



The December PTA meeting was called to order at 7:40pm with a quorum present, attendance taken by sign in sheet.

I. Approve minutes - November 2025

Minutes from our last PTA meeting were emailed for review with copies presented at the PTA meeting. There were no comments, changes, or questions. Minutes were approved.

II. Treasurer’s Report – read by Dorell Pinkus

Opening Balance, 11/1/25	\$ 49,105.96
Income/Deposits	\$ 7,188.62
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 10,112.41
<u>Checking Balance 11/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 46,182.17</u>
<u>CD Balance as of 11/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 40,858.51</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 11/30/25</u>	<u>\$ 87,040.68</u>

All balances were reconciled to the bank statements. The books were reviewed and found to be in order by **Elana Gofman**.

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Sunita Hansraj

[Thanksgiving email from Bristol](#)

Mr. Snyder also received a call from Amelia who reiterated everything said in the letter.

IV. Principal’s Report – Mr. Snyder

In my time here we had the greatest number of Assisted Living Senior Citizen residents during this year’s Thanksgiving Luncheon. Ages ranged from 70-99. It was a beautiful event.

For those of you that are Class Parents, many of you will have a party - please be aware we are moving away from food all together. Please re-allocate funds to a craft. We are trying to keep all the kids safe with allergies, etc. Mr. Snyder’s preference is to not bring food at all. Last thing is we have our winter concert coming up on the 16th. If you don’t have a child at the concert, please consider attending. The music sounds great. If you have a younger one interested in chorus, band, or orchestra please attend at HBT. A parent asked if their child has not been using the early bus, can they? Their 3rd grader will start Chorus early rehearsals soon. The answer is yes, they do. Large buses run on normal runs. If you’re on a smaller bus you have to call transportation to make sure they pick you up. It’s great to mention to the bus driver as well to make sure they hit the stop. Parents asked if they can take pictures of kids at class parties and share with the rest of the class. The Principal suggested the teacher take photos and share them with parents via Parent Square, versus a Class Parent taking photos and texting or emailing them to parents themselves. The concern is when someone takes a photo or video and posts it online which includes other children whose parents do not want their child’s image or video on social media. Within the school setting you are not allowed to take photos unless you are a staff member and sharing via Parent Square. Be cautious when taking photos of other children. Photos should come from the teacher via Parent Square. If there is any student that has signed up to opt out of photos, the teachers are aware of this. Happy Holidays!



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

Good evening Everyone! Shoutout to Mrs. Bookspan for always coming to our PTA meetings. We truly appreciate it and would love for all the teachers to come.

Maker Space Recess kicked off last month with a Veteran's Day Craft. Thank you Jaclyn Lewis, Val Kesten and Jessica Lischin!

We look forward to your participation for International Day on January 16th as a Presenter of a region or as a Tour Guide. The children selected North America! Multicultural Expo Night is February 6th evening. Any contribution is welcome!

Thank you all for your generosity these past few weeks - we've had a hugely successful coat drive. Thank you Joanne Fang and Livia Kogan for organizing! Don't forget the ongoing toy drive for Cohen's Medical Center!

5th Grade has been so busy fundraising with delicious Double Good Popcorn, thank you Carly Goodman! Also, thank you Tracey Meyer and the 5th grade committee - the 5th Grade Dodgeball night was a blast for both kids and parents. Don't forget to buy candy bouquets as a great gift to your loved ones for the 5th grade circus and upcoming winter concert.

Thank you Yuko Ono and Anna Lee Karotkin for running a successful Pie Sale!

Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon was another memorable event for the Assisted Living Senior Citizens. Thank you to Gunika Singh, Theresa Seedorf, Sabina Chaikin and Tim Deygoo and Tara Bensol for making this happen. We also want to thank the wonderful teachers and staff at WW for your time and contribution to this event! The seniors really enjoyed the delicious feast and performances by the students. We appreciate all the hard work and time that went into this.

The children were so happy to shop for you and your families at today's Holiday Boutique! Thank you for your support!

