

Good evening and Happy New Year everyone! Welcome to our January PTA meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:33pm with a quorum present, taken by zoom participant report.

I. Approve minutes - December 2025

Minutes were sent out from our last PTA meeting for review via email. There were no comments, changes, or questions. The minutes stand as approved.

II. Treasurer's Report – Allison Soren

Opening Balance, 12/1/25	\$ 46,182.17
Income/Deposits	\$ 23,441.09
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 18,876.53
<u>Checking Balance 12/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 50,746.73</u>
 <u>CD Balance as of 12/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 40,858.51</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 12/31/25</u>	<u>\$ 91,605.24</u>

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

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Heather Egert

None

IV. Principal's Report – Mr. Snyder

Thank you to all that are joining us at home today on zoom. I wanted to say thank you on behalf of the staff. The community is always so generous over the holidays. The amount of food provided to faculty and staff was tremendous. Our holiday kick off was very exciting. We do an annual sing along with our students. They were greeted by the entire staff in the lobby with music and fake snow - on that day we had real snow! We also had musicians throughout the day with some orchestra students. We are looking forward to the rest of the year. When we hit January, it is a fast run to the end of the year. With that said, we will kick that off with International Day on January 16th and Multicultural Food Expo on February 5th. Bring an empty stomach - there will be fantastic food from all over the world. By the end of the month, you will be doing your child's science fair project, just kidding. We are encouraging students to explore and do things on their own. Looking forward to all the inventions and projects, building, engineering. We have tons of events going on in the latter part of the year and plenty of opportunities for parents to get involved and help with the PTA committees. Just a reminder if running a committee, please coordinate with the PTA Co-Presidents. The PTA Co-Presidents are the liaison with me and the building. They complete a form that includes a security list two weeks in advance of an event to ensure all parent volunteers coming to the school are accounted for. This safety piece is important. We had a lock down drill today and all the kids did great. Thank you all.

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

We hope everyone had a wonderful and restful winter break. Since we last met, we had a great Holiday Boutique led by Lauren Grams, Erica Sutter and Rachel Kaplan - thank you! The toy drive was a HUGE success - thank you for your generous donations and Livia Kogan and Joanne Fang for organizing such a

meaningful drive to give back. The Cohen's Children Medical Center was so very thankful to be able to give some cheer to the patients during the holiday season. The circus assembly and residency was enjoyed by all the students - thank you Erica Schulman and Jessica Lischin! The 5th grade circus performance was an amazing show! Thank you to our 5th grade committee, Anna Lee Karotkin, Jacky Stadler, Carly Goodman, Tracey Meyer and our WW community for supporting the 5th grade through your candy bouquet purchases! The winter concert was incredible - thank you to Mr. Snyder, Mrs. Small, Mrs. Gordon and Mrs. Bloomfield for supporting the amazing talent we have at WW! Thank you to Carly Laffie and Carly Orlansky for organizing School Store, helping to complete last minute holiday gifting with adorable and cheerful merchandise! We appreciate all our families at WW and could not provide the great programming and events our students benefit from without your time, effort, volunteering and support. We appreciate each contribution, no matter how great or small!

As we look forward to January, we are so excited for upcoming Maker Space Recess dates, International Day and Parents Night Out to name a few!

We wanted to give a special shoutout to Ms. Nupp, Mrs. Bookspan and Mrs. Small for encouraging the WW staff to join our PTA. We appreciate all your support and collaboration! Thank you!

VI. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin -
This month we are excited to welcome "Wacky Science!" on Jan. 28th. In this school assembly the wacky and zany presenter, Dr. Science, helps students learn about the Scientific Method in a fun and straightforward way with lots of magic tricks and some comedy too! They will find out which everyday household things can be used in some cool science stunts and lab experiments while learning all about the Scientific Method and other scientific concepts. This will be sure to get kids engaged and excited about participating in Whitman's Science Fair this spring!
- B. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert -
Two new teachers were tenured. There was a presentation on Physical education and how it looks different across each level: after covid instructors needed to rethink the needs of the kids in front of them. In the years since, amazing lessons have come out of the change. Presentation on fostering the program and enhancing it to fit the needs of every student. The presentation focuses on the grade levels and are based on NY state standards. The presentation can be found on the district's website. There was a presentation of a group of singers as well.
- C. **Community Kindness** given by Joanne Fang or Livia Kogan -
The kindness committee is so grateful for the winter clothing donations as well as the toy donations for Cohen's Children's Medical Center. Cohen's has asked if we could possibly do a second donation which we will try to do in May.
- D. **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Anna Karotkin or Jacky Stadler -
It was wonderful to watch our kids perform at the Circus and the Winter concert. Thank you to Carly for organizing the candy bouquet fundraiser for both events! Jan 27th will be club pictures, so please note your calendars! We are looking at scheduling a night of Bingo in the next few weeks so mark your calendars!
- E. **Maker Space** given by Val Kesten, Jessica Lischin or Jaclyn Lewis -
We are really excited for makerspace during winter month. We will be having one Jan 14th and Jan 21st. Sign ups will go out soon to volunteer. If you are signing up for 21st there is a K field trip so there may be a little switch in time. We look forward to giving kids something to do outside the classroom.
- F. **Multicultural Events** given by Jenn Crecco, Brooke Kneller, Trupti Bahl
International Day (Jan Update – North America) –
We are in lack of volunteers for a couple of the locations so we need those spots to be filled or we can condense into one and go through each one in it but obviously that is based on who signs up. We just got one more volunteer and we will meet as a team soon and all pitch in to help. Please help and be a tour guide and share your time with the kids. If you can volunteer as a tour guide and you're able to present to

class maybe your child is not in that is helpful as well. If you are presenting and put into ChatGPT it puts into a beautiful presentation. We really need the help. The kids are so interested in the facts they learn. We appreciate all your help.

