



General Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2024 at 7:00pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

Our meeting was called to order at 7:01 am/pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by sign in sheet.

Approval of minutes - May 2024 - We sent out the minutes from our last PTA meeting for review via email and had some copies on the tables. Presidents asked if anyone had comments, changes, or questions, no one responded. Minutes stand as approved.

Treasurer’s Report – Sunita Hansraj

Opening Balance as of	4/23/2024	\$ 85,141.95
Income/Deposits		\$ 18,835.08
Expense/Cash Disbursements		\$ 20,853.79
Checking Balance:		\$ 83,123.24
6mth CD Balance @4.4430%		\$ 35,356.83
Total Cash on Hand as of	5/22/2024	\$ 118,480.07

Treasurer: All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Cindy Ho. Thank you Cindy.

Please submit all outstanding receipts ASAP and the absolute deadline to submit any outstanding event, like field day or the 5th grade breakfast receipts is June 26, 2024. The books will be closed as of June 30, 2024 and no reimbursements can be issued after the books are closed. Thank you!

- I. Correspondence Secretary – read by Niki Gionis - NONE
- II. Principals Report - Mr. Snyder
 Staff rec was amazing. The staff loved being treated like “stars”. Year end will be busy. Field day is coming up. There will be three teams. Points will be awarded along the way based on behavior. Extra-help will be canceled on the 5th due to the jump rope fundraiser (begins at 8:30 just for participants). Up to 3k in donations.
 Due to regents and the HS and MS, buses may be slightly earlier than expected over the next couple of weeks. Class placements for next year are almost finalized.
 Thank you to Inna for her time as PTA president. The amount of time she has dedicated is incredible. She is always advocating for the students and community in an objective way. This is a full time job she does not get paid for and we are truly grateful for her service.

- III. President’s Report - read by Inna Choi and Karen Ostrick

Thank you Mr Snyder and thank you for your leadership. We are so grateful to you and the staff for making this an incredible year for our students. Thank you to Mrs Weist for coming to her last PTA



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meeting. We have some thank you's. Our Plant Sale was a smooth success chaired by Michelle Kim, Allison Soren, and Ashley Cohen.

Planting Day took it a few notches higher than ever as you must have noticed, helmed by Melissa Wallentin and Joanne Fang. The 5th graders' WW planting looks fantastic. A new tradition has budded.

Our Staff Recognition Committee knocked it out of the park this year. Our teachers, staff, central admin and Board of Ed members received the celebrity treatment at the Whitmanwood breakfast gala. Thank you to chairs Tara Bensol, Carly Goodman, Ashley Cohen, Amanda Fickler, and Pam Bahiri.

Congratulations to Mrs O'Toole and Mrs Witzenbocker on receiving the Honorary Life Awards. Mrs Weist received the Golden Oak Award, the highest award given by the NYS PTA. This year we were thrilled to give our first group award to our Security Staff with an official NYS PTA Community Service Award. Mrs. Levien received the triple gold award. Thank you Pam Bahiri for chairing the Awards Committee.

There are copies of our projected budget for the 2024-2025 school year. We will be taking a vote of confidence which will authorize the PTA to spend money during the summer which will allow us to begin our programming for next year.

We will once again be collecting money for an end of year gift for our amazing custodial and office staff. We will post info on that as well as a list of teachers and staff on Facebook in the coming days.

We hope everyone joins us for a post meeting drink at Dirty Taco to celebrate the end of an amazing school year. We loved working with each of you; you are the reason our PTA is the best one around.

Our meeting will be short and end with our new executive committee installation.

Inna, as we come to the end of this school year, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the incredible partnership we've shared. Your leadership, support, and unwavering dedication have truly made an amazing impact on our PTA and the entire school community.

It has been an absolute pleasure working alongside you, and I have learned so much from your example. While I will be continuing on as president with Cindy, your presence and contributions will be greatly missed. I am confident that the foundations we've built together will continue to thrive, thanks to your hard work and dedication. Thank you for everything you have done for our children.

IV. Standing Committee Reports

- A. Tara Ginsburg, our **Board of Education Reporter**, will update us now.

5/29 Special BOE Meeting

Anti-Bias Task Force- Implementation Plan



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https://www.syossetschools.org/cms/lib/NY50000216/Centricity/Domain/114/ABTF%20slides%20-%205_13_24.pdf

Discussion on BOE Goals

<https://www.syossetschools.org/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=705&dataid=28141&FileName=Goal%20Setting%20Spring%202024.pdf>

You know me, I usually don't make this based on my opinions but since this is my last meeting you should know it has been taking the BOE an extremely long time to finalize their goals for our superintendent. This is something that is required by law to be done in the public view. Another topic to keep your eyes on since I will not be here at Walt Whitman. It's so important!!!!

PLEASE don't give up on facilities. I know my WW community will make this happen. And do not think this will not get done while your kids are here. Things happen for us when we make it so. So PLEASE do not stop....

B. Now we will hear the report of the **Directory Spot and Membership** given by Michelle Kim. -
You can sign up for 2024-25 NOW. Make sure you use the drop down section for the year before you complete the order. Attention 5th grade families If you are moving on to HBT - your directory spot information will travel with you. Please update your information if you have moved since you last updated it.

C. Now we will hear the report of the **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Melissa Forman and Jacqueline Braunstein.

