



Good evening and welcome to our February PTA meeting!

Our meeting was called to order at 7:36pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by sign in sheet.

I. Approve minutes - January 2026

The minutes from the last PTA meeting were emailed out for review and some copies were provided on the tables. There were no comments, changes, or questions. The minutes were approved.

II. Treasurer’s Report – Allison Soren

Opening Balance, 1/1/26	\$ 50,746.73
Income/Deposits	\$ 20,438.46
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 3,749.84
<u>Checking Balance 1/31/26</u>	<u>\$ 67,435.35</u>
<u>CD Balance as of 1/31/26</u>	<u>\$ 40,204.54</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 1/31/26</u>	<u>\$108,639.89</u>

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

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Heather Egert

No correspondence

IV. Principal’s Report – Mr. Snyder

Good evening, everyone, thank you for coming out and braving the cold. We had quite a few WW talented students (13!) attend the All County Music Festival, with a concert by our 5th grader, Hanna Sha! She was first chair for her entire section - we are so proud! March is music in the school month and will see some nice musical items posted in our school, songs etc. On International Day, the kids had a great time. Thank you all for volunteering. We covered North America. Arts in Education brought in the Wacky Science assembly to help kick us off our Science Bonanza. You will receive information soon from Ms. Nupp and Mrs. Bookspan. Regarding the Science Fair, depending on how many students sign up, we may have to break it up into two sessions. Friendly reminder, please adhere to the school’s rules on safety in our parking lot.

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

It’s so great to see everyone in person today! Never a dull moment here at Walt Whitman - 2026 has been filled with so many events already! International Day, where the students choose North America, was such a fun day for the children. We appreciate all the parent volunteers - especially the enthusiastic presenters - and all their contributions, big and small, to this educational event! We can’t wait to see what the children select next year. Don’t forget to attend the Multicultural Food Expo on Thursday, February 5th to experience our community’s unity through food. Thank you to the team - Erie Schulman, Trupti Bahl, Jenn Crecco and Brooke Kneller!

What an incredible Parents’ Night Out fundraiser - our sponsors and families continue to show up in such generous and meaningful ways. Tara Bensol, Jackie Avellino, Perri Drexler, Taylor Schacter and the PNO committee members - thank you all for the time, effort, and energy you put into making it

happen. We truly appreciate the coordination and planning that went into such a detailed event at the Ivy in Huntington. Congratulations to the raffle winners - if you have not had a chance to pick up your winnings or if you have any questions or need clarification regarding the raffles, please feel free to reach out to the PNO team. They'll be happy to help!

