



General Meeting Minutes

March 4, 2025, at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

Our meeting was called to order at 7:32pm with a quorum present. Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables.

**I. Approve minutes - February 2025**

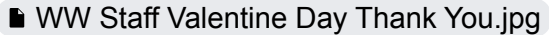
Minutes from our last PTA meeting were sent out for review and we had some copies on the tables. No one had comments, changes, or questions. The minutes stand as approved.

**II. Treasurer’s Report – Allison Soren**

Opening Balance, 2/1/2025	\$ 76,111.88
Income/Deposits	\$ 10,787.71
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 22,990.66
<u>Checking Balance 2/28/25</u>	<u>\$ 63,908.93</u>
<u>CD Balance as of 2/28/25</u>	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 2/28/2025</u>	<u>\$103,908.93</u>

“All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Carly Orlansky. Thank you Carly.”

**III. Correspondence Secretary – Niki Gionis**

The Whitman staff sent a Thank you note to the PTA mailbox, thanking the PTA for the sweet treats on Valentine’s Day. 

**IV. Principal’s Report – Mr. Snyder**

Mr. Snyder went over the Syosset district website. Please provide feedback. Mrs. Trembley is Whitman’s website, which will migrate over to the district website so that there is one website. There is a story feature. It will have a more user friendly staff directory. There will be a monthly newsletter in the WW Happenings section (Thanksgiving Feast, Science Fair, etc). Philly Hefferon is the district publicist and has been working on the site.

Parent conferences are coming up.

State assessments coming up during April and May grades 3-5 will take ELA and math. At next PTA meeting, I’ll talk about what that means for the children. .



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## V. President's Report - read by Karen Ostrick & Cindy Ho

Thank you Mr Snyder. Hope you enjoyed the Presidents Week break. February was a short and busy month with lots of love. We wanted to start off with a thank you to some of our Staff Recognition committee chair Carly Goodman for organizing and setting up our Staff Valentine's Day sweets and treats for our amazing teachers and staff to enjoy throughout the day. It was appreciated and enjoyed by all. We had a lovely Walt Whitman Reflections ceremony earlier this evening. Thank you Erica Schulman for putting the event together and Mr. Snyder who awarded them with signed certificates and made them feel recognized for their work. Congratulations to all our very talented students. We had an amazing Maker Space session where a parent shared their career in Landscape Design, and the kids were fascinated by the creative and technical aspects of designing outdoor spaces! So, thank you Michael Madarash. If you have a career that could inspire a fun, hands-on project for our STEAM-focused Maker Space Recess, we'd love to have you join us—please sign up and help spark some curiosity and creativity in our students! Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Inna Choi, Danielle Sandjaby, Livia Kogan, Tracy Brown, Helena Lee and Vaishali Sondhi for putting together our 2025-2026 Executive Committee slate. We will be hearing from them later on and will take a vote to approve the slate as presented. We know it is a difficult and important committee and appreciate all the hard work that went into it. We have also formed our Awards Committee. Our PTA awards will be given out at our last meeting in June. It is a wonderful way to recognize both PTA volunteers and staff for their outstanding efforts this year. Please submit your nominations as soon as possible even if you don't know what award is available for your nominee, the committee will help assign them and some of the NYS awards have early deadlines so the sooner the better. You can submit them to [awards@waltwhitmanpta.org](mailto:awards@waltwhitmanpta.org). This month, we will have Student Movie Nights and a Book Fair. More upcoming events are already in the works especially as we gear toward spring, like Fun Fair and Family Fun Night. You will hear all about them in the Committee Reports; please reach out to the committee chairs to find out how to get involved. Fourth grade parents - applications for next year's Fifth Grade Committee will be going out at the end of the month so please keep your eyes out.

## VI. Standing Committee Reports

- A. We will hear the report of the **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** committee given by Erica Schulman or Heather Egert.

