



General Meeting Agenda
October 8, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

The October PTA meeting was called to order at 7:33pm with a quorum present. Attendance will be taken by sign in sheet.

I. Minutes - Sept 2025

The September minutes were sent out for review via email and copies were presented at the PTA meeting. There were no comments, changes, or questions. The minutes stand as approved.

II. Treasurer's Report – Allison Soren

Opening Balance, 9/1/25	\$ 39,623.32
Income/Deposits	\$ 25,744.40
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 10,176.70
<u>Checking Balance 9/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 55,191.02</u>
<u>CD Balance as of 9/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 40,786.06</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 9/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 95,977.08</u>

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by Dorell Pinkus.

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Heather Egert

Nothing to report.

IV. Principal's Report – Mr. Snyder

The first newsletter was sent out via Parent Square and included highlights by grade level, learning strategies you can use at home, some social emotional info from our social workers, as well as our special area staff and MTSS team. It will also include information about school and events that are going on. It will be a platform to incorporate letters you would have previously received an email on in the past. If you missed the newsletter, go into Parent Square and search for it. There is one twist at the end - the segment is called "Don't be that parent!" which highlights a few things happening around campus (i.e. double parking). Lately we have had about 85-110 pickups a day. Try not to double park. Find a designated parking spot if you can. Safety is our priority. If you have some funny things to share, please send them to Mr. Snyder. Today we had our first inclement weather recess for our K-1st grade students. The PE schedule has been adjusted to provide for an indoor recess period once in a six-day cycle. All gathered in the gym today with monitors. So today they were able to do something they would do in PE. So it allows students to be outside the classroom. Grades 2-3 would be on Day 4 and Grades 4-5 would be on Day 2. Students have outdoor recess as long as it is safe and the real feel is 32 degrees and above. Dress your kids for the weather. Check out the Lost and Found on your way out. Mr. Snyder encouraged parents to provide suggestions for indoor recess movement activities and board games.



V. President's Report - read by Cindy Ho & Danielle Sandjaby

Good evening everyone! Welcome to our PTA meeting. We would like to highlight what a wonderful school community we have here. Thank you to Mr. Snyder, our teachers and WW staff and WW families for all that you do for our children! We are so happy that Syosset was named the best school district in New York—and the second best in the country (Niche.com). It's great to be recognized that we have amazing students and staff here in Syosset school district!

September was a blur! The **Welcome Back Picnic** was amazing! There was fun for everyone! A HUGE thank you to our Co-Chairs Katherine Lee, Jessica Lischin, Gunika Singh, Ashley Cohen and VP Tara Bensol for organizing such a wonderful and successful event!

The **Newcomers Social** was well attended and gave our new families a chance to connect and feel welcomed. Special thanks to Miriam and Jason Zemsky for hosting with such warmth and hospitality!

Thank you to Jacky Stadler and Anna Lee Karotkin and the 5th Grade Committee for running a very successful 5th grade Car Wash! The kids had a blast and we are so thankful for all the friends and families that came out to support our 5th graders, risking their cars and trucks for a great cause.

The kids loved the School Store! Thank you to Carly Laffie and Carly Orlansky for organizing and providing such fun new school supply merchandise! Please continue to sign up for future School Stores.

Parking lot safety is very important. Please be mindful of others and don't pass other cars or the buses. If you are dropping off your child in the morning and need to help them with car seats or instruments, etc., please don't be that parent that causes delays or unsafe situations - park your car and walk them to the door. Thank you!

A friendly reminder: We NEED you! Your presence at PTA meetings makes such a difference, so please try to attend as many as you can. And if you're not already a PTA member, now is the perfect time to join! Membership gives you access to our weekly newsletter, Directory Spot, and opens doors to volunteer and join committees. Don't forget to download the Remind app for quick updates from the PTA, and be sure to follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and our website to stay in the loop!