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 in grades K thru 5 will rotate through 7 interactive regional stations representing the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. Each station will highlight 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 -

Get ready for Parents Night Out. Club Whitman will be at the Ivy in Huntington on Thursday Jan 22 at 7:45pm which has a parking lot. 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! tickets to events, shows, items, anything!! Tickets are available now for parents night out. A single ticket is \$85 and 2 are \$160. We are still collecting raffles, open to business sponsorships and special event ticket raffles.

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

Thank you to all the Kindergarten parents who gave up future spots to those who couldn't get in! Our next school store is January 22nd. Please let us know if you have any questions!

I. **Someone Special Craft / Valentine's Day** given by Livia Kogan, Helena Lee or Katerina Fradelakis

The Special Someone Craft is scheduled for 2/10, we are planning two different activities one for k-3 and the other for 4th and 5th grade. Sign ups should be out shortly.

J. **Someone Special Dance** given by Jana Scher or Sheryl Etzin

The Someone Special Dance will be on Feb 11 6-8pm. Bring a parent or someone special to this Valentine's Day themed event. There will be a DJ with dancing and games, crafts, food, a Photo Booth and more. There will be two time slots to choose from: 6-7pm or 7-8pm. This is not a drop off event but a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day with your someone special! More details to come.

K. **SEPTA** given by Erica Shulman or Jackie Avellino –

No SEPTA meeting this month. See info [flyer](#) and [membership form](#). In addition to our ongoing membership drive (please become a member today), We wanted to announce that our 3rd Annual Resource Fair is scheduled for Thursday January 29th from 7:30-9:00pm at HB Thompson Middle School (please see the attached [flyer](#)). Each year we have grown and are hoping to surpass 40 vendors - and could use your help! We are asking families and staff to please share any resources that may be helpful for our students at this google link (all responses are confidential but will help us in compiling our Resource Directory for families). <https://forms.gle/EgZuw4mxqBzjViGR8>

L. Syosset Council of PTAs Committee reports

a. **Communications Conference** given by Timothy Deygoo - Communications Conference: Fall 2025 - The conference covered a wide range of topics, including technology, teacher contracts, digital platforms, literacy and instructional methods, transportation, Guidance College/offerings, and the district mascot. When meeting with fellow delegates, questions are first discussed as a group and then must be “approved” before being presented to the district. While this isn’t the most efficient process for getting clarity on outstanding issues, the district did openly answer questions beyond the pre-approved list. Below are the key items of interest: *Digital Platforms* - Infinite Campus is here to stay. There are currently no plans to consolidate TeacherReacher, ParentSquare, PickUp Patrol, or other tools into a single central app. *Educational App Restrictions (Law 2-D Compliance)* - The district blocks several educational apps due to their non-compliance with New York’s Law 2-D, which protects student data privacy. As a result, the district continues to seek “no-frills” alternatives that comply with 2-D while keeping student information secure. *Literacy & Leveled Reading* - All literacy programs undergo research and vetting before being implemented. In grades K–2, the instructional focus remains on phonics, fluency, and comprehension. Early listening skills are considered highly effective, and the district uses the Heggerty method—an oral and auditory program designed to build phonemic awareness (rhyming, isolating, blending, segmenting, etc.). The Elementary Literacy Council has piloted programs in UPK before expanding it to Kindergarten and 1st grade. *Electric Buses* - A transition to electric buses is not expected anytime soon. *Class Sizes & Teacher Contracts* - Class sizes are determined based on registrations, and teacher assignments will be communicated by the last Wednesday in August. Teacher contracts have not yet been finalized. When asked how parent input factors into contract decisions, Dr. Rodgers explained that principals—being closest to day-to-day needs—provide feedback that informs negotiations. The district negotiates with each unit lead on behalf of staff. A wave of recent late registrations has increased class sizes, and the district verifies addresses for those registrations. Regarding comparisons to NYC’s “20 students per class” mandate, the district noted that NYC has achieved this only by exempting many classes, making the mandate appear more effective than it is. Space limitations are another challenge in Syosset. While construction projects add some classrooms, they often replace others, resulting in a net-neutral effect. The district is exploring additional resources, including targeted extra-help opportunities prior to test days. *Mascot Transition* - The district’s attorneys are determining the legal deadline for retiring the current mascot. Although they are not required to make the change until 2027, the federal and state governments are still in dispute over certain aspects, so no official changes will occur yet. *Parents asked about ICT classes and the addition of them, especially in 5th next year. Mr. Snyder indicated that there are a variety of avenues and parents can advocate for their children to be evaluated if they feel it is needed. ICT classrooms are based on need. There are also some other variables and it does come up with parents when we are discussing the different options. By and large if a child as an IEP and child is required service it is provided through the consulting teaching model. Any kind of Whitman and Syosset centric questions please feel free to reach out to Tim. The next meeting will be in the spring.*

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

Dr. Scott Falkowitz, a child and adolescent psychiatrist with Northwell Health, presented it 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

Sometimes our kids are using AI for to check their answers, and AI will come back completely wrong. It will be a good presentation.

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

Don't Forget to order from [Playa Bowls](#) on the First Wednesday of Every Month. Mention the Scholarship Fund and 20% of proceeds from each order will go towards the Fund. This is also good on online food delivery orders (put Syosset Scholarship Fund in the comments section of your order). 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.

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.

January

12 - BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods
14 - Maker Space Recess
16 - International Day
19 - No School
21- Maker Space Recess
21 - Council Evening Program
22 - School Store
22 - Parents Night Out
27 - Club Picture Day
29 - SEPTA Resource Fair 7:30pm @ Harry B. Thompson

February

5 - Multicultural Expo
3 - 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 8:26pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)