



Good evening and welcome to our April PTA meeting.

Our meeting was called to order at 7:38pm with a quorum present. Attendance was taken by sign in sheet.

I. Approve minutes - March 2026

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

II. Treasurer’s Report – Allison Soren

Opening Balance, 3/1/26	\$ 57,519.60
Income/Deposits	\$ 4,360.73
Expense/Cash Disbursements	\$ 5,858.97
<u>Checking Balance 3/31/26</u>	<u>\$ 56,021.36</u>
<u>CD Balance as of 3/31/26</u>	<u>\$ 40,204.54</u>
<u>TOTAL Cash on Hand as of 3/31/26</u>	<u>\$ 97,225.90</u>

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

III. Correspondence Secretary – read by Heather Egert - None.

IV. Principal’s Report – Mr. Snyder

Good evening everyone, welcome back from your April break. State assessments began today. The state assessments are not timed anymore. Mr. Snyder had a brief conversation with the classes and everyone worked incredibly hard. With the warmer weather coming up, it’s important for kids to dress appropriately and wear shoes they can wear on the playground. Class placement is starting. If there is something the school needs to know about your child's placement, please send an email to the principal. Mr. Snyder is the 1st stop and teachers are the second stop. Please do not mention anything negative regarding someone else’s child. The parking lot remains a disaster. Please review the principal’s newsletter, particularly the piece of “Don’t be that parent”. Our parking lot is unsafe, we have people parking everywhere and making their own spot. Mr. Snyder is working with our security director to try to find some solutions. If you come and are doing an early pickup before the walker doors are open, feel free to park on the curb. If you are picking up as a walker - find a spot! If not, do NOT double park, park by the north field. If you are making a spot on the blue line/white lines, please don’t do that. We don’t want kids to potentially get hit by the car. You may see extra security in the parking lot. We always have two guards in the afternoon who are designated at the doors. We will request another guard at dismissal. The Avellino Family won the Parent’s Night Out Raffle of “Assistant Principal of the Day” and did a fantastic job of it this month! For half a day, Matthew and Gigi walked with Mr. Snyder around the school to see all the classrooms as Assistant Principals. It was a great experience!

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

PTA Mission statement

PTA is a powerful voice for all children, a relevant resource for families and communities, and a strong advocate for the education and well-being of every child.



General Meeting Agenda
April 15, 2026 at 7:30pm | Walt Whitman Elementary

As friendly reminder, we would like to review the [NYS PTA Code of Conduct](#) previously shared:

PTA Members:

- Are expected to treat others with dignity and respect. As members of the PTA, our behavior is reflective on the PTA and our school community;
- Shall not take advantage of their relationship with staff or students for personal advantage;
- Are expected to be fair and will not show preferential treatment in their volunteer roles;
- Shall strive to establish respectful, collegial, and courteous relationships with all people they come in contact within their role as a PTA volunteer, whether in person or online; and
- Shall be courteous and respectful to others in all written correspondence including email, in all online activities, on all social media platforms, and by telephone.

Welcome back from Spring Break! We have a lot of Thank You's to cover since our last meeting. Huge shoutout to the PARP Committee: Jenn Crecco, Mollie Newman, Heather Egert and Bari Litvack - PARP was out of this world! The second 5th Gr Dodgeball was a huge success thanks to Anna Lee, Tracey Meyer and Jacky Stadler! Kindergarten Rec Night was well attended and the grade had a fantastic time during the event that featured games and activities geared toward all skill levels, with a focus on teamwork, sportsmanship, and building confidence. The first ever Book Fairies Book Drive headed by Eri Schulman, Rachel Kaplan and Abigail Levy was incredibly successful. The books will go directly to high need schools and community outreach programs across Long Island and NYC, directly impacting literacy rates in local neighborhoods. Thank you to the Maker Space Recess Team (Erica Schulman, Valerie Kesten, Jessica Lischin and Jaclyn Lewis with special thanks to Jackie Avellino! The children generously created notes or well wishes to one (or all three) of the sponsored children. For every note written, Adventureland's Helping Hands will generously donate \$1 to the Marty Lyons Foundation (MLF). The mission of MLF is to fulfill the wishes of children ages 3–17 who have been diagnosed with terminal or life-threatening illnesses. Every dollar raised goes directly toward granting a child's wish. Students also participated in a fun St. Patrick's Day craft and some were able to see the Northport Pipe and Drum Band spread some cheer. The Science Fair was very well attended - we are so proud of all the talent and hard work at WW! Thanks again Eri Schulman, Rachel Kaplan and Abigail Levy for another successful Spring Book Fair! We appreciate all that you do for our children with such positivity!

