



## General Meeting Agenda

June 11, 2025, at 7:00pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

Good Evening Everyone.

Our meeting is called to order at 7:11pm with a quorum present. Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet. Please make sure you sign the sheet on the tables. Additionally, we have the membership list for you to review to ensure you are a PTA member.

### I. Approve minutes - May 2025

We sent out the minutes from our last PTA meeting for review via a link to our [website](#) 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, 5/1/2025	\$ 66,795.66
Income/Deposits	\$ 13,628.98
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 12,947.64
<u>Checking Balance 5/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 67,477.00</u>

<u>CD Balance as of 5/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 40,289.29</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 5/31/2025</u>	<u>\$107,766.29</u>

"All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The May books were reviewed and found to be in order by Anna Karotkin. Thank you Anna."

*Please submit all outstanding receipts ASAP and the absolute deadline to submit any outstanding event, such as Field Day or the 5th grade breakfast receipts is June 27, 2025. The books will be closed as of June 30, 2025 and no reimbursements can be issued after the books are closed. Thank you!*

### III. Correspondence Secretary – Niki Gionis

Mrs. Small, Gordon, Bloomfield thanked the PTA for concert flowers. WW Staff also thanked the PTA for an out of this world teacher appreciation week that made us feel valued and celebrated.

### IV. Principal's Report – Mr. Snyder

Field Day was a big success - thank you to our PTA Presidents and parents for volunteering. Tomorrow 6/12 is Day of Play focusing on learning and teaching instructions. Thank you to the PTA for purchasing many yard games that everyone will get to enjoy. Thank you Mrs. Ostrick for all of your time. You have put in a lot of work, are always child centered and have made great impacts in the building. The district is starting to use Parent Square (which purchased Remind) - a more robust parent communication system (vs Blackboard connect). We will send out more information as it becomes available. Parent Square is school specific. NWEA scores have not been released yet as all students must have completed the exam which was not achieved until today. The construction manager company H2M is



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already onsite taking measurements and planning. We do not anticipate breaking ground until summer of 2026.

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

Thank you Mr. Snyder for your leadership this year. We are so grateful to you and the staff for making this another incredible year for our students. Plant Sale was a smooth success chaired by Jordana Sirotkin, Allison Soren and Nina Wang. 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.

Today's Someone Special Gift craft was another shining example of PTA spirit. The weather was hot but bearable, and the kids had an absolute blast decorating their kites outside. Huge thanks to our incredible chairs - Katherine Lee, Deandra Guzman-Schweiger, Jaclyn Sharoni, and Abigail Levy - for making it such a fun and breezy success!

This year's Staff Recognition Committee launched us into orbit with a celebration that was out of this world! From our amazing teachers and support staff to central administrators and the Board of Ed, everyone was treated like a star. The galactic décor, cosmic treats, and shining smiles made it clear: our Whitman staff is truly stellar. Special thanks to our mission control team Carly Goodman, Ashley Cohen, Amanda Fickler, Sunita Hansraj, Heather Egert and Tara Bensol for planning and executing an unforgettable interstellar morning. Thank you to the Family Fun Night committee for organizing the LI Ducks game. Great fun was had by all! Thank you to the Fun Fair Committee.

We are proud to celebrate the following individuals who were honored this year with PTA awards: Congratulations to Ms. Turnquist and Ms. Beach on receiving the Honorary Life Awards. This year we were thrilled to give a group award to our incredible Custodial Staff with an official NYS PTA Community Service Award. We also thanked Mr. Fitz and Ms. Schaefer on their retirement. Thank you Inna Choi for chairing the Awards Committee.

Copies of our projected budget for the upcoming school year are available. Tonight, we will be holding a vote of confidence to authorize summer spending, which allows us to begin programming right away in the fall. In addition, we will also be voting on the updated PTA bylaws as we indicated last month. These bylaws help guide our work and ensure we operate effectively and in alignment with New York State PTA standards.

We will once again be organizing an end-of-year gift collection for our incredible custodial and office staff. Details including how to contribute and a complete staff list will be posted on Facebook shortly.

Our meeting will end with our new executive committee installation.



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### 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 have some really amazing assemblies planned for the end of the school year. Yesterday the students enjoyed the bFit assembly. bFit is performed by Brian Richards, a magician who incorporates comedy and music to educate about the importance of making healthy choices. He led the kids through a mini workout and spoke about what it takes to lead a healthy lifestyle. The Ultimate Human Game Board was so popular last year that we are bringing it back in a few weeks! This assembly focuses on team work, character building and sportsmanship, all while students participate in activities on a life-size game board!"

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

Power lines being installed may impact busing. Works begin this summer in other buildings. Two remaining names for Syosset mascot were Sabre or Storm.

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

Thanks for all your support - We are at **\$195** with the goal of \$100. Let's get to \$200!!! It's literally free money for our children and the PTA.

- 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.

- 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 \$5**. Use the code **EOYSALE**. Don't miss out on the discounts and tell your friends with future kindergartners not to miss out!

