



General Meeting Agenda
November 5, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

The November PTA meeting was called to order at 7:34pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by sign in sheet.

I. Approve minutes - October 2025

We sent out the minutes from our last PTA meeting for review via email and have some copies on the tables today. There were no comments, changes, or questions. The minutes stand as approved.

II. Treasurer's Report – Allison Soren

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Opening Balance, 10/1/25 | \$ 55,191.02 |
| Income/Deposits | \$ 8,259.44 |
| Expense/Cash Disbursements | \$ 14,344.50 |
| Checking Balance 10/31/25 | \$ 49,105.96 |
| <hr/> | |
| CD Balance as of 10/31/25 | \$ 40,858.51 |
| TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 10/31/25 | \$ 89,964.47 |

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by **Jessica Fox**. Thank you, Jessica.

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Heather Egert

[Staff Thank You Card to WW PTA](#)

IV. Principal's Report – Mr. Snyder

The Fall Festival was a huge success. The kids and teachers had a great time making pumpkins for the Fall Festival. If you have not had an opportunity to read the newsletter, please do.

One topic that needs to be discussed are Class Parties that previously included snacks. Several students in the building have allergies and food sensitivities. We want them to still have fun. In the past, we required parents to use the District's pre-approved safe snack list per the District's Allergy Committee. Please work closely with your teacher and create a menu of what you will stick to from the District's pre-approved safe snack list. No exceptions. This is for the safety of all the students. This menu should be shared with the teacher and the building for approval in advance of all Class Parties for all classes to allow for review, even if the original Class Dues forms collected indicated no allergies. No changes after approval. The safety of all students is of the utmost importance. This applies to Class Party snacks, not what your child brings in for snack each day. This is not a peanut free school, however, if there is a peanut allergy in the class, then that student with a snack containing nuts will sit at a different table, which is wiped down after use.

**After the PTA meeting, on November 17th, there was an "Update to Food & Class Parties" for Walt Whitman Elementary. Moving forward, we will be shifting the focus of our parties away from food and toward fun, engaging crafts and activities that help students connect and celebrate together.*

Other than that, I am looking forward to the best event WW does, Our Thanksgiving Feast. Mrs. Bloomfield, Mrs. Small, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Steinberg, and our Kindergarten teachers are planning a wonderful program for the Assisted Living Senior Citizens and students are very excited! We are going to try to incorporate as many students as possible. We did our Thanksgiving Craft today for our honored guests to take home.



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A Class Parent asked guidance for scheduling Class Parties. Mr. Snyder replied that they should coordinate with their classroom teacher and decide on the three class parties' dates and time. Another parent asked about bus lateness and attendance - one bus is always late (after 9:05am) while school starts at 9:15am. Doors open for the buses at 9:05am. If you are on the bus, and it arrives late, your child(ren) will not be marked late (only if they arrived on the bus). Student drop-off in the mornings is still a problem. Some cars are lined up for drop-off and parents are still getting out of their cars, making others late, including staff who are helping children get into the building. Please share photos of vehicles that are creating unsafe conditions so that this can be addressed directly with those parents. If your child(ren) needs assistance getting out of your car at drop-off for any reason or has an instrument that requires your help, please park your car and safely walk your child to the door. Mr. Snyder will try to be present to address this ongoing issue. Unfortunately this happens at other schools as well. Regarding pickup - parents are required to enter changes to pickup in Pickup Patrol no later than 2:30pm. When parents arrive for early dismissal, they need to complete the student sign out form. Lack of parking at pickup is also an issue. Cars begin lining up at 2:30pm or earlier. Parents asked for a more efficient pickup process, however, over 33% of the students are being picked up, particularly on Fridays (and more before a holiday break). Unfortunately, the zipline feature is currently not an option as we cannot have cars backed up on Woodbury Road due to safety reasons. The safest and most efficient option would be to have your children take the bus.