VI. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin -
We are so excited for the circus to come to Walt Whitman! Next week students will spend all week in a circus residency learning performance skills and circus tricks, including the Diablo, juggling, and even walking on stilts! 🤡 The 5th graders will be performing for students at the end of the week, and then 5th grade families can enjoy a performance at HBT Friday, Dec. 12th at 7:30pm. We are looking forward to a fun-filled week!
- B. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert
District wide safety plan. It is important for everyone to know the protocols. Please find the presentation on the district's website. K-12 world language presentation: these will help elementary students be able to make an informed decision for when they have to choose a language in middle school. K-1 focuses on ASL and early literacy skills. 2-3 focuses on Asian languages and cultures. 4-5 focuses on European languages and cultures. There is also going to be a focus on Festivals and celebrations, food around the world, life around the world, the arts, games, sports and pastimes
- 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 \$86 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 -

Thank you to everyone who made donations for our Fall Coat Drive. It was a huge success! We collected six 50 gallon bags. The LI Coalition for the Homeless was so appreciative! Our annual Toy Drive is in full swing now until next Friday, December 12th. We will be donating to Cohen's Children's Hospital this year. Please donate new unwrapped gifts to children who may not otherwise be getting any gifts this holiday season. You may drop off toys to the box in the vestibule or use the Amazon Wish List. Thank you for your generosity! For any questions please contact Joanne Fang or Livia Kogan

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

Outdoor class photos and hoodies turned out great—thank you, Allison Mayer for designing and organizing them! Our 5th graders love them! The popcorn fundraiser was very successful—big thanks to Carly Goodman and all who participated. Yearbook photos are still being accepted—please submit soon. Candy Bouquet sales are open for the Winter Concert and Circus Week next week.

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

This year, students voted to spotlight North America for International Day, and we're excited to take them on a "Hiking Through the National Parks" journey across the continent this January. Students will rotate through 7 interactive regional stations highlighting geography, wildlife, climate, culture, natural wonders, and Indigenous heritage through hands-on, age-appropriate learning. A parent volunteer sign-up will be going out soon. We are seeking 4 volunteers per station to help present, guide students, and support student flow. Trifold boards and clear presentation guidance will be provided. We will also be holding a Zoom orientation for all parent volunteers to walk through the event in more detail, answer questions, and ensure everyone feels prepared. More information, including the schedule, and volunteer instructions, will follow shortly. We're excited to bring this immersive experience to our students and truly appreciate all the support that makes it possible. Save the Date: Multicultural Expo Night – February 5th Mark your calendars! Our Multicultural Expo Night has been rescheduled to February 5th and promises to be a vibrant celebration of the many cultures in our school community. Families can look forward to an exciting evening featuring international food, student performances, an international fashion runway, and a festive DJ atmosphere. As always, this is one of our most highly attended events of the year. Parent and student sign-ups will be going out soon for families interested in contributing food. Students who would like to participate in the runway or performances. Parent volunteers to assist with coordination, rehearsals, and event support. We encourage everyone to get involved and help make this special night truly memorable for our community. Thank you for your continued support. We can't wait to celebrate together!

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

Parents Night Out will be at the Ivy in Huntington on Thursday Jan 22 at 7:30pm. Tickets are available now for [purchase](#). A single ticket is \$85 and 2 are \$160. We are still collecting raffles, open to business sponsorships and special event ticket raffles. Please reach out to Perri Drexler or Taylor Schacter.

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

Our next school store will be held on December 17th! Please remember to bring both your money and your school bucks! We truly appreciate the wonderful support we've received so far this year, especially from our Kindergarten families, who have filled every volunteer spot for the remainder of the year. To help ensure every Kindergarten parent has a chance to participate, we kindly ask that those who have already volunteered consider releasing their future sign-ups so other families can join in. Thank you for your cooperation!