VI. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin -
Last month the school enjoyed a fun-filled Wacky Science assembly. Scientist Steve entertained the students with silly antics and fun science experiments. The kids learned about optical illusions, air pressure, and states of matter. It was a great way to create excitement for the upcoming Walt Whitman Science Fair! There are several fun things planned for February! On February 5th the school will enjoy an assembly presented by Rockstar 101. The students will express themselves through music and participate in high energy musical games. On February 10th, the 4th and 5th graders will take a trip to the Engeman Theater in Northport to see Diary of a Wimpy Kid The Musical. It's sure to be a great experience! Stay tuned for more fun assemblies to come!
- B. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert -
There were two meetings in January. The regular meeting highlighted many fall sports awards with amazing new records that were set. A special BOE meeting took place to approve vendors for the construction that will be happening in the next few months as part of the Bond Project. At the January meeting, the Syosset library reached out to the district to explore using the Woodbury school. There is a lot of interest and enthusiasm and they're going to continue to have conversations. There was a presentation of science across all elementary, middle and high school levels. The three winners of the Regeneration award were honored at the meeting. There is going to be a shift to the New York State science learning standards, and the presentation can be found on the district website.
- C. **Box Tops** given by Erika Auerbach -
We reached the \$100 goal! Thank you to everyone who submits their receipts. You can always text or email me receipts and I can help. We are currently at \$100.10!
- D. **Family Fun Night Spring** given by Sydnie Monchik
Get ready for an unforgettable evening of baseball, fun, and fireworks! Join us for Family Fun Night at the Long Island Ducks game on Saturday, May 16th at 6:35 PM. 🍌🏈 Enjoy America's favorite pastime with friends and family! 🎆 Special Fireworks Show after the game! 🗨️ Let's show our Wolverine spirit and make some amazing memories together! [Grab your tickets now](#) (Whitman Students are FREE, Siblings age 3-12 \$15 each, Regular tickets age 13+ \$20 each). Don't miss out on this fun-filled night - Deadline to RSVP and purchase tickets is April 1st. See you at the ballpark!
- E. **Maker Space Recess** given by Val Kesten, Jessica Lischin or Jaclyn Lewis –
Children had an awesome time making snow last week! It was nice for kids to get out of the classroom and have another option elsewhere for recess. This is only possible with your help! There is one coming up on Friday and please sign up to volunteer, especially in grades 3-5.
- F. **Movie Night** given by Heather Egert, Jenn Crecco
GET READY FOR THE BEST MOVIE NIGHTS EVER! We are excited to announce two movie nights. Grades K-1 will have an indoor movie night in the gym with yummy snacks and a short show. Grades 2-5 will have an outdoor movie night. Stay tuned for more info!!
- G. **Multicultural Events** given by Jenn Crecco, Brooke Kneller, Trupti Bahl
We're thrilled to announce our annual Multicultural Food Expo this Thursday night, from 6-8pm! We've got a fantastic lineup of events, including a fashion show and performances. To ensure everyone's safety and accurate headcount, please remember to purchase a ticket for entry. All presenters are encouraged to offer submissions for reimbursement as soon as possible. We're really looking forward to seeing you all there!
- H. **Pick a Reading Partner (PARP)** given by Jenn Crecco, Mollie Newman, Heather Egert or Bari Litvack



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

PARP is going to be out of this world. This year PARP will be one week. It will be fun with events, reading, mystery reading. Get ready to read. PARP is the first week of March!

- I. **School Store** given by Carly Laffie or Carly Orlansky -
Our next school store will be February 26th. Hope to see everyone there!
- J. **Someone Special Craft / Valentine's Day** given by Livia Kogan, Helena Lee or Katerina Fradelakis
The Special Someone Recess Craft is scheduled for February 10th, we are planning two different activities, one for K-3 and the other for 4th and 5th grade. Signups are in the weekly newsletter!
- K. **Someone Special Dance** given by Jana Scher or Sheryl Etzin
The Someone Special Dance will be on February 11th 6-8pm. Bring a parent or Someone Special to this Valentine's Day themed event. There will be a DJ with dancing, games, lots of giveaways, crafts, food, Photo Booth and more. There are two time slots to choose from: 6-7pm or 7-8pm. This is a great way to celebrate Valentine's Day with someone special! The kids are encouraged to dress up and it should be a really fun night for everyone. The RSVP and pre order for chocolate roses and pizza was sent out in the Monday newsletter so please RSVP for a time slot and make your pre order selections. We hope to see everyone there as it should be a really fun night for everyone! The committee made a motion to increase the budget by \$300. The general membership voted and the motion passed by majority.
- L. **Spirit Wear Committee** given by Sydnie Monchik or Ashley Feig -
See Sydnie for discounted Spirit Wear after the meeting!
- M. **SEPTA** given by Erica Shulman or Jackie Avellino -
See info [flyer](#) and [membership form](#). Special education parent teacher association or septa is a PTA group specifically focused on supporting students with special needs and their families within a school or district. SEPTA works to make sure children with disabilities are supported academically, socially, and emotionally. Our 3rd Annual Resource Fair on January 29 brought together over 50 families from across Long Island despite the cold. Thank you to our volunteers and the HBT custodial team for making the event a success! An updated Resource Guide is coming soon. Upcoming dates:
Mario's of Syosset Fundraiser – Today! Tuesday, 2/3
Dine any time from 11am–10pm and 15% of proceeds will support SEPTA scholarships.
 - Communications Conference questions due Feb 13
 - Monthly Scholarship Fund support at Playa Bowls
 - HS spring show ad sales
 - February toiletry drive for Jericho Cares
 - Cultural Unity student showcase submissions due March 13
 - Elementary STEAM night with the HS Astronomy ClubFlyers will also be passed around for upcoming opportunities.
- N. **Syosset Council of PTAs Committee reports**
 - a. **Communications Conference** given by Timothy Deygoo - The Syosset Council of PTAs' Communication Conference Committee presents and discusses issues with Syosset administrators during each school year. The committee is composed of Council Delegates from every school in the district. If you have questions for the administration that are general in nature (i.e., not something specific to your child or your specific school), please email Jessica Goldberg and/or Tim Deygoo by February 13th as the meeting is on March 3rd. It's a great opportunity to voice our concerns.
 - b. **Cultural Unity** given by Hera Bokhari
The Cultural Unity Committee is excited to invite students to take part in our Celebration of Culture Showcase, happening on April 27, 2026 at HBT Middle School. Students are encouraged to submit a piece of literature, artwork, digital art, photography, or a dance or music composition that reflects one or more of the following questions: What does culture mean to you? How is culture celebrated in your home? What has culture taught you? Submissions will be organized by grade level: K–2, Grades 3–5, Middle School and High School. All student entries will be proudly displayed at the showcase, and every participating student will receive a small token of appreciation for their