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

This month we voted on resolutions, which were sent in an email blast. To save time, we took a block vote after reading each resolution/bylaw amendment and discussion, if any. Once all resolutions were read and discussed, we took a vote on all retentions first, then all the updates, rescissions, combined updates and rescissions, and finally the new resolutions. Only paid PTA members were able to vote. The vote this evening will be taken to the NYS PTA convention which will be on November 14-16. The Legislation Chair, Bari Litvack, made a motion that was seconded to forego the reading of the resolutions as they were received via email. There being no objections, the motion to forego the reading of the resolutions and amendments passed by acclamation. The Legislation Chair read that a retention is something that NYS PTA would like to keep as is. There is still a need for advocacy on a current issue, the resolution is relevant and should remain the same. All retentions were read and there were no questions or objections to supporting the retentions. The vote on retentions passed by acclamation. The Legislation Chair moved on to updates - an update is something that is still relevant but needs to be updated in a small way, for example words are changed or deleted from the resolution. All updates were read and there were no questions or objections to the updates. The vote on updates passed by acclamation. The Legislation Chair moved on to rescissions - a rescission is a resolution that is obsolete, for reasons described in the resolution's statement. All rescissions were read and there were no questions or objections to the rescissions. The vote on rescissions passed by acclamation. The Legislation Chair moved onto a combined update and rescission. This is a resolution that is being updated by combining two resolutions on the same topic for clarity. The new combined update and rescission was read and there were no questions or objections to the new combined update and rescission. The vote passed by acclamation. The Legislation Chair moved onto new resolutions. These are resolutions that will be brought to the floor of the convention for the first time to be voted on by the delegates in attendance for possible adoption. All new resolutions were read and there were no questions or objections to the new resolutions. The vote passed by acclamation. Finally, the Legislation Chair moved onto Bylaws Amendments for NYS PTA. There were no questions or objections to the Bylaws Amendments for NYS PTA. There being no objections, the motion for a vote of confidence for our voting delegates to vote on our behalf passed by acclamation.

The WW PTA membership voted on the Nominations Committee members in November. Our bylaws require three members from our Executive Board, two from our general membership, and one alternate. The Executive Board Nominations Committee members and the alternate Nominations Committee member were voted on by paper ballot at the Executive Board earlier this evening and they are: Livia Kogan, Helena Lee, Erica Schulman, and alternate Jessica Lischin. Only paid PTA members were permitted to vote. There were no discussions or objections. The general membership voted on the two Nominations Committee general members by paper ballot and they are: Jordan Baum and Vaishali Sondhi. Only paid PTA members were permitted to vote. There were no discussions or objections. Thank you to everyone who submitted their names and to everyone who voted tonight. The Nominating Committee votes were calculated by the Recording Secretary, Sunita Hansraj, and verified by Theresa Seedorf. Congratulations to our new members of the Nominations Committee. Thank you for volunteering to be part of this very important committee responsible for selecting the future leadership of this PTA.