This month we are so excited to welcome back "Corey the Dribbler!" Corey is a Guinness world record holding basketball player that shares motivating messages to our students. In addition to all the records he holds, Corey the Dribbler is known for demonstrating ball handling skills, promoting character education messages, Inspiring kids to read, and Encouraging students to respect others.

- B. Now we will hear the report of the **Book Fair Committee** given by Samantha Lebenhart, Erika Schulman and Patrice Gooden. -

The spring book fair will be held on **Thursday, March 27 & Friday, March 28**. We will also be open during parent teacher conferences on the **evening of March 27, 5-8pm**. The evening fair is a great opportunity to come and shop with your child if you are not able to do so during the day. There will also be teacher wish list books for purchase. Please note: no children will be allowed in the library without



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their parents during the evening portion. A catalog with the books for sale will be going home with students in the next few weeks. The preferred way of payment will be eWallet. Please check your email for information on how to use any remaining balances from the fall book fair. In addition, if your child participated in Reflections this year, a \$5 credit will be applied to his/her eWallet account. We will also be accepting cash and checks payable to Walt Whitman PTA. Volunteer signups are open. We are looking forward to an amazing sale. Please reach out if you have any questions.

C. We will now hear the report of the **BoxTops** given by Erika Auerbach.

Thanks for all your support - Whoo Hooo! 🎉 We are at \$152.60 with the goal of \$100. It's basically free money for our children and the PTA. Questions? Contact Erika Auerbach.

D. Now we will hear the report of the **Discount Card Fundraiser Committee** given by Michelle Bochner

Discount cards are still available for 60% off - **now only \$10**. Use the code **EOYSALE**. Don't miss out on the discounts and tell your friends with future kindergartners not to miss out!

Use this link to purchase: <https://form.123formbuilder.com/6527483/ww-discount-card-2024-25>

E. We will now here from our **Family Fun Night Committee** by Jaclyn Avellino, Jessica Lischin, and Katherine Lee

Family fun night date has changed! It will now be held on **Saturday, May 10th** at a Long Island Ducks game. First pitch is at **6:35pm** and they will have a firework show! More details to follow in the next few weeks. Hope to see you there!

F. Now we will hear the report of the **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Pam Bahiri and Inna Choi

Our next upcoming event is 5th grade movie night - March 26th!! The kids will be voting on the movie and the event is free to attend. Snacks will be served! Please be on the lookout for info on lawn signs and legacy tiles coming soon!

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

Jun 10 - Dance at Muttontown Country Club

Jun 23 - Breakfast & Yearbook Signing at WW

Jun 13 - Picnic

TBD - Moving Up Ceremony - please note date

Jun 17 - Picnic Rain Date

change

Please make sure you check your emails, sign up for 5th grade REMIND texts and always feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

G. **Fun Fair Carnival** will be discussed by - Carly Orlansky, Niki Gionis & Michelle Bochner  
Save the date for Fun Fair Carnival - April 9th rain or shine because it will be held indoors!



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- H. We will now here from the **Maker Space Recess committee** which will be provided by Sunita Hansraj, Valerie Kesten and Stella Wei

This month, Maker Space is being led by Krafty Hands. Students have been creating fun and engaging projects. We have had some parents come forth with wonderful ideas. We are always on the lookout for new ideas and volunteers! This past Friday, we had Michael Madarash (a parent of two Whitman boys) come in and lead indoor recess sessions. He spoke to students about what it is like to be a Landscape Architect! The kids had such a great time asking questions, designing blueprints and holding real tools that landscape artifacts use in the field! Students will still have time to go outside weather permitting so please encourage your kids to join us. Please reach out to us with any questions or ideas and look for the signup in the weekly newsletter.

- I. **Movie Night** will be presented by Heather Egert and Jenn Crecco

The movie nights will begin this week - we will have 3 sessions. March 5th for Gr K-2 with **Ice Age**, March 10th for Gr 3-4 with **Big Fat Liar** and March 26th for Gr 5. Crazy Creek travel chairs are still available for purchase. Please contact Heather or Jenn if you are unable to pick up at movie night.

