



Good evening and welcome to our March PTA meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by sign in sheet.

I. Approve minutes - February 2026

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

II. Treasurer’s Report – Allison Soren -

Opening Balance, 2/1/26	\$ 67,435.35
Income/Deposits	\$ 3,443.74
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 13,359.49
<u>Checking Balance 2/28/26</u>	<u>\$ 57,519.60</u>
<u>CD Balance as of 2/28/26</u>	<u>\$ 40,204.54</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 2/28/26</u>	<u>\$ 98,724.14</u>

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

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Heather Egert

[WW Staff](#), [WW Teachers](#), [Handmade thank you card from Mr. Tom’s class](#)

IV. Principal’s Report – Mr. Snyder

Good evening Everyone, thank you for being here. Hopefully we can get our kids outside for recess soon. Teachers were so impressed and thrilled with the bagel breakfast, thank you. PARP was very fun and kicked off on Monday. “Jump Rope for Heart” is coming up on Wednesday, March 18th 8:30am in the gym in place of extra help. If you have not signed up for your child or want to donate, please refer to the Parent Square message to sign up. The PE staff will have at least 10 heart healthy activities for kids to engage in from 8:30-9am. Regarding the Science Fair once we get a final count of projects, we may separate into two groups. We typically start at 6. Student placement letters will be coming out soon this week just prior to parent conferences. Parent conferences are taking place starting next week. We do try to pay close attention to every aspect of placement as possible. We try to make the best choices for all the kids. During the spring teacher conference and sharing your insight with them on where they should be placed is important. Spring always brings some interesting behavior, with my office being active in the past few days. Please remind your child that there is a code of conduct - please review that with your child. Make sure your child understands they should be doing the right thing even when someone is not behaving. Remind your child that when they are on the computer at home, the search engine is under review. I received some Go Guardian alerts when something comes up that is not appropriate. Just remind your children to be responsible with what you are doing and that you are aware. We shut down Chromebooks at 8pm. Lastly, 5th grade parents - your child is moving on to HBT, the middle school sent out a notification that there is an orientation on March 10th at 8PM with tours at 7:30pm geared towards parents. Mr. Bonanno is the principal and is very nice. Next month we will talk about the state assessments for Grades 3-5.



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

Thank you Mr. Snyder. We hope that February break was restful and relaxing. Lucky for the kids, that break was extended by two snow days! Before the break, the PTA provided the amazing WW Staff with a sweet Valentine's breakfast with bagels and coffee. Thank you WW Staff for all you do!

Multicultural Food Expo Night was really well attended, thank you to the team - Jenn Crecco, Trupti Bahl and Brooke Kneller - for organizing such a great event of unity in food! The performances and fashion were a sight to see! Please remember to submit your itemized receipts for the Multicultural Food Expo (please refer to the reimbursement email sent to presenters).

The District's Reflections ceremony was so special. Congratulations again on those participants and Rachel Medvin for organizing!

Thank you to the Someone Special Recess Craft Committee for helping the children create special gifts for their Someone Special. Livia Kogan, Katerina Fradelakis and Helena Lee - thank you! You guys selected great crafts and the kids loved it!

Sheryl Etzin and Jana Scher, thank you for an incredible Someone Special Dance - all the kids had the best time.

This week we kicked off PARP with SHS's Astronomy Night! It was great to see so many WW families there! On Monday morning, the PARP Committee, along with our own astronaut principal, Mr. Snyder, and the stellar Whitman Staff gave our students a galactic welcome! The team has provided fun surprises each day of this week! Thank you Mollie Newman, Jenn Crecco, Heather Egert and Bari Litvack!

As a friendly reminder, we would like to review [the PTA Code of Conduct](#) that we have previously shared.

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Livia Kogan, Erica Schulman, Jessica Lischin, Helena Lee, Vaishali Sondhi, Jordan Baum for putting together our 2026-27 Executive Committee Slate. We will be hearing from them later on and will take a vote to approve the slate as presented. We know it is a difficult and important committee and appreciate all the hard work that went into it.

We have also formed our Awards Committee. Our PTA awards will be given out at our last meeting in June. It is a wonderful way to recognize both PTA volunteers and staff for their outstanding efforts this year. Please [submit your nominations](#) as soon as possible even if you don't know what award is available for your nominee, the committee will help assign them and some of the NYS awards have early deadlines so the sooner the better. You can also reach out to awards@waltwhitmanpta.org.

This month, we will have the Book Fair on March 26th-27th (signups will go out in Monday's newsletter). More upcoming events are already in the works... let us know if you'd like to help the April Fun Color Run! Purchase your [Ducks Game tickets](#) for Family Fun Night on givebacks! You will hear all about these and more in the Committee Reports; please reach out to the committee chairs to find out how to get involved.