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

Hi Everyone! Thank you to everyone who supported the PTA and purchased spirit wear this fall! While the site has closed, we still have inventory of all of the t-shirts and the Whitman or nowhere zip up so please reach out to me or Ashley if you'd like to purchase. We are hoping to open up a winter sale with the remaining shirts and adding in some fuzzy bottoms for the cozy months so stay tuned :)

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

Join SEPTA - our District's Special Ed PTA, an incredibly inclusive community that has different presentations each month on various topics that address our families' needs. Membership is \$15. This month there is no SEPTA meeting. Join us for SEPTA's 3rd annual SEPTA resource fair. It's an amazing event with vendors ranging from therapists, service providers, social skills clubs, and more. The resource fair is at HBT on January 29th. Last month's meeting was great! The November meeting featured a presentation by Andrew Cohen and Mitch Weisbrot, who detailed information on how to protect your children legally and financially. For anyone interested (or missed it), they are offering your first consultation free for Syosset SEPTA members, so please email Mitch at mweisbrot@financialguide.com. Last week, Dr. Scott Falkowitz (Northwell) did a great presentation on supporting children's mental health. December 12 6:30-8:30 the Nassau County Police Activity League (NC PAL) Special Needs Unit is having a holiday party, \$10 per child and chaperones are free. Unity Tennis, which is a program run by our very own Syosset students, continues to offer all access tennis these next two Sundays. Please scan the QR code on the flyer to register. Last year we had Valhallan at one of our meetings to discuss social gaming opportunities for our children. We received positive feedback from many families who tried it. Valhallan offers a Sunday Gaming Club designed for kids and pre-teens on the autism spectrum or with other special needs. It's a place where they can meet in person with peers who share their love of gaming, guided by their coaches in a way that fosters teamwork, communication, and friendship.

K. Sunshine Committee - given by Katerina Fradelakis or Katherline Lee

We will be collecting holiday gifts on behalf of parents for office and custodial staff. Stay tuned!

L. Syosset Council of PTAs Committee reports

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

Reflections, special shout out to Mr. Snyder as we had the most entries this year of 53. Mr. Snyder gave all certificates and a Wolverine badge. Students were excited to celebrate and take a picture with him. Thank you again for your support with the program this year. The boards showed all the artwork of the students. The buildings judge each others' work. WW staff judged Village. The celebration was one to remember!

b. **Parent Resource Group** - given by Jenn Crecco -

Dr. Scott Falkowitz, a child and adolescent psychiatrist with Northwell Health, presented to parents on November 25th, 2025. The focus of the [presentation](#) was our district's partnership with Northwell Health and how it supports our children in need of mental health services. Please read through the slide deck for valuable information. [Click here to access the presentation video](#). Please save the date for our next presentation which will be held on zoom on January 21st at 7:30pm which will be about Parenting in the Digital Age: Addressing Digital Wellness from AI and Beyond presented by Katie Duffy Schumacher. The presentation will focus on practical ways to balance technology, set boundaries, and safeguard children from online risks in an age of constant connectivity and AI-powered platforms/content. We will be sending out more information as well as a link to register soon. Flyer to come after the new year.

c. **Scholarship Mailing** given by Brooke Kneller

This year, the Syosset Council of PTAs invites all families to join [Whitman-Gives](#), a districtwide effort to support the Syosset [Scholarship Fund](#). Each spring, this fund provides scholarships to graduating Syosset seniors who have shown exceptional character, service, leadership, and perseverance. These awards are made possible entirely through donations from families like ours. If you are able, we kindly ask you to consider making a contribution today. Every donation—no matter the amount—helps us recognize and support the outstanding students of our district. [Donate with PayPal Giving Fund](#) or checks can be made payable and mailed to: Syosset Scholarship Fund, Inc. PO Box 732, Syosset, NY 11791 Thank you for your generosity and for helping us continue this meaningful tradition. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of our students.



General Meeting Agenda
December 3, 2025 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary School

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Old Business - None

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.

December

3-4 - Holiday Boutique

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

3 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm @ Walt Whitman

4 - Council General Meeting 7:45pm @ Village [Delegates]

8-12 - Circus Week

8 - BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods

12 - 5th Grade Circus Performance for 5th Grade Families 7:30pm

16 - Winter Concert @ Harry B. Thompson

17 - School Store

24-31 - No School

January

1-2 - No School

6 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm *Virtual*

Thank you everyone once again. The meeting was adjourned at 8:17pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)