



General Meeting Agenda
April 1, 2025, at 10am | Walt Whitman Elementary School

Good MorningEveryone.

Thanks for spending your coffee time with us. Our meeting is called to order at 10:09am 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 - March 2025

We sent out the minutes from our last PTA meeting for review via email and have some copies on the tables today. Does anyone have comments, changes, or questions? If not, the minutes stand as approved. Thank you.

II. Treasurer's Report – Allison Soren

Opening Balance, 3/1/2025	\$ 63,908.93
Income/Deposits	\$ 9,363.59
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 5,393.19
<u>Checking Balance 3/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 67,879.33</u>

<u>CD Balance as of 3/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 40,000.00</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 3/31/2025</u>	<u>\$107,879.33</u>

"All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books have not been reviewed because of month end timing and date of the April PTA mtg. The books will be reviewed by Michelle Bochner. We will confirm March and April's books were reviewed and found to be in order at the May PTA meeting. Thank you Michelle."

III. Correspondence Secretary – Niki Gionis - NONE

IV. Principal's Report – Mr. Snyder

NYS Assessments start next week for garages 3-5.

ELA: April 8th and 9th

Math: April 29th and 30th

Science: 5th Grade Only - May 8th

You should have received a letter from the District with dates. The test is NOT timed.

This year's test is 100% computer based and will include multiple choice as well as a writing component. There are multiple tools available to the students in the test environment such as highlighting, choice eliminators (for students to cross out a choice they have ruled out), note pads, bookmarks, rulers, equation editors and zoom in.

iWatches have to be removed and will be held by the teacher until testing is complete.

In an ongoing effort to keep students safe, we strongly encourage parents to stay in the car for morning dropoff and be respectful in the parking lot during afternoon pickup. Pickup patrol does have the



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capability to have cars line up and to pick up students as they are ready however there needs to be sufficient staff to supervise this process and we currently do not have the staff available to facilitate this process.

Students are still not allowed to take different bus routes home but are able to get off their assigned buses at different stops along their normal route (provided the bus driver has been notified).

The pothole in the parking lot will likely not be fixed until after construction is finished as construction vehicles may cause additional damage to the lot. Better lighting to the parking lot has been proposed however there have been neighbor complaints about the intrusion to their property.

Kindergarten orientation is scheduled for June 3rd. Faculty will use the data collected from observations and interactions with the children in this session to help determine placements for the fall. DIAL screening has been pushed to the fall after the start of the school year. Any data collected from the screening is not necessary for fall placements.

Parent questions/comments:

A fundraising suggestion was made to sell personalized bricks to be used in the new construction. Maybe a brick lined planting bed that could be used for planting day in the spring. This could be advertised to alumni as well.

Would the school consider an enclosed case for flyers to be hung by the main entrance? Response: This falls under construction and due to restrictions may not be feasible.

Can some teachers use Remind instead of Google Classroom for notifications? Response: Google Classroom is used across the District (as well as Remind and Parent Square). As the students move through middle and high school, Google Classroom is more heavily relied on. There are ways to set alerts or notifications to help track activity and can be a useful tool to follow what is going on in your child's classroom.

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

We've had a busy March, and April is shaping up to be just as exciting. Here's what's happening in our world:

A HUGE Thank You to Our Book Fair Team! A standing ovation (or at least a quiet moment of gratitude between sips of coffee) to our fantastic Book Fair Committee Chairs: Erica Schulman, Sam Lebenhart, and Patrice Gooden! And, of course, to all the wonderful parents who volunteered—we couldn't have done it without you. Because of your efforts, our kids got their hands on some great new reads!

Movie Nights Were a Smash Hit! March was filled with movie magic! Our students loved cozying up in their PJs and breaking in their brand-new Crazy Creek chairs. A massive thank you to Heather Egert and Jenn Crecco for making the Movie Nights happen, and a special shoutout to our 5th Grade Committee Chairs, Inna Choi and Pam Bahiri, for helping with our 5th Grade Movie Night!



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5th Grade Committee Applications – out today - check your email! Parents of rising 5th graders (yes, the current fourth grade parents) —this is your moment! Applications for next year's 5th Grade Committee will be available later today and are due by Friday, April 11th. If you're interested in helping plan those special end-of-year experiences, be sure to apply! Our regular PTA committee applications will roll out in May—so keep an eye out for those as well!

PTA Awards – Nominate a Superstar! Do you know a PTA parent, teacher, or staff member who deserves to be recognized for their dedication? Our Awards Committee is accepting nominations through Tuesday, April 7th! Nominate someone awesome using the Awards Committee form, and if you're unsure which award fits your nominee, no worries—our committee will assign it. Some NYS awards have early deadlines, so submit those nominations ASAP to awards@waltwhitmanpta.org. Let's celebrate the people who make our school shine!