VI. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin -
We are so excited to announce that we have booked the National Circus Residency again for this year. Throughout the week, students will get to learn skills on how to perform circus tricks! The 5th graders will be performing their tricks for the entire school during the last day and 5th grade families are invited to the 5th grade performance on Friday evening, Dec 12th tentatively at 7:30pm at HBT. More information on this to come.
- B. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert -
There was a presentation on updates to instruction at the elementary level. They want to create a Syosset inspiration leader from the students and they're trying to incorporate building-wide alignment. At the secondary level they are trying to create comparable learning experience and creating a tool to scope curriculums and see how they are teaching students. They are creating a portrait of what a graduate looks like. Another presentation was on supporting social emotional development, which is something really important to Syosset. At the elementary level they are doing this in the form of clubs such as peer mediators and 5th grade Kindergarten buddies. At the secondary level, lunch nooks provide board games and activities. There will also be a monthly newsletter called Syo Spark, which will be written by students. We encourage everyone to join and go to the meetings.
- C. **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. Box tops doing great! Up to \$67 with the goal of \$100. Please give me receipts if you don't want to scan your receipts yourself!
- D. **Community Kindness** given by Joanne Fang or Livia Kogan -
Our annual coat drive is in full swing, running until November 21 (just two more weeks). We're calling on our community to donate new or gently used, clean coats that your kids may have outgrown, or any adult-sized coats you no longer need. We're also accepting hats, scarves, gloves, sweaters, sweatshirts and sweatpants to help spread even more warmth. Please drop off your donations in the designated box in the school vestibule. Let's come together to make a difference this winter! Your generosity will ensure that everyone stays warm this season.
- E. **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Anna Karotkin or Jacky Stadler -
Friendly reminder yearbook submission deadline is this coming Monday, November 10th. Also on Monday is our 5th Grader Dodgeball Fundraiser in the WW gym at 7:30pm. The Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser begins on Monday, November 10th at 4pm and ends Friday, November 14th at 4pm. The 5th Grade Playground Yearbook photo will be taken by professional photographers on Monday, November 17th. Please remember to send your child wearing the 5th Grade T-shirt. Photo retake is Tuesday, November 18th. The

Bryant is taking reservations for post Moving Up Ceremony Lunch. Please check your emails from the Fifth Grade Committee.

F. Holiday Boutique given by Lauren Grams, Erica Sutter or Rachel Kaplan

We are excited for our Holiday Boutique this year on Wednesday, December 3rd and Thursday, December 4th. The set up will be similar to the Book Fair. We will be selling items for the children to purchase for the holidays for family members/friends ranging in price from \$1 to \$15 from our vendor, Miss Chocolate. Please send your children in with cash or check that day. We will also accept credit cards for those parents who will be there in person volunteering. A flyer and budget envelope will go home soon. We would love for all of the children to be able to buy gifts for their loved ones. A signup will go out shortly to committee members for help setting up and cleaning up at the end. Parent sign ups will go out soon as well. Please contact Lauren Grams, Erica Sutter or Rachel Kaplan with any questions.

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

The Maker Space program is starting up on Monday with a special Veterans Day craft. Students will create small projects with kind messages that will then be distributed to veterans. Other Maker Space dates are being decided on, with a few sprinkled here and there the next few months and then more frequently as the weather gets colder. We are excited to be collaborating this year with some amazing Whitman staff on future Maker Space ideas.

H. Multicultural Events given by Jenn Crecco, Brooke Kneller, Trupti Bahl

International Day is January 16th. Consistent with prior year, students vote on continent and country. As prior year's selection was Asia, that will be excluded from the vote this year. Mr. Snyder will share the kids voting results and will hand it to the committee to build out what is needed. Look out for opportunities to get involved in International Day as well as Multicultural Expo Night on Jan 28th.

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

Get ready for Parents Night Out. Club Whitman will be at the Ivy in Huntington on Thursday Jan 22 at 7:45pm. Book your babysitters now... we have amazing raffles! We are still accepting volunteers to ask for raffles around town. If you have anything to donate or know someone who has something great you can ask to donate, please let us know! Please reach out to Taylor Schacter or Perri Drexler.

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

This Thanksgiving, let White Post Farms handle dessert while you support the Walt Whitman PTA! Our Thanksgiving Pie Sale Fundraiser offers a selection of award-winning pies that make the perfect addition to your holiday table — with no baking required. Place your order by: Friday, November 14. Pickup: November 26 at school dismissal. Order forms can be found in your child's folder. Thank you for your continued support and for helping us make this a truly special season for our school community.

K. 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 November 13th! 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 2nd and 5th grade.

L. SEPTA given by Erica Shulman or Jackie Avellino -

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, and it's also our only form of fundraising—your support helps fund scholarships for our students.