Important dates for June: 5th grade picnic at school June 10th (rain date June 14th) 5th grade dance is June 20th at 6:30pm at Muttontown Country Club 5th grade breakfast is June 21st at Walt Whitman. **Friendly reminder:** 5th grade parents - make sure your information is up to date in the directoryspot app so that when you move over to HBT the information is correct. Also, please check out the School Supplies fundraiser ordering link to get your 6th grade school supplies in advance.

D. The **Field Day Event & BBQ** report will be given by Cindy Ho, Jacqueline Braunstein, Courtney Schlow, Melanie Eisenberg, Elana Gofman or Melissa Forman.

Field Day will be on June 11th. Friendly reminder, we will be providing lunch, free of charge, for every student during our field day activities. Please have your children wear their field day t-shirt and have them bring a water bottle to fill up at the refill stations. Water will be available for students but parents are asked to bring their own. A very limited sign up went out.

E. Pam Bahiri & Heather Egert will update us with the **School Supplies** for this coming year.
We will be using 1st day school supplies again this year. Ordering is very easy and you have probably started receiving information from the company already. Ordering will be available until



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June 30th. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out. Thanks for your continued support!

F. Heather Egert will speak on behalf of the **School Store**

Thank you to all of those who had volunteered this year. Our last school store is June 13. Spots are available.

G. Now we will hear **Syosset Council of PTAs Committee** reports.

1. Danielle Sandjaby will speak on behalf of the **Communications Conference Committee** read by Danielle Sandjaby.

The Communications Conference Committee met with District Administration on both April 8 and April 17 to discuss topics and issues raised by both the committee and their units. Please use this link to view the written responses from the District which are posted on the District website. <https://www.syossetschools.org/Page/3>

V. Special Committees

Budget Committee:

As many of you know, from time to time, we need to vote at our PTA meetings. In order to vote we will need a quorum of 15 members. Please remember that you may only vote if you have a PTA membership this year. As Co-Presidents, we can only vote together as one vote. Traditionally presidents do not vote unless there is a need to break a vote that is tied.

When we conduct a vote, a motion will be made. If the motion is coming out of committee it will not need a second.

Treasurer: *I would like to make a motion to approve the 24-25 proposed summer budget and a vote of confidence for summer spending for 2024.*

The budget committee chair (Treasurer) moved to put it to vote on the “2024-25 Proposed summer Budget and a vote of confidence for summer spending.” Since it is coming out of the committee it does not need a second. Is there any discussion? No Are you ready to vote? Yes.

We will proceed with a vote. We will vote by a show of hands. All those in favor of the Proposed budget and a vote of confidence for summer spending please raise your hands. All those opposed? Anyone abstain?

The motion passes, the Proposed Summer Budget and Summer Spending confidence is approved. Thank you everyone.

Awards Ceremony - Pam Bahiri and the committee hosted the awards ceremony.



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Teachers received their awards at the staff rec breakfast which can be viewed online. Awards were presented as follows.

Awards 2024

Volunteer of the Year - Heather Egert

WW Triple Gold ***- Ms. Levien

Certificate of Appreciation - Ms. Moffet and Mr. Rizzi

Outgoing 5th Grade Parent - Tara Ginsburg & Lauren Marwil

PTA Advocate in Action - Erica Schulman & Danielle Sandjaby

Walt Whitman Service - Sunita Hansraj

NYS PTA Honorary Life - Inna Choi & Melissa Forman

NYS PTA Honorary Life (Teacher/Staff) - Ms. Wizenbocker & Ms. O'toole

NYS PTA Community Service Award - Entire Whitman Security Team

NYS PTA Golden Oak Award - Ms. Weist

VI. New Business - Officer Installation - Special Guest - Wendy Levitt

A. We turned over the installation of our new executive committee, to one of our Past Presidents, Wendy Levitt, to install our new officers. We thanked her for volunteering to do this for us!

VII. Old Business

A. Whitman Facilities - As a reminder, Inna and Karen went to speak to the Board of Ed at their March meeting on behalf of our Walt Whitman PTA. We have printed out copies of our statements. Please take a look at it, there is good information in there. If you are moved to write to the Board members, the email address is allboardmembers@syossetschools.org.

VIII. Dates to Remember

Finally, we are up to our dates to remember. Please keep an eye on our dates to remember in our weekly updates and our website. *Also, every Friday is our "Show your School Spirit" Day!* **Have a wonderful summer everyone!!! Cindy & I will see you all in the fall.**

June

- 7 - Family Engagement Committee Walk
- 10 - 5th Grade Picnic
- 10 - Board of Education Meeting, SW 8pm
- 11 - Field Day
- 13 - School Store
- 13 - 5th Grade Picnic (Rain Date)
- 14 - Field Day (Rain Date)

- 17 - No School**
- 19 - No School**
- 20 - 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- 20 - 5th Grade Dance at The Muttontown Club
- 26 - End of Fourth Marking Period
- 26 - **Last Day of School****

The meeting is adjourned at 8:10 pm.



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From Inna - we had another great year. Thank you all for your time and dedication to the children. The coming year will be great as well under the leadership of Karen and Cindy. I love being a part of the community. Thank you Mr. Snyder, Melissa and Karen. I learned so much by serving with you.

Final Reminder: Please submit all outstanding receipts ASAP and the absolute deadline to submit any outstanding event, like field day or the 5th grade breakfast receipts is June 26, 2024. The books will be closed as of June 30, 2024 and no reimbursements can be issued after the books are closed. Thank you!

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Recording Secretary
Theresa Seedorf

Attached
Sign in Sheet