

Meeting Minutes

November 1, 2018

Meeting called to order and minutes approved.

Correspondence:

The PTA received "Thank You" note from WW teachers for the new WW spirit wear shirts. We also received a "Thank You" note from the staff for the book fair vouchers.

Treasurer's Report:

Nothing new to report

President's Report:

This year our Scholarship Mailing will be going out for the first time in the form of a postcard. They will be going out next week. A page has been created on "memberhub" to make scholarship donations.

<https://syocouncil.memberhub.store/>. A QR Code has been included on the postcard as well for you to scan to get to the website as well.

For those of you that need history of the PTA/STA Scholarship, In June 2018 six Syosset High School seniors were recipients of the PTA-STA Scholarship. Each will receive \$5,000 over a two-year period. (Amount each year may vary) The scholarships are made possible by the overwhelming support of the Syosset community. We need your continued support to provide future graduates with the financial assistance that helps them pursue their career goals. Since 1958, the Syosset Council of PTAs (Parent Teacher Association) and the STA (Syosset Teachers' Association) have jointly sponsored the Syosset Scholarship Fund.

Join us in recognizing and rewarding deserving seniors in the Class of 2019 by contributing your tax-deductible donation at website <https://syocouncil.memberhub.store>. Credit card and processing fees will be applied, or you may mail a check payable to: Syosset Scholarship Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 732, Syosset, NY 11791. Donations may also be made "In Honor of" or "In Memory of" Please indicate on your check. Thank you for your generosity and continued support of the youth in our community.

Old Business:

Fall Festival

It was great to see so many Whitman families come out for a fun evening at our annual Fall Festival. Many thanks to Pam & Courtney for making this event happen! Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time and donated items to help make this event a huge success. The kids enjoyed the haunted stage, the pumpkin patch, dancing and all the activities that were planned for the night. We loved seeing all our kids dressed up in their costumes. Thanks to everyone that came out! Pam Bahiri & Courtney Schlow.

Walt Whitman PTA Sponsored T-Shirts

At this time everyone should have received their children's tee shirts. Please continue to wear them on Spirit Days!

Spirit Wear

Please look at the Special Spirit Wear order form that came home with your children. Lauren Cremer will speak more about this later.

Book Fair

A special thank you to Janine, Jenn, Sandi and Lucille for making the book fair such an amazing success. The children loved picking out their books. Thank you to all the parents that helped out as well with making our Fall book fair such a success.

Reflections

Many thanks to Gabby Platz for taking on Reflections this year! We had 13 children enter & are so proud of each one of them. Thank you to the parents & children that are representing our school. - Gabby Platz

Arts in Ed

Thank you to Lucille for the author visit and Internet Safety Assemblies- the children learned a lot!

Mr. Snyder's Report:

Gave a presentation on the new report cards. This year the new report cards will be grade specific. They will be not be numerical. The children will receive an "achievement grade". If you have children in different grades their report cards will be different. They will be assessed on where they are now based on Next Generation Standards. They will be more aligned with the curriculum. Parent guides with more detailed info will be given out at the Parent/Teacher Conferences. Also, there is additional info on the Syosset School District website.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Snyder with any questions.

Committee Reports:

Holiday Boutique:

Holiday boutique is Thursday, December 6 and Friday, December 7 in the morning for those for forget money. Items for everyone on your holiday list ranging in price from 75 cents to about \$15. Cash or check (or cc by parents). Volunteers can sign up soon online.

Pie Sale Pie Sale/Thanksgiving Fundraiser

Pie Sale will run from October 18 through November 8. Orders must be placed by November 8, Vendor is White Post Farms, Large variety to choose from...apple, apple crumb, pumpkin, blueberry, etc.... Order Form and Pie/Bread ingredients will be posted on WW PTA website, Pies \$18, Breads \$14, Crumb Cake \$11, Cookie Bags \$7, Jumbo Cookie \$4, Pie pick is Wednesday November 21st, 3:15pm at the side entrance, Pie/Bread samples for your tasting today! Questions? Contact Jenn or Sara

International Day:

Walt Whitman will be celebrating International Day on Thursday, January 17, 2019. This is a fun way for the students to learn about other countries. We need volunteers to present countries to the students. A signup sheet will be going around. There is also a signup on the PTA website. This an all-day event and will include a break for lunch.

Presenting a country of your choice consists of: creating a tri-fold board (which we will provide) and “decorating” it with photographs and facts about the country. Items from the country are encouraged as part of your presentation. The presentation should be about 5-6 minutes in length to each class in the school, rotating throughout the day. We also have the students complete an activity about the country (word search, coloring, craft, etc.) and receive a “give away” that represents your country (a mini flag, pin, etc.).

Please note, NO FOOD or sharp objects are allowed for the presentation or “give away”. Parents will be reimbursed for materials up to \$100. Please volunteer for a country and be a part of this wonderful day. Contact Stacey Young at staceylyoung@optonline.net or Victoria Skidan at vskidan@gmail.com with any questions.

Toy Drive:

We are helping the US Marines by collecting new & unwrapped toys for children of all ages. There will be a drop off box in the school vestibule from November 29th through December 13th. Please place all toys in the labeled box in the lobby. Contact Jackie Cohen at jackiecohen2016@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you in advance for your kindness & generosity.

Arts in Ed: “Energy Conservation Assembly”

PSEG Long Island and The National Theatre for Children (NTC) have partnered to educate and inspire students about energy conservation. Professional actors from NTC perform the live theater show The Conservation Caper at elementary schools throughout PSEG Long Island’s service area, sparking conversations on energy efficiency in classrooms.