- J. Now we will hear the report of the **School Store committee** given by Heather Egert and Carly Laffie

Next School Store will be **March 13th**. Reminder are sent out day off. Another friendly reminder: Parents are able to sign up more than 1x for their students. Please visit the sign up form to see what is available.

- K. Another important report from **SEPTA** given by Danielle Sandjaby or Erica Schulman

**College Workshop** - March 5th - Please join us for a College Workshop focusing on student support services for those students with IEP's and 504 accommodation plans. This workshop will be located in the Syosset High School Library and led by our own Syosset School District Staff! Please see the flyer in the newsletter. Last months meeting focused on the changes to graduation and can be found on the district website. **Next Meeting** - March 17th at 7:45pm at our very own Walt Whitman! The topic will be managing behavior and is applicable for all students K-12.

- L. **Someone Special Dance** given by Neha Sharma or Ashley Cohen or Niki Gionis

The Someone Special Dance will take place on **March 18th** in the gym. This event is for K through 5th grade students who will bring a Special Someone adult/guardian with them to enjoy the evening. We will have a photo opportunity, crafts, a sensory table and of course, lots of music and dancing with your child's Someone Special run by our DJ. In order to accommodate everyone at the school we are offering two time slots and we ask everyone to please RSVP and select a time slot. The first time slot is 6-7pm and the second is 7-8 PM. We will also have snacks available at the event and will be pre-selling corsage and boutonnieres. As a reminder, this is **not** a drop off event and everyone will have to check in with a parent or guardian. We can't wait for this fun night ahead!



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Motion to increase budget by \$1,200 for a total of \$1,700 has passed. - **This has been postponed.**

M. We will now hear from our **Sunshine Committee** - Katerina Fradelakis and Gabby Mohammadi -

The monthly birthday celebrations in the lunchroom are in full swing and we are celebrating our students with February birthdays! Thank you to all the parents who submitted forms and if you haven't, please do ASAP. Students loved seeing their names on the white board and they will also get a birthday sticker & pencil! *As a reminder: The children are able to see that their names are not included on the board. Please make sure you sign up so that your children can participate in the fun. We are only asking for their Month of birth—no other details are shared.* Thank you for helping us make their birthday month extra special and memorable!

N. For our final executive board report we will hear from the **Wellness Committee** given by Samantha Lebenhart -

March is Wellness month! We will have lots of fun, little things going on throughout the school to recognize both physical and mental health wellness for our kids. There will be in-class activities as well as morning announcements from Mr. Snyder highlighting interesting healthy fun facts and tips. A wellness challenge calendar is posted in the cafeteria in addition to a flyer listing healthy snack tips. We will be announcing this week that students can show their wellness spirit by wearing the color green on a specific day each week. Date is to be confirmed ASAP. We are also in the process of planning an in-school healthy fruit or snack giveaway for all students. More information to follow on this as we work through dates and details. All parents will need to sign a permission slip for their child to receive a snack. The committee will most likely also have a sign up for parent volunteers for prep and distribution. Wellness should be a fun addition to March for the entire school!

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

1. We will hear the report by the **Annual District Election and Budget Vote** given by Carly Laffie

Budget information sessions start next month:

- **Budget Information Session #2**, Monday, March 10, 8:00 pm at SW
- **Budget Information Session #3**, Wednesday, April 23, 8:00 pm at SW
- **Budget Hearing**, Monday, May 12, 8:00 pm at SW

**Annual District Election & Budget Vote**, Tuesday, May 20, 6:00am – 9:00pm at SHS

If you need to register there is an online form that can be filled out and brought with you to the Board of Registration during voter registration. Please note that if you have voted in school district elections within the past 4 years, or you are registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections for the regular November election day, you do not need to re-register to vote in the school election.



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2. Now we will hear a report by the **Communications Conference** given by Danielle Sandjaby.