We are excited to have such great parent volunteers - just a quick reminder to follow the school's rules. For example, if you're here for the Book Fair, please stick to the Book Fair - do not wander the building. The same goes for the Fall Festival program or School Store —let's all work together to respect the school's policies and keep our building safe.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin - Our first assembly of the year took place yesterday and it was a great one! Award-winning producer and composer Brent Daniels came to present his Music Technology Live assembly. Brent uses music technology to deliver the message that a student's education, great study habits, and positive decision-making are essential for their success in life. The kids had an amazing time singing,



General Meeting Agenda
October 8, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

shouting, and making crazy sounds to help Brent use music technology to create new music! Make sure to ask your child about it! We have more great assemblies planned for the year so stay tuned!

- B. **Book Fair** given by Rachel Kaplan or Abby Levy -
Our Book Fair is next week on Thursday, Oct. 16th and Friday, Oct. 17th. Volunteer sign ups have gone out, and the catalogs should be going home this week. We are encouraging parents to preload their child's e-wallet account. This is the best, cashless option, especially if you are not able to make the book fair in person. A friendly reminder to not send in any credit cards with children. Cash and checks are accepted and apple pay is available for volunteers who will be there. We are also doing a presale for the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Partypooer book! This book hits shelves in two weeks and you can order your copy at the book fair or by scanning the qr code on the info sheet sent home! Please reach out with any questions and keep an eye out for the catalogue coming home soon.
- C. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert -
There is continued work being done on the open doors initiative which is looking to be inclusive of all students and to find things that interest them, so they feel part of the community. They talked about school belonging being directly correlated to social and emotional health. UPK- Working on literary enhancements, learning env. Enhancements, how to support multicultural learners, and to promote a sense of belonging. There are 231/400 possible seats filled. Dr Rogers shared updated BOE goals which include academic excellence, inclusion, connection and transparency. Last month, several WW parents spoke eloquently about class size concerns. If any other parents are interested in learning more about the BOE meetings and how to get involved, reach out to Heather Egert and Allison Soren about the BOE Committee.
- D. **Box Tops** given by Erika Auerbach -
The Box Tops Fundraiser is the easiest way to raise money for the school! Simply download the app, scan your receipts or if you buy online, forward them to the email address provided! Our goal for the year is \$100. So many products you buy are included, it is easy! We are halfway to our goal of \$100. Currently at \$51
- E. **Community Kindness** given by Joanne Fang or Livia Kogan -
We will be having our annual Coat Drive through the month of November. So time to start cleaning out your closets and see what your kids have outgrown! We will be accepting new and gently used coats, and new hats, scarves and gloves. Please be sure all used coats have been cleaned. There will be a box in the vestibule starting November 3rd. Thanks in advance and contact Joanne Fang or Livia Kogan with any questions.
- F. **Directory Spot and Membership** given by Sam Lebenhart or Michelle Kim -
The Directory Spot is updated and looks great but we still have students without contact info. Please submit to have your info included in the directory. Please encourage your fellow members and nonmembers to join the PTA by purchasing a membership and as an added bonus you will receive a login to access the directory. By the end of the week the membership will be turned over which means it will lock out those who are NOT PTA paid members this year but still have access from last year. Please join!
- G. **Discount Card Fundraiser** given by Taylor Schacter or Jackie Avellino -
The 2025 discount card is back with some new additions like Carvel, The Granola Bar, Woodbury Men's Shop, Playa Bowl and old favorites too. Don't miss out on the best fundraiser to save at places you shop. \$25 per card, 3 for \$65, and 5 for \$100.
- H. **Fall Festival** given by Michelle Bochner, Hera Bokhari, Jessica Kotkin and Ashley Cohen -
The Fall Festival is coming up on Friday October 31. This is an in school event. The students will participate in halloween activities in the gym by grade, including pumpkin decorating, ring toss,



General Meeting Agenda
October 8, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

spooky DJ dance party, and other fun games! This event is during school hours for students only. We have limited spots available for volunteers and the sign up will be going out soon. The Fall Festival made a motion to increase their budget by \$300, as it came out of a committee it did not need a second. This motion passed.