Coming Up: Vote on the 2025-26 Syosset School District Budget. At next month's meeting, our membership will vote on whether our PTA will support the proposed Syosset District budget for the upcoming school year and we will then report it to Council. Stay informed, ask questions, and make your voice heard!

Thank You for Your Support! None of this would be possible without our incredible PTA members. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm make a real difference. We appreciate all that you do and look forward to another month of fun and community! As always, feel free to reach out with questions, ideas, or just to say hi!

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.

Last week students LOVED 'Corey the Dribbler.' He spoke to the kids about perseverance and respect, all while showing them some really great basketball skills and tricks! The kids all had a great time participating and cheering on their friends who got called up on stage! Next month our kindergarten and first graders are off to see a live performance of Pete the Cat at the Tilles Center. We are planning some more fun and exciting assemblies so stay tuned!

- B. Now we will hear the report of the **Board of Education Reporter** given by Daneille Sandjaby or Heather Egert. -

There were 2 BOE meetings this month, 1) regularly scheduled and 2) a special meeting (3/18/25) This budget presentation covered program and revenue topics including how the District will try and get under their yearly cap. Please check the website and presentation for more information on this topic. There was a presentation on the math curriculum, and after researching different programs the District has decided to use an updated version of Go Math. There was a presentation on a one HS diploma track which talked about approved pathways on how to reach the SHS diploma.



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Special Board of Education meeting: For two resolutions: Authorization to participate in the Nassau county contortion for transportation services. About 13 yrs ago Nassau BOCES recognized an opportunity for School districts to be more proficient to bid out non public transportation runs. It was created by the superintendent of BOCES but went away during the pandemic because of "social distancing" and contact tracing made it less attractive but now it's being resurrected because it will save schools significant resources. For example: If a bus was taking Syosset students to Chaminade in Mineola and was passing Jericho they could pick up the Jericho students as well instead of both districts independently paying for their own bus to the same location.

The Districts can participate in cooperative share routes. Interested bidders: the bus company or BOCES itself can bid on runs and if pricing is favorable the run might be awarded. It would create a more competitive bid for individual runs and a cost saving when using shared runs going to the same places. There is no association with regionalization, this predates that. It's like buying a seat on the bus instead of paying for the whole bus.

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

Thanks for all your support - Whoo Hooo! 🎉 We are at **\$165.60** 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 **Directory Spot and Membership** given by Michelle Kim or Sam Lebenhart

Parents of 5th Graders don't forget to update your children's Directory Spot information for HBT. New school, new friends. The directory is instrumental to helping your student thrive.

E. 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>

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

Walt Whitman students are invited to join us for an exciting baseball game as the Long Island Ducks take on the Lancaster Stormers on **Saturday, May 10th!** First Pitch is at 6:35pm and gates open at: 5:35pm. Tickets are free for Whitman Students, \$15 for Siblings (ages 3-12), \$20 for Adults. All students must be accompanied by a parent or chaperone; no drop-offs allowed. If your child has allergies or any concerns, please feel free to reach out to one of the event chairs. Ticket Sales are open until **April 7th**. To ensure you sit with your friends, we recommend picking up your tickets together. Tickets will be bundled in numerical order based on the section. Ticket Pickup time and location will be announced soon. We look forward to seeing you there and having a fun-filled evening at the ballpark, which will directly be followed by a firework show!



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- G. We will now hear from our **Field Day Committee** - given by Pam Bahiri, Theresa Seedorf or Megan Konnikov

Field Day will be on June 4th (rain date June 9th).

- H. We will now here from our **Field Day BBQ** - given by Inna Choi or Melanie Eisenberg or Rachel Levenson

The PTA will provide lunch for all WW students & teachers free of charge, during our field day activities. Class parents will help serve lunch. More details to follow.

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

Thank you to everyone that came out for movie night - the kids had a great time. Special thanks to Heather Egert and Jenn Crecco for all of their help! 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 13 - Picnic (Jun 17 - Picnic Rain Dat)
- Jun 20 - Breakfast & Yearbook Signing at WW - *please note the new date!*
- Jun 23 - Moving Up Ceremony - please note 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.

Parents of 5th Graders don't forget to update your children's Directory Spot information for HBT. New school, new friends. The directory is instrumental to helping your student thrive.

- J. Our **Fundraising Committee** report given by Michelle Bochner & Trupti Bahl -

Parents will soon receive details to purchase their children's art in various products such as mugs, calendars, etc, from Square1 Art!

- K. **Fun Fair Carnival** will be discussed by - Carly Orlansky, Niki Gionis & Michelle Bochner

Save the date for Fun Fair Carnival - Date changed to Monday May 19th!

- L. **Fun Run** will be reported on by Sunita Hansraj & Gunika Singh -

The Fun Run will take place June 13th 6-8pm. More details to follow. Please reach out to Sunita and Gunika to help!

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



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There are no Maker Space sessions currently on the calendar however we may be able to hold sessions outside so if anyone has any ideas please reach out to us.

