Won**

The 5th grade ice skating event will be held on Monday, Feb 27th from 4-6 at Syosset Park. Please continue to promote the event to all of your friends who have fifth graders in a Syosset school and post on your social media to help us to make this a successful fundraiser. The money we raise will be used to pay for all of our special end of the year events. Boosters for the yearbook were due last week- if you still want to submit a booster please reach out to Dana Kralstein or Jen Palaganas. The fifth grade dance will be held on June 14th. More information to follow! Always feel free to reach out if you have any questions or concerns.

**Fundraiser for Flow Society Shorts – Heather Egert**

We have sold about 125 pairs of shorts so far. Please tell your friends about ordering the shorts. Deadline is 2/28/23 to order. We should have them by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Health, Nutrition, Safety Committee – Erica Schulman**

The Health, Nutrition, Safety Committee is bringing John Halligan and his Ryan's Story presentation to South Woods and HBT on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup> to do an in-school assembly for 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Ryan's Story inspires students to make positive changes in their lives towards reducing bullying, cyber-bullying, and preventing teen suicides.

The Committee is also working to plan a parent zoom in March with Nassau County Police Officer Serrano to discuss internet safety.

Please stay tuned for our Spring Resource Guide.

**Nominating Committee – Jacqueline Braunstein**

The nominating committee will be meeting over the next couple of weeks to finalize our slate for the 2023 - 2024 school year. Thank you to everyone who submitted an application. We will present the slate for membership approval in advance and we will hold a vote at our March 2023 PTA meeting.

**Parents' Night Out - Tara Bensol & Niki Gionis**

Join us on Friday for Parents Night out at the Main Event in Farmingdale on February 3rd. There will be flip cup, raffles, open bar and food. The raffles are amazing. There will also be shopping and dining. Price goes up at the door to \$100. It will be a lot of fun, please attend.

**SEPTA – Danielle Sandjaby**

Our next meeting is February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 7:45pm, virtually. Please attend if your child has an IEP, 504, etc. It will be very informative and the PPS Admin team will speak about the process. There is a new Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, Ms. Erin Goldthwaite.

February 13<sup>th</sup> is a yoga and meditation class virtually. You can sign up on memberhub. It's 50 minutes long and \$10 per session. It's from 8pm – 8:50pm.

The email address for SEPTA is [syossetnysepta@gmail.com](mailto:syossetnysepta@gmail.com).

**School Board Reporter - Tara Ginsburg & Carly Laffie**

Start time topic-

- Elementary day extended potentially for 30 min
- HS start time potentially 9am, end after 3pm, clubs and extra help would start before school. Enough space in the morning window, taking middle school bus and take them to HS. Buses will need to load simultaneously,
- scenario presented last month but this would be plausible

- public engagement, including staff, parents, and students.
- examining cost associated with extending the day for elementary day, repurposing existing time potentially.

#### Mascots-

status- Timeline of new regulation:

- Question on State to provide funding for rebranding costs- reaction is not promising since other school districts have paid for this on their own. Dr. Rogers will still push for funding.
- Board of Ed must vote to retire existing mascot by June 30th, 2023
- District must complete transition to new mascot by June 30th, 2025

#### Enrollment Study-

Late 2014- would continue to decline

second& third study commissioned- not aggressive enough in the trend change in enrollment uphill trend starting in Syosset- other districts were declining we were not.

Projections are usually pretty straight forward-

2020- study were pretty accurate- projections and actuals are dead on until almost present day, they couldn't predict the dip starting the pandemic and the spike during the pandemic

Bubble- will move through the middle school and HS

We need to predict if the growth will continue or start to plateau

38% of the kindergarten come from moving typically

this one year was a trend break with 50% moving here not born here

Predicting new residents will be up by 50 kids every year over the course of 5 years

Enrollment

Presentation posted online-

#### Public-

- Parent- first time to speak in 2017 about transition for 8th grade into 9th grade- began transitioning and she sees a huge difference and is so thankful for this transition. Students, developmental stages are different based on individual, some children will not achieve those until junior until senior or freshman of college, advisement and guidance issue, midnight deadlines, need to be looked at, not appropriate for students, students shouldn't be working until midnight.

#### Budget & Vote Update:

Budget Information Sessions are taking place on February 6, March 13 and April 18. All information sessions take place at 8 pm, right before the Board of Ed meetings. These information sessions are really very helpful to understanding the upcoming District budget. Detailed information about the upcoming budget vote (including budget presentations from information sessions) are posted to the District website - 2022-2023 Budget Information. As a reminder, the Annual District Election and Budget Vote takes place on May 16.

#### SCSD Meeting – Workshop for Yearly Goals January 24, 2023

2 topics discussed at the Workshop

1. Results of the Enrollment Study – there is certainty and it is inevitable that there will be a surge at the MS and HS in coming years. The Trustees discussed their visions for our facilities – what they dream for, what are concerns and challenges.

Some Trustees' thoughts included: that we are already stretched thin in some places, how do we keep what we have and add more as needed w/out losing what we have. We don't want to lose an elective to accommodate adding a main class. Space should not be the reason to turn people away. Overall, the 2 main concerns are time and cost.

2. DEI (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion) Taskforce – DEI started out as an initiative from the staff and administration, upon seeing a population change in the District. Going forward, instead of the administration, the Board should steer the taskforce.

**Valentine’s Fundraiser**

Today is the last day to order cookies.

**Ways and Means – Tracey Meyer**

On March 18<sup>th</sup>, 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:**

**February:**

2/1 - PTA Meeting 10am

2/2 - School Store

2/3 - Parents' Night Out @ Main Event 7:30-10:30pm

2/6 - Board of Education Meeting 8:00pm @ Southwoods

2/16 - School Store

2/20 - 2/24 - President's Week - NO SCHOOL

**Spirit Dates:**

Every Friday