I. **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Anna Karotkin or Jacky Stadler -

Thank you to everyone that participated in the car wash! It was a huge success!! And thank you to everyone who ordered Chromebook Decals (**deadline is Oct 17th**)! If you placed an order, please see Carly Goodman after this meeting. We truly appreciate all of your support! We have some exciting fundraisers coming up soon so be on the look out - we will be selling delicious popcorn soon!! Also, 5th grade parents, emails will go out soon regarding pictures for the yearbook so please make sure you check your emails and reach out if you have any questions.

J. **Maker Space** given by Val Kesten, Jessica Lischin or Jaclyn Lewis -

We are planning on doing Maker Space again this year. We piloted this recess program last year and are excited to do it again! The Maker Space program includes a variety of STEAM based activities that students can do during their recess. We plan on doing Maker Space activities a few times this fall and then more frequently during the winter months. We also have some amazing Whitman staff helping us out with this program this year! Keep an eye out for some volunteer opportunities!

K. **Parents Night Out** given by Perri Drexler, Taylor Schacter, Carly Orlansky -

We are excited for Parents Night Out is tentatively scheduled January 22nd. We are looking for parent volunteers to join this fun committee planning. Please reach out to us if you can help!

L. **Pie Sale** given by Yuko Ono Bhatia or Anna Lee Karotkin -

Please support the Walt Whitman PTA and buy delicious award winning baked goods from White Post Farms by participating in our Thanksgiving Pie Sale Fundraiser this holiday season. It is one less thing to have to make yourself on Thanksgiving day. Pick up will be on November 26th, at school dismissal. Orders must be placed by November 14th. We will be sending out a flyer with a direct link to place your orders. Be sure to keep an eye out. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. Thanks!

M. **School Store** given by Carly Laffie or Carly Orlansky -

We had a very successful first school store and can't wait for the next one coming up October 23rd! We have a bunch of new items that we know the kids will love. Please sign up if you haven't already – we can always use more volunteers especially in the 4th and 5th grade.

N. **Social Media** - given by Anna Lee Karotkin or Bari Litvack -

📱 Stay Connected with Whitman!

Follow our private PTA Instagram for event highlights, reminders, and community fun run by Anna Brian and Bari Litvack 🌟 Important Reminders for Social Media Posts- Notice Period: We cannot turn around a post with less than 48 hours' notice. Please plan ahead and be mindful of timing. What to Provide: When requesting a post, please be prepared to send all necessary materials, such as flyers, links, and other details. Please email requests and materials to social@waltwhitmanpta.org. Photos for Big Events: For larger events (Fun Fair, Book Fair, Fall Festival, Field Day, etc.), we will create a Google photo album for your event. Please share the link to your committee and instruct your volunteers to upload photos there. Please do not text images to us. Instagram Policy: Our Instagram account is private. To be approved, follow requests must include the child's name and teacher. Requests without this information will be declined

O. **Spirit Wear Committee** given by Sydnie Monchik or Ashley Feig -



General Meeting Agenda
October 8, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

Every Friday is spirit day! We have a great mix of items including both Walt Whitman and Syosset gear that all of your kids are sure to love! Stop by and see us after the meeting to check out the merch! Please let us know if you have any questions.

P. **SEPTA** given by Erica Shulman or Jackie Avellino -

What is SEPTA? Syosset SEPTA (Special Education Parent Teacher Association) is a district-wide organization that supports students who receive special education services—and their families—within the Syosset Central School District. We provide resources, host informative events, and foster a welcoming, inclusive community to help families navigate the special education system. Membership is open to all families, regardless of whether your child currently receives services—and it's also our only form of fundraising. Your membership support helps fund scholarships for our students. Our most recent meeting was a great success! The Board of Education made an appearance and took time to introduce themselves—thank you to everyone who joined us!