Looking ahead we are excited for this Friday's Recreation Night for Grades 2, 3 and 4. Grades 1 and 5 are on May 1st. Don't forget to RSVP! School Store is now April 28th! - please sign up in grades 2, 3, 4, and 5. Color Run is now happening on June 11th. Council's Celebration of Culture is on Monday, April 27th 7pm at HBT, please support your fellow WW students! You'll hear more about upcoming events such as Plant Sale on May 8th and Planting Day on May 11th with signups in Monday's newsletters. Staff Recognition week is the week of May 18th - more to come on how to say thank you to our amazing WW Staff! Movie Night is May 20th for K and 1st; May 21st for Grades 2-5. Parents will soon receive details to purchase their children's art in various products such as mugs, calendars, etc, from Square1 Art! Lastly, don't forget to sign up for next year's Committees!

Coming Up in May: Vote on the 2026-27 Syosset School District Budget. At next month's meeting, our membership will vote on whether our PTA will support the proposed Syosset District budget for the upcoming school year and we will then report it to Council. Stay informed, ask questions, and make your voice heard! Information has previously been sent out on the budget information sessions but you can also find it here: <https://www.syossetschools.org/domain/115>.

Friendly reminder that school will be closed Tuesday, May 26th.

V. Standing Committee Reports

- A. **Arts in Education / Curriculum Enrichment** given by Erica Schulman or Jessica Lischin -

Get ready for a bubble blast! Bubblemania is coming in May! Bubblemania combines humor, music, bubble art and natural sciences into one exciting assembly. We also have some end of school fun planned for June so stay tuned.

- B. **Board of Education Reporter** given by Heather Egert -
Budget Meeting: The first part of the meeting was a presentation for student athletes. There was a budget presentation which describes the allocations for funds for teachers. Dr Rogers gave an update on the construction. Whitman is getting new classrooms and a new gym. They are projecting WW's project of new classes to be on the schedule for July/August 2027. There was a presentation on mathematical thinking and how it differs across all the grade levels. They are to ensure that every student is supported and prepared.
- C. **Family Fun Night Spring** given by Sydnie Monchik -
The Long Island Ducks game on Saturday May 16th - Today is the absolute last day to purchase tickets for the Ducks game and there is a QR code going around if you are interested. It is going to be a great night! 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
- D. **Field Day** given by Theresa Seedorf, Megan Konnikov, Deandra Guzman- Schweiger, Yuko Ono Bhatia, Carly Goodman, Michelle Landauer
Field Day will be held on Friday June 5th and promises to be a fun day for the kids! All students will receive a Field Day T-shirt in the color of their assigned team. While the shirts are free, an order form has been sent home for sizing—please be sure to submit your child's size by April 24th. Feel free to reach out with any questions. Thank you!
- E. **Fifth Grade Committee** given by Anna Karotkin or Jacky Stadler -
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. Reach out to Jacky Stadler for more info!
- F. **Fun Color Run** given by Sunita Hansraj, Gulsheen Kapur or Melissa Wallentin
The Fun Color Run is now happening Thursday, June 11th. It will be a great event for the children with a DJ, color run, games and more! Please reach out to join this committee!
- G. **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 (Rain Date # 1 - 6/1, Rain Date # 2 - 6/2)
- H. **Plant Sale / Mother's Day** given by Jordana Sirotkin, Allison Soren or Nina Wang
Our annual Plant Sale will be held on Friday, May 8th. The feedback from last year was that everyone was happier with the plant sale being held indoors in the gym, so the plant sale will be in the gym again this year, regardless of the weather. We will once again be working with White Post Farms and have secured our desired plant delivery date - Thursday, May 7th, between 4 and 6 pm. As usual, we will have flowering plants as well as vegetable plants, so don't forget to send your children to school with money for the plant sale on Friday, May 8th!
- I. **Planting Day / Earth Day** given by Melissa Wallentin, Joanne Fang
Planting Day will be held Monday, May 11th. We will need some help for this. We are planning to do a WW again with K and 5th graders. Some of the flowers will stay.
- J. **School Store** given by Carly Laffie or Carly Orlansky -
Please be advised the next school store is now April 28th. If you can no longer make it, please cancel your sign up. We hope to see everyone there! Our 1st Day School Supplies store is officially live. This is the easiest way to order the exact supplies teachers requested for next year. No searching multiple stores. No guessing brands. No wondering if you selected the right version. In just a few minutes, you can select our school, choose your child's grade, and check school supplies off your list early and stress-free. The boxes

get sent directly to school so your child will be all set for their first day! Please let me know if you have any questions.