The Syosset Council of PTAs' Communication Conference Committee presents and discusses issues with Syosset administrators during each school year. The committee is composed of Council Delegates from every school in the district. If you have questions for the administration that are general in nature (i.e., not something specific to your child or your specific school), please email your unit rep Danielle Sandjaby [daniellesandjaby@gmail.com](mailto:daniellesandjaby@gmail.com) no later than **March 14th**.

3. We will now hear a report from the **Reflections** given by Erica Shulman.

Last month we got to celebrate all of our Reflections participants across the district. Before this meeting we held a ceremony for all students who participated this year. Students were beaming as Mr. Snyder presented them with an award and got to take pictures with their beautiful pieces. Thank you, Mr. Snyder, for making this so special for our students. We are so excited to announce that Whitman has 3 students advancing to the NY state level: Tyler Scher, Ciana Bahl & Rose Medvin. Congratulations and good luck to them all!

4. Now we will hear a report about the **PTA Scholarship** program shared by Carly Laffie. -

There is a fundraiser for the Syosset Scholarship fund at the Chipotle on Jericho Tpke in Syosset on Wednesday, March 12th from 4-8pm where 25% of the event sales get donated to the cause.

The Syosset High School Theatre Arts annual musical is just around the corner! **School of Rock** will be performed on **Thursday, March 20 at 7:00 pm, Friday, March 21 at 7:30 pm, Saturday, March 22 at 7:30 pm and Sunday, March 23 at 2:00 pm**. Over the four days, the musical is attended by an audience of up to 1,400 people. A printed Playbill will be created to generate revenue for the Syosset Scholarship Fund. Click here for more details.

[Click here for more details.](#)

### VII. Special Committee Reports

- A. **Nominations Committee** - Inna Choi, Danielle Sandjaby, Livia Kogan, Tracy Brown, Helena Lee and Vaishali Sondhi

Notice of intent to run from the floor was not received at least two business days prior to today's election. So in accordance with our Bylaws, we will proceed with a vote on the slate as is.

**Nomination Committee Rep:** The nominating committee submits the following slate for approval by the membership. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Nominating Committee and to all those who submitted their nominations.

### Co-Presidents



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Cindy Ho

Danielle Sandjaby

**Vice Presidents**

Education - Erica Schulman

Events - Tara Bensch

Fundraising - Jaclyn Avellino

Fundraising / School Store - Carly Laffie

**Treasurer**

Allison Soren

**Recording Secretary**

Sunita Hansraj

**Corresponding Secretary**

Heather Egert

**Delegates**

Jenn Crecco, Trupti Bahl, Hera Bokhari, Timothy Deygoo, Niki Gionis, Bari Litvack

The motion passed, you have elected your new Executive Committee for 2025-26. Congratulations! Walt Whitman is lucky to have these caring, capable parents to volunteer, serving our children. We are in great hands next year. Thank you everyone.

**VIII. New Business - None**

**IX. Old Business - None**

**X. Dates to Remember - important dates till our next meeting.**

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!**

Friendly reminder: you can download our google calendar to your device from our emails or from our website.

**March**

- 5 - Movie Night Grades K-2
- 10 - Movie Night Grades 3-4
- 10 - Budget information session #2 & BOE mtg, SW
- 12 - Parent Teacher Conf 5-7pm
- 13 - School Store
- 14 - Communication Conference Deadline
- 17- SEPTA Meeting at 7:45pm @ WW
- 18 - Someone Special Dance 6-8pm

- 26 - Movie Night 5th Grade 7-9pm
- 27-28 Book Fair
- 27 - Evening Book Fair
- 27 - Parent Teacher Conf 5-8pm

**April**

- 1 - Exec Board Meeting 9:30am**
- 1 - PTA General Meeting 10am**
- 9 - Fun Fair (Indoors) 6:30-8:30pm
- 10 - School Store
- 14-18 - No School
- 23 - 5th Gr Event

The meeting is adjourned at 8:18pm.

Recording Secretary / Theresa Seedorf



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Attached Sign in Sheet

[March 2025 Sign-In](#)