contribution. The submission deadline is Friday, March 13, 2026. See flyer. Please note that all digital submissions must be uploaded at the time of registration. All other submissions will be collected at a later date by Hera Bokhari and displayed at the Celebration of Culture Showcase.

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

The Reflections district-wide celebration is coming up on Monday, February 9th at 7pm in the Southwood's Middle School gymnasium. This special event recognizes your child's Reflections submission(s) which advanced to the Nassau County level. Your family is invited to the district-wide celebration along with the other Syosset Students who made it to the Nassau County level of Reflections. We are excited to recognize the 17 students from Whitman who will be celebrated at this event. This ceremony is very similar to our Whitman ceremony that we had in December, only it will include all of the schools in the Syosset district. Pieces of work will be on display on bulletin boards / digitally. Mr. Snyder will be presenting each Whitman student with another certificate. Dr. Rogers and others from the BOE are there as well. This beautiful ceremony is about an hour long and an opportunity to have your child shine in front of others in the district. If you cannot attend we will make sure your child receives his/her certificate that week at school. At this time we have not received the results for the next round, but we will keep you posted when we do. We hope to see you at the celebration on Feb. 9th!

d. **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. Scholarship Fund Playbill Advertising This year's HS Theater Production will be Footloose and will be held from March 12 to March 15. If you are a business owner looking to advertise or a parent and want to support your child, please see the flyer for information on placing an ad.

e. **School and Community Committee** given by Perri Drexler

The School and Community committee will be running a fundraising drive for Jericho Cares, collecting toiletries for families in need, throughout the month of February.

f. **Syosset High School Astronomy Club** given by Cindy Ho or Danielle Sandjaby

Family Astronomy Night is on February 27th 6-8:30pm! Elementary students can look forward to launching rockets, observing our night sky through telescopes, enjoying a star-talk in the blow-up Planetarium Star-Lab, making science-related crafts, and so much more! Other clubs such as Robotics, Environmental Group, and Girls Who Code will also be present and provide elementary students with more opportunities to learn and grow in not only Astronomy, but all other STEAM related fields

g. **SHS Fashion Club** given by Allison Mayer

The Syosset High School Fashion Club will host a [Fashion Show](#) at the high school on Monday, March 23rd. Any students interested in modeling should complete this [form](#). The show starts at 7pm, participants need to arrive at 4:30pm. It is a fundraiser and proceeds will go towards Sunrise Day Camp - a day camp dedicated to children with cancer and their siblings, all offered free of charge. Look out for details in the weekly newsletter! Reach out to WW alumni, Brooke Mayer, SHS Fashion Club President.



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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.

February

5 - Multicultural Expo

9 - District Reflections Ceremony 7pm @ South Woods

9 - Budget Info & BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods

10 - Someone Special Craft (Recess)

11 - Someone Special Dance 6-8pm @ Walt Whitman

16-20 - No School

23 - SEPTA Meeting

24 - Council General Meeting 7:45pm @ South Woods [Delegates]

26 - School Store

27 - Astronomy Night 6pm @ Syosset High School

March

2-6 - PARP

4 - PTA Meeting

Thank you everyone once again. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)