- K. **Spirit Wear** given by Sydnie Monchik or Ashley Feig -
Hi Everyone! We have limited inventory left of Spirit wear left and we are selling everything at a discounted price - please come purchase especially as we have 2nd grade curriculum day coming up where the children are asked to wear Whitman gear and come show your school spirit at the ducks game on 5/16!
- L. **Staff Recognition** given by Sunita Hansraj, Amanda Fickler, Abigail Levy or Jaclyn Sharoni
Staff Recognition week is the week of May 18th - more to come on how to say thank you to our amazing WW Staff and how to get involved!
- M. **SEPTA** given by Erica Shulman or Jackie Avellino -
The last meeting was on March 25th. It was about regulation and understanding your child's behavior and stations to help your child regulate. There were high school students who presented the Unity Program (Tennis) - they are still looking for high school students. Please nominate someone for a SEPTA award! The next meeting is next week April 23rd at Berry Hill
- N. **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. On Monday, March 30, council delegates from across the district met with Dr. Rogers and Dr. Curry to discuss the upcoming school year's budget, election, and vote. At this time, there is no finalized budget, as the vote has been moved to the week of April 13. The district is currently awaiting final state aid figures, which will play a key role in shaping the overall budget. All budget information is available on the district website including links to all presentations. Any questions send to Trupti Bahl. A few key points to highlight: The primary drivers of the budget continue to be employee-related costs, particularly health benefits and pension contributions, both of which are influenced by state-level factors and market performance. Staffing is being reviewed carefully based on student enrollment, program needs, and anticipated retirements. The district's main revenue sources remain property taxes and state aid, with additional funding streams incorporated later in the process. In addition, the district continues to invest in capital improvements and program enhancements, including facility upgrades, summer programming, and expanded focus on areas such as AI, coding, and research-based learning. Overall, we expect to have a clearer and more complete update once the state funding numbers are finalized next week, and we will share further details at that time.
 - 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. Below are some notes from the Communications Conference. As you know, formal Q&A to follow from the committee: 1. Assistant Principals: elementary enrollment has plateaued, the district prefer to have other student facing resources in lieu of a titled AP - Mental Health, Mediator, Monitors, etc., they don't see the need for additional administration, in the event of an emergency Dr. Curry would be the go to person (if Snyder is unavailable), 2. IEP --> Middle School and High School - Each child is provided a case manager, provides consistent, direct communication. 3. Booster clubs are completely separate entities from the school or district. School district has no role in what the Booster Clubs do, similar to the PTA. 4.



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Sports - there is no specific budget for each organized sport when it comes to equipment. Every sport receives what's requested. In-school sport clinics are typically done by booster clubs.

5. Vaping - Looking into new technology. Original detector was problematic in the bathrooms (false alarms) If new technology is effective, they will be installed into HS & MS. There is support for Drug & Alcohol coaching. 6. New bus loop will help speed up departures. Effective Sept. '27 7. Any school food related issues should be brought to their attention immediately. Vendors are penalized for any breach of contract - including quality issues. The Q&A write-up from the Communications Conference with administration has been posted. It can be found on the district website under the section PTA Communications Conference Spring 2026.

<https://syossetk12nyus.finalsite.com/fs/resource-manager/view/3d5dab37-ed6e-4a88-9791-e31c294c0420>

c. **Cultural Unity** given by Hera Bokhari

We are ready and excited for the ceremony taking place on April 27th 6:30pm at HBT. Reminders have gone out. Happy to see that we have double the amount of participants this year compared to last year. Can't wait for the showcase of the beautiful artwork created by our students. See you there!

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.

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

Our final drive of the school year will be for the Center for Developmental Disabilities in Syosset. It will run from April 20 to May 15. Once again, each school will need a box/bin in the school lobby, and there will also be a QR code to an [Amazon wishlist](#).

f. **Syosset DECA**

[First Annual Craft Fair](#) - April 18th (Free Admission)

VI. New Business

- A. NYS PTA - the cost of our insurance has gone up to \$375 per unit. A motion was made to increase the insurance budget line by \$25 to \$375 total. A quorum was present and this was approved by majority vote.

VII. Old Business

VIII. 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.



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April

15-16 Grades 3-5 ELA State Testing
20 - Budget Info & BOE Meeting 8pm @ Southwoods
23 - SEPTA Meeting @ Berry Hill
27 - Celebration of Culture @ HBT
27 - [Delegates] Council General Mtg HBT
28 - School Store
29-30 Gr 3 - 5 Math State Assessments

May

1 - Assembly: Bubblemania
4 - PTA Meeting 7:30pm @ Walt Whitman

Thank you everyone once again. There was no further business - the meeting was adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25pm.

Recording Secretary

Sunita Hansraj

Attached

[Sign in Sheet](#)

[Sign In Sheet \(Pic\)](#)