- N. Now the **Plant Sale Committee** will report - given by Jordana Sirotkin or Allison Soren or Nina Wang

The Plant Sale fundraiser is set for May 9th! Plants will be delivered from White Post Farm. *NEW* this year, we will also be selling plants to parents after school on May 9th from 3-5pm. More details and signup to follow.

- O. Now to the **Planting Day Committee** will report - given by Melissa Wallentin

Planting day is coming up soon - May 12th! Keep an eye out for the sign up form, since parents can help students to beautify our school.

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

Next School Store will be April 10th. Friendly reminder: Parents are allowed to sign up more than 1x for their students. Please visit the sign up form to see what is available.

1st Day School Supplies will be available for purchase very soon with a due date of June 30th.

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

Our next meeting is April 30th at 7:45pm at Robbins Lane. We just want to highlight a great program that is being offered. Three of our District's students have created "Unity Tennis." "Unity Tennis" is free tennis lessons that take place at HBT to any Syosset student with special needs. These student-run 45 min tennis sessions that teach students how to play tennis and make the game accessible to all. It takes place on Sundays in April, May and June at either 10 or 3. There are flyers out on the tables with more information. If you are interested you can scan the QR code on the flyer. And regardless if you are going to sign up or not, please spread the word about what a wonderful program that has been brainstormed and brought to life by students in our district.

- R. **Someone Special Craft / Gift** - Katherine Lee, Deandra Guzman-Schweiger, Jaclyn Sharoni, Abigail Levy

Our Someone Special Craft where students can make a special (Father's Day) gift will take place during recess on June 11th. Signups will be available soon!

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

The Someone Special Dance will take place tomorrow on **April 2nd** 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



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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 7-8pm. We will also have snacks available at the event and will be pre-selling corsages 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!

- T. **Staff Recognition** - given by Amanda Fickler or Sunita Hansraj or Heather Egert or Ashley Cohen or Carly Goodman

We are so excited to celebrate our "Out of This World" teachers! We will kick off our now annual staff appreciation "week" on Wednesday, May 21st with events and surprises for the staff continuing after the short break on Tuesday, May 27th through Friday, May 30th ending with our special breakfast and awards. We are in the initial planning phases but if you're interested in supporting or helping out, please reach out to one of the chairs: Ashley Cohen, Sunita Hansraj, Amanda Fickler, Heather Egert or Carly Goodman. Please watch out for the email with the link to donate items and gift cards for us to use during the week.

- U. 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

We are looking for volunteers who live in high traffic areas to put lawn signs on their property to promote the budget and election vote. The signs are for educational purposes only - there are no opinions on them. The signs would be put up the Tuesday before the election which is May 13th. Also, Budget Session # 3 has been moved to Monday, April 21st.

Budget information sessions start next month:

- **Budget Information Session #3**, Monday, April 21, 8:00 pm at South Woods Middle School
- **Budget Hearing**, Monday, May 12, 8:00 pm at South Woods Middle School

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

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.

2. Now we will hear a report by the **Cultural Unity Committee** given by Sunita Hansraj.

The committee is excited to announce they will start collecting artwork for the "Celebration of Culture". The showcase will take place on May 29th at 7pm at South Woods Middle School. We invite students to submit a piece of literature, art, digital art, photography or dance/music composition that answers one or all of the following: What does culture mean to you? How is culture celebrated in your home? What has culture taught you? Or anything that defines culture to you! Entries will be divided into the following categories: K-2, 3-5, Middle School, and High School. Each participant will be entered into a raffle for a



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chance to win a gift card. Multiple winners will be picked randomly from each category. Check out the flyer in the weekly newsletter.

VII. Special Committee Reports - None

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.

April

1 - Exec Board Meeting 9:30am

1 - PTA General Meeting 10am

10 - School Store

14-18 - No School

21 - Budget information & BOE Mtg 8pm, SW

23 - 5th Gr Event - Harry Potter

30 - SEPTA, Robbins Lane

May

1 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm

9 - Plant Sale 9-3pm

9 - Parent Plant Sale 3-5pm

10 - Family Fun Night 6-8pm

12 - Planting Day

15 - School Store

19 - Fun Fair (Indoors) 6:30-8:30pm

21 - Staff Appreciation Week Kickoff

22-26 - No School

30 - Staff Appreciation Breakfast

June

4 - Field Day

9 - Field Day (rain date)

10 - 5th Grade Dance

11 - Someone Special Craft - Gift

11 - PTA Meeting 7pm

12 - School Store

13 - 5th Grade Picnic

13 - Fun Run 6-8pm

16 - Fun Run (rain date)

Thank you everyone once again. If there is no further business, the meeting will stand adjourned.

The meeting is adjourned at 11:15 am

Recording Secretary / Theresa Seedorf

Attached

PTA Attendance April 2025.pdf