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

Thank you to everyone who ordered legacy tiles, lawn signs and candy bouquets. We appreciate everyone's support! The kids had a blast at the 5th grade dance last night and we still have a lot of fun events to end their final year at WW! This Friday, June 13th is the 5th grade picnic (rain date 6/17) at Syosset Woodbury Park from 10am-1:30pm. Please make sure to sign up if you would like to volunteer. June 20th is the breakfast and yearbook signing - please drop off your child to school at 8:30am. June 20th from 4:30-6:30 is the pool party at Lifetime Fitness, which is NOT a PTA event but all WW 5th graders are welcome to attend - please Venmo \$37 to @pam-bahiri which includes pizza and a drink if your child would like to attend. Finally, June 24th is the moving up ceremony at Southwoods Middle School. We are all sad to be leaving WW! Thanks to all of our committee members for an amazing year - Tracy Brown, Melanie Eisenberg, Joanne Fang, Elana Gofman, Cara Kaplan, Livia Kogan, Marina Meyerowitz, Gabby Platz, Erica Roseman, Danielle Sandjaby, Courtney Schlow and Melissa Wallentin.



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Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Jun 13 - 5th Grade Picnic
- Jun 17 - 5th Grade Picnic Rain Date
- Jun 20 - 5th Grade Breakfast & Yearbook Signing at WW
- Jun 20 - 5th Grade Pool party - not a PTA-sponsored event
- Jun 24 - 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

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

Walt Whitman will be hosting a fun color run on **Friday June 13th** from **4:30-6:30pm** - rain date is June 16th. We will have a DJ, MC and Krafty Hands will be leading the color fun! We will have a food truck and ice cream truck as well. Please have your child wear their Color Run t-shirt or a plain white t-shirt and bring a water bottle, a towel and swim goggles! Eye protection will be provided but you may prefer your child's swim goggles as they will fit better. Looking forward to seeing everyone there!

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

The next and last School Store is tomorrow, **June 12th**. We are looking for volunteers, please sign up! Don't forget to order your 1st Day School Supplies by June 30th.

## VII. Special Committee Reports -

### **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 25-26 proposed summer budget and a vote of confidence for summer spending for 2025.***

The budget committee chair (Treasurer) moves to put it to vote on the "*2025-26 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?

With no questions, 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? Does anyone abstain?



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The motion passes (35 in favor, non opposed), the Proposed Summer Budget and Summer Spending confidence is approved. Thank you everyone.

**Awards Ceremony:** at the end of the meeting.

The awards ceremony tonight will be hosted by Inna Choi and the committee. Awards will be presented as follows:

### **2025 Awards**

- Rookie of the Year (K or 1st Grade Parent) - Jackie Avellino
- Outgoing 5th Grade Parent - Marina Meyerowitz, Melanie Eisenberg, Adrienne Krueger, Gabby Platz
- Volunteer of the Year - Melissa Wallentin, Jenn Crecco
- Leadership Award - Tracy Brown
- NYS PTA Honorary Life - Pam Bahiri
- NYS PTA Distinguished Service - Karen Ostrick and Inna Choi
- WW Triple Gold \*\*\* Teacher Aides - Ronnie Festa, Lindsay Bennett, Michelle Cartier, Melissa Casabianca, Christine Dietrich, Vicky Gutierrez, Elizabeth Tulipano
- Certificate of Appreciation (Retiring Teachers) - Ms. Schaefer
- NYS PTA Honorary Life (Teacher/Staff) - Mrs. Turnquist, Mrs. Beach, Mr. Fitzgerald
- NYS PTA Community Service Award - Entire Custodial Staff (Mr. Rick, Derek, Felix and Warren)
- Ms. Mackey was recognized for becoming tenured

## **VIII. New Business**

### **Bylaws:**

As you all know by now, our Bylaws are up for renewal. Notice was sent to all members with the proposed changes 30 days in advance of this meeting. We will be taking an instructed vote for or against our new Bylaws.

To be approved, we need a 2/3 vote in favor of the new Bylaws of members who are present and voting. As a reminder only current members may vote and you can vote for, against or choose to abstain. The revised bylaws will be submitted to Nassau Region PTA, following tonight's vote.

Any questions? Will anyone second me? We will proceed with a vote. We will vote by a show of hands. All those in favor of the Proposed of the Bylaws, raise your hands. All those opposed? Does anyone abstain? The bylaws stand as approved. Thank you everyone.

Favor: 35

Opposed: 0



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### Installation:

Co-Presidents: Cindy Ho, Danielle Sandjaby

VP Education: Erica Schulman

VP Events: Tara Bensol

VP Fundraising: Jackie Avellino

VP Fundraising - School Store: Carly Laffie

Corresponding Secretary: Heather Egert

Recording Secretary: Sunita Hansraj

Treasurer: Allison Soren

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

### 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!***

### June

12 - School Store

13 - 5th Grade Picnic

13 - Fun Run 4:30-6:30pm

16 - Fun Run (rain date)

17 - 5th Grade Picnic (rain date)

19 - No School

20 - 5th Grade Breakfast 8:30am

24 - 5th Grade Moving Up Southwoods

26 - Arts in Ed Assembly Human Game Board

27 - Last Day of School

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

Happy Fathers Day to all who celebrate and have a great and relaxing summer! See you in the fall.

The meeting is adjourned at 8:27 pm

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Recording Secretary /  
Heather Egert on behalf of Theresa Seedorf

Attached

PTA Attendance June 2025.pdf