- Fundraiser – Taco Tuesday at Chipotle, October 21 at Chipotle in Syosset, 25% of your purchase goes to SEPTA—just mention “Syosset SEPTA” when you order. Online order code: FZKFTGP
- Free Volleyball Clinic - All Ages & Abilities Welcomed, North Shore Sports is hosting a Special Needs and Para Volleyball Clinic on November 2nd from 5:00-6:30PM. Register now to save your spot!
- Upcoming SEPTA Meetings: Our next meeting is on Thursday, October 23rd at South Grove Elementary School and the topic is a focus on technology tools that can help our children succeed.
- There's a Change to November Meeting - Our November meeting will now be held VIRTUALLY Presentation by Andrew Cohen & Mitch Weisbrot - Protecting your Child Legally and Financially.
- In conjunction with the District's partnership with Northwell Health, SEPTA will be sharing their monthly webcast series. The next one is on Thursday October 16th 12-3pm. TOPIC: Dinner Table Dialogue: Sparking Meaningful Conversations at Home. Presenter: Zoya Popivker, DO & Scott Falkowitz, DO. The link will be sent out soon. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to connect, please reach out to Erie or Jacky—we're always happy to help or point you in the right direction. Hope to see you at a meeting or event soon!

Q. **Thanksgiving Luncheon** - given by Theresa Seedorf, Gunika Singh, Sabina Chaikin or Tim Deygoo
This year's luncheon will be on November 20th. The annual Thanksgiving Luncheon is intended for Senior Citizens residing at local Assisted Living facilities, who otherwise would not have a Thanksgiving dinner with loved ones. The lunch is made available by food donations provided by the community and served by PTA members. We have already started planning and are excited for another successful year. An email was sent to the committee. Please let us know asap if you are unable to commit to volunteering for the full day as it will be all hands on deck. For everyone, please be on the lookout for signups to donate food and/or other goods. Please reach out to Theresa, Gunika, Sabina or Tim with any questions. We look forward to being able to provide more updates at next month's meeting.

R. **Syosset Council of PTAs Committee reports**

a. **Reflections** given by Erica Shulman or Rachel Medvin -

The Reflections program has begun! Starting now students can submit entries in the following categories: music composition, visual arts, film production, dance choreography, literature and photography. This year's theme is "I Belong!" Students can interpret how this



General Meeting Agenda
October 8, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

theme relates to them or their world and showcase that through one of the categories mentioned. Submissions are being accepted until October 27th and anyone that participates in the Reflections program gets \$5 to our Spring Book Fair!

b. Parent Resource Group - given by Jenn Crecco -

The 1st presentation for this year will be a discussion concerning mental health in adolescents and the availability of mental health services through the district's partnership with Northwell - more details to follow - save the date - virtual presentation on 11/25 @ 7:30pm

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Old Business The Bylaws for 10-429 Walt Whitman Elementary School PTA were approved by NYS PTA on 6/29/25. They expire on 7/1/28

IX. 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!***

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

October

13 - No School

14 - 5th Grade Photo
14 - BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods
16-17 - Book Fair
17 - Chromebook Decal Deadline

20 - No School

22 - Council Evening Program
23 - School Store
23 - SEPTA Meeting 7:45pm @ South Grove
27 - Reflections Deadline
29 - Council General Meeting 7:45pm @ Baylis [Delegates]

November

2 - Daylight Saving Time Ends
2 - 5th Grade Event 7pm
3-14 - Coat Drive
3 - Family Fun Night
4 - No School
4 - Parent Teacher Conferences 8am-4pm
5 - Thanksgiving Craft (Recess)
5 - WW Reflections Ceremony 7:15pm
5 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm @ Walt Whitman (Executive Board 7pm)

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)