VI. Special Committee Report

A. Nominations Committee

President: Election of Officers - We will now hear the report of the Nominating Committee. Livia Kogan, as Chair, will be reporting.

Nominating Committee Chair: We met on February 2nd, 3rd and 9th and our proposed slate is as follows:
Proposed Slate for 2026-2027 Walt Whitman Elementary School PTA

Co-Presidents - Danielle Sandjaby, Erica Schulman

1st VP - Jaclyn Avellino



2nd VP - Cindy Ho

3rd VP - Sunita Hansraj

4th VP - Timothy Deygoo

Treasurer - Dorell Pinkus

Recording Secretary - Rachel Medvin

Corresponding Secretary - Jessica Lischin

Council Delegates - Trupti Bahl, Hera Bokhari, Jennifer Crecco, Perri Drexler, Niki Gionis, Bari Litvack
According to our bylaws, anyone not nominated by the Nominating Committee, but wishing to be nominated from the floor, must submit their intent and qualifications in writing to the Chairperson of the Nominating Committee no less than two (2) business days prior to our election meeting. No names have been submitted and nominations are closed.

President: Majority of membership approved the proposed slate.

Congratulations to the 2026-2027 PTA Officers and Council Delegates. Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Livia Kogan, Erica Schulman, Jessica Lischin, Helena Lee, Vaishali Sondhi, Jordan Baum

Walt Whitman is lucky to have these caring, capable parents to volunteer, serving our children. We are in great hands next year! Thank you everyone.

VII. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin -
Last month the students rocked out with a brand new school assembly called RockStar101, where students were invited up on stage to compete in lip-syncing contests with a focus on stage presence, eye contact and audience engagement. The 4th and 5th graders also enjoyed a field trip to see the play "Diary of a Wimpy Kid" at the Northport Theater. We have a lot in the works for the spring and are looking forward to updating you on more plans next month!
- B. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert -
Budget info: The budget includes preserving services and programs for students despite inflationary pressures while refining offerings to meet evolving interests of students; continuing to support the social and emotional well-being of students; completing capital bond work with smaller scale facility projects and; continue to provide fiscal stability to optimize our response to changing circumstances; 11 million dollars under the cap; State aid is over 39,000; UPK budget is 10,000 per student with no seat cap; **Visual art presentation:** Our very own Mrs. Beach gave a presentation where she discusses the foundational skills taught in the elementary level; You can find the presentation online. There were ongoing conversations about the library being moved to the Woodbury school. They are going to do a feasibility study to find out how much time, work and money to make the building usable.
- C. **Book Fair** given by Rachel Kaplan or Abby Levy -
Our Book Fair is Thursday, March 26th and Friday, March 27th. Volunteer sign ups will go out soon, and the catalogs should be going home in the next few weeks. 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. Please reach out with any questions and keep an eye out for the catalogue coming home soon. This year we will be doing a Book Drive with Book Fairies - it's like spring cleaning + getting rid of your books at home! It will be brought to shelters, etc.
- D. **Box Tops** given by Erika Auerbach -
Current box tops amount is \$108.90 (goal was \$100). Thank you to all who have submitted their receipts.
- E. **Family Fun Night Spring** given by Sydnie Monchik -
We're running it back to the Long Island Ducks game on Saturday May 16th - be sure to purchase your tickets by April 1st - Walt Whitman students attend for free! The kids had a blast last year and it will be a great night out for the whole family! Contact Sydnie Monchik with questions



General Meeting Agenda
March 4, 2026 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary

- F. **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Anna Karotkin or Jacky Stadler -
The Yearbook Booster message deadline is this Friday - we had a great turnout so far - thank you for your support! We're also still selling Legacy Tiles for \$30 and Graduation Lawn Signs for \$20. Legacy Tiles feature your child's artwork and will be displayed in the upper grade hallway for years to come. Lawn Signs are a fun way to celebrate your 5th grader at home. Back by popular demand and the serious need to blow off some steam, it's time to trade snow boots for sneakers and let the dodgeballs fly. Parents vs. 5th Graders Round 2! Tomorrow, March 5th in the WW gym, \$30 per child (no siblings please) includes pizza and water. This is not a drop-off event.
- G. **Fun Color Run** given by Sunita Hansraj, Gulsheen Chadha or Melissa Wallentin
The Fun Color Run is scheduled for Thursday, April 23rd with the 24th as a rain date. It will be a great event for the children with a DJ, color run, games and more! Please reach out to join this committee!
- H. **Maker Space** given by Val Kesten, Jessica Lischin or Jaclyn Lewis -
Maker Space has been a blast during these winter months! We've built LEGO structures, mixed ingredients to make our own snow and even learned how to create mini lanterns for the Lunar New Year. Our next Maker Space will be March 17th, so please look out for that sign up coming out soon. If you have an idea for maker space please bring it to our attention! The kids have loved trying out new activities.
- I. **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 quick flick. Grades 2-5 will have an outdoor movie night.
Grades K & 1 Indoor Show - 5/20
Grades 2-5 Outdoor Movie - 5/21
Grades 2-5 Outdoor Movie Rain Date # 1 - 6/1
Grades 2-5 Outdoor Movie Rain Date # 2 - 6/2
- J. **PARP (Pick a Reading Partner)** given by Jenn Crecco, Mollie Newman, Heather Egert or Bari Litvack
PARP Week has blasted off! The children have been participating in fun, engaging reading activities to spark their imaginations and activate their learning. As always, follow @waltwhitmanwolverines on instagram for PARP dress up reminders but for all other Walt Whitman information for events and sign ups! Tomorrow, (Thursday), is **Stargazing & Stories!** Students will enjoy a special flashlight reading experience as they read under the "stars" in a darkened classroom. Mystery readers will be landing in classrooms to share exciting stories, and students will also watch a special video message from a real astronaut, Ron Garan encouraging them to reach for the stars and reminding them that reading can take them anywhere! On Friday, we will wrap up our week with our **Vocabulary Parade Blast Off with Words!** Each student is encouraged to choose a vocabulary word and dress up as their word using a creative costume that represents its meaning. We cannot wait to see all of the imaginative and thoughtful costumes as Walt Whitman hosts its very first Vocabulary Parade! Be sure to check the attached flyer for the list of vocabulary words, as well as costume examples. It's going to be an out-of-this-world way to celebrate reading and bring this exciting week in for a landing!
- K. **School Store** given by Carly Laffie or Carly Orlansky -
Our next school store will be March 12th. Hope to see everyone there!
- L. **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. Last month's meeting was canceled due to the snow storm. This month's meeting will be in person on Wednesday, March 25th at 7:45pm at Village Elementary School.
- M. **Syosset Council of PTAs Committee reports**
a. **Annual District Election and Budget** given by Trupti Bahl

The district is hosting Budget Information Sessions at 8:00 PM at South Woods Middle School on **March 9, April 20, and May 11**. The May 11 session will serve as the official Budget Hearing. All sessions will also be livestreamed. The Annual District Election and Budget Vote will take place on **Tuesday, May 19, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM**. We encourage everyone to attend an information session or watch the livestream to stay informed. Additional voter and Board of Education information is available on the district website. Community members without enrolled students can also sign up there to receive district-wide communications. See flyers: [Annual District Election and Budget Vote Flyer](#), [Budget Fact Sheet](#), [Voter Registration Form](#), [Voting Locations](#)

- b. **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. Last night the committee convened to prepare questions for Dr. Roger's and the district. We spent a lot of time on the idea of mid-year surveys and would it be beneficial to bring consistency amongst the classrooms. The idea being to provide student/parent feedback on what is effective and encourage best practice sharing amongst teachers. Additionally, other schools seem to be providing questions on various topics like - bussing issues, extra curricular activities (art and sports) in school, mental health of the students in a competitive district, how to receive additional help / what are acceptable responsibilities of a guidance counselor. I encourage us to use this opportunity with the district to raise issues that concern the overall population of our school.
- c. **Cultural Unity** given by Hera Bokhari
Our Cultural Unity event will take place on April 27, and we invite families and students who participate to share their culture with our school community. The artwork can be whatever culture means to your child and family, or how it is celebrated. You would need to register, there is a QR code with information about the event on the [flyer](#). Please remember that [submission forms](#) are due March 18th. We hope many families will join us in this special celebration!
- d. **Reflections** given by Erica Shulman or Rachel Medvin -
Last month the district celebrated students of Walt Whitman who advanced to the county level of this year's Reflections contest. Whitman had 17 awards given out that night in front of the Board of Ed and other schools in our district. Whitman had the most in the district advance to the County Level. We have recently heard back that 6 entries from our school are going on to the state level of Reflections! We have 5 students (one student has two separate entries advancing). This is the most students Whitman has had to get to this level. Congratulations to them all!
- e. **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.



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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.

- f. **Syosset High School Fashion Club** given by Allison Mayer.
The SHS Fashion Club is hosting their 5th annual Fashion Show on March 23rd 7pm at SHS main auditorium. See [flyer](#).

VIII. New Business - None

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.

March

- 4 - Playa Bowls Scholarship Fundraiser
- 5 - 5th Dodgeball
- 6 - K Rec Night
- 9 - Budget Info & BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods
- 10 - 6th Grade orientation for 5th graders 8pm @HBT
- 12 - School Store
- 20 - No School
- 23 - SHS Fashion Show
- 25 - Science Fair
- 25 - SEPTA Meeting @ Village
- 26-27 Book Fair

April

- 2-10 No School
- 15 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm @ Walt Whitman

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:29pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)