Nov. 15: Virtual Meeting – “Protecting Your Child Legally and Financially” with Andrew Cohen, Esq. and Mitch Weisbrot, CLU, ChSNC

Nov. 13, 12–1 PM: Northwell Health Lunch & Learn – “Helping Our Kids & Ourselves Navigate Emotions” with Brittney Chatel, LMHC.

Nassau County PAL Special Needs Unit – Registration open for various sports and activities. Flyers are circulating



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Nov. 25, 7:30 PM: Parent Resource Group Virtual Presentation – Dr. Scott Falkowitz (Northwell) on supporting children's mental health (register by Nov. 24).

- M. Thanksgiving Luncheon** - given by Theresa Seedorf, Gunika Singh, Sabina Chaikin or Tim Deygoo
This year's luncheon will be on November 20th. For those newcomers, we hold an annual Thanksgiving luncheon for senior citizens who reside at local assisted living facilities. 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 has gone out to those who signed up to be on the committee back in June. 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.

VII. Syosset Council of PTAs Committee reports

- A. Reflections** given by Erica Shulman or Rachel Medvin -
We are blown away by this year's participation in the Reflections program. Our school DOUBLED the amount of submissions from last year. This year we had 53 submissions! The entries are off to the first round of judging. All participants will receive \$5 per submission to the spring book fair. We are so proud of each of them. These pieces of work are incredible! Participants and their families are invited to our Whitman Reflections Ceremony which will be held right before the December PTA meeting, on December 3rd in the Gym at 6:30pm.
- B. Parent Resource Group** - given by Jenn Crecco -
Syosset Council of PTA's Parent Resource Group presents an informative Workshop for Parents on Mental Health presented by Scott Falkowitz, a child psychiatrist and the Associate Director for School Based Mental Health at Northwell. The virtual presentation will be on Tuesday, November 25 at 7:30pm. The link for the presentation will be emailed the week of the presentation. Link will be in newsletter. We are looking for suggestions on seminars and speakers we can bring in.
- C. Scholarship Mailing** Every first wed of each month Playa bowls has been so generous to donate 20%. They are looking for donations. The teachers were fed lunch yesterday for school conferences and donations. given by Brooke Kneller
- D. School and Community Committee** given by Perri Drexler
The School and Community committee is running a drive to benefit the St. Edward Food Pantry from November 3-24. Each school lobby will have a box/bin for donations - each grade has its own donation box... let the friendly competition begin! There's also an Amazon wish list, allowing people to send items directly to the food pantry. The food pantry is in desperate need of food and other items. Questions? Contact: Perri Drexler



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VIII. New Business

- A.** As many of you know from time to time, we need to vote at our PTA meetings. In order to have a vote we will need a quorum. Based on feedback from the PTA membership, and the general rule that every one fundraiser will support three events for our students, a motion was made and seconded to have Rec Nights by Grade for the winter months. This will encourage activities by grade after school to foster friendship and community with a proposed budget of \$3,500. A quorum was present and the vote for Rec Nights by Grade was conducted by a show of hands. The majority of PTA members present voted for this line item. There was no discussion or objections. This motion was approved.

IX. Old Business - None

X. 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.

November

10 - 5th Grader Dodgeball Fundraiser @ Walt Whitman 7:30pm

11 - No School

13 - School Store

14 - Pie Sale Deadline

17 - 5th Gr Playground Yrbk Professional Photo in school [Wear your 5th grade T-shirts]

17 - BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods

18 - Picture Retake

18 - Council Executive Meeting 7:45pm @ Walt Whitman

19 - SEPTA Meeting 7:45pm @ Virtual

20 - Thanksgiving Luncheon

21 - Coat Drive Deadline

25 - Council Parent Resource Group Virtual Workshop: Northwell

26 - Pie Sale Pickup 2:30-3:15pm

27-28 No School

December

3-4 - Holiday Boutique

3 - WW Reflections Ceremony @ Walt Whitman 6:30pm

3 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm @ Walt Whitman

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)