The program focus areas are: *What energy is; The uses of energy; How energy is wasted; Ways to conserve energy.*

Thanksgiving Luncheon:

The Luncheon will take place on Tuesday, November 20th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

We have lots of volunteers. Please make sure all volunteers are paid PTA members. All volunteers must be on our volunteer list prior to the event. All volunteers should wear black & their hair up. Please do not park in front of the school, the vans & busses need access to drop off & pick up. Please drop off all donations in the school lobby by 9:15 am on the day of the event. We had a committee meeting a couple of weeks ago & held a craft session today. We still need some donations for the day of the event. Please see our online sign up. If you have any questions, feel free to email or call us! Jackie, Chrissy & Janine -JackieCohen2016@gmail.com, Chrissy@futureu.us, jrubendall1@gmail.com

Fundraisers:

New WW Discount Card:

INTRODUCING THE WALT WHITMAN DISCOUNT CARD!!!! It is a wallet sized card with 21 local vendors offering discounts to any cardholder! Cards are \$25 each and valid for one year! You do not need to be a Whitman family to purchase a card so feel free to share with local family and friends! Buy one for each of your family members! We will be selling the cards at Open House and online. Any questions please contact Pam Bahiri.

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza in Woodbury:

Is giving us the opportunity to participate in their give back program. Every Tuesday this month starting Tuesday, November 6th, if you mention Walt Whitman, they will donate 20% of the sale to the PTA. It is for both dine-in or takeout orders so take a break from cooking on Tuesday nights this month and support our PTA! As a bonus, they have curb side pickup so no need to even get out of your car!!

MJ Beanz Fundraiser:

Save the date and get ready to shop!!!! Monday, November 5th at MJ beanz in Plainview from 10-6. You will get 10 percent off your purchase! Stock up on birthday gifts and start your holiday shopping. Gift cards are also 10 percent off (get a 100\$ gift card for 90\$- gift cards can be ordered over the phone if you are not able to attend). Please tell all your friends and neighbors to say "Walt Whitman" when checking out to get the discount. Happy shopping!!!! Any questions please contact Dana Kuropatkin danakuropatkin@yahoo.com

PTA Lunch:

The 1st lunch cycle ends on Friday, Nov 9th. The 2nd cycle begins on Tuesday, Nov 13th. Ordering will begin in the beginning of next week.

Please sign up to serve lunch!! If you are a lunch server, only give the kids what is on their cards, no exceptions. Servers must tie their hair back.

Thank you!! _Lauren Weissman

Cultural Unity:

The purpose of the cultural unity committee is to help families in our district learn about all of the available PTA/PTSA resources and to build a sense of community, no matter what language is spoken or culture is represented.

We help bridge communication and cultural gaps between parents and school with the common goal of helping children thrive and succeed in our schools. We recently hosted our first roundtable discussion on Thursday Oct 4. We hope many of you will be able to attend our next one in the spring.

The cultural unity committee also runs a buddy program for families with ENL students. We are looking for parent volunteers who can speak and help translate PTA information and resources into the most needed languages for our school. Across the district, the demand has been predominantly Chinese (Mandarin), Korean and Japanese. We also may need volunteers who speak Spanish, Russian, Czech and Hebrew as well. The CU Committee is responsible to translate for PTA only correspondence and meetings. A flyer will be coming home asking for volunteers for the buddy program and we hope you will sign up!

SEPTA:

Syosset SEPTA is the Special Education Parent Teacher Association that serves Syosset School District's children with disabilities, as well as their families. SEPTA's meetings and membership are open to all parents regardless of whether your child is receiving special education services. SEPTA is a resource of people who are available to help parents and children by providing support, education and advocacy. To help members stay informed about valuable resources, legislation and relevant local events, there is an email called SEPTA connection. SEPTA also has a Facebook page.

- o SEPTA's next meeting is Thursday, November 15 at 7 pm (not 7:45 pm) in the South Woods Library.
- o Our guest speakers are Berry Hill's Suzanne Tesoriero (Special Education Teacher) and Alena Kupferman (School Psychologist).
- o Ms. Tesoriero and Ms. Kupferman will present on strategies to increase focus and attention before your student starts homework, the importance of organization of materials and work space, and provide parents with study skill tips.
- o SEPTA doesn't have a December meeting. Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 17 at 7:45 pm in the South Woods Library at our January meeting, there will be a presentation about the middle school and high school transition process. Speakers will include: Dr. Joseph LaMelza (Asst. Superintendent of Pupil Personnel Services), Mary Lou Sapienza (Director of Pupil Personnel Services SHS), Liz Burke (Asst. Principal, South Woods Middle School), Marissa Zoffranieri (BCBA/Behavior Consultant), Erica Klock (Home Services) & Lauren O'Rourke (District Social Worker).
- o SEPTA membership is \$12. You can sign up online at syossetsepta.memberhub.store.

WW Ladies Night:

Voted on and approved. Fun night out at a local venue. There will be raffles, baskets, food and fun! Date will be sometime in April. More info to follow! -Carla Delia and Angela Fierstadt

BOE Reporter:

Reported by: Karen Lipp Ostrick/Inna Choi, WWPTA School Board Reporter / October 2018 BOE Meeting

- o Report card presentation – amazing presentation provided by Principal Snyder and the administration. Kudos to Snyder – he did a great job! Hope everyone got to see the revised report card presentation at the South Woods Middle School on Monday night. The new report cards will have parent manuals by grade as well. All documents are posted on the Syosset school district website.
http://www.syossetschools.org/parentsstudents/elementary_report_card_information
- o High School Start time- First – DO NOT PANIC! The administration presented 3 possible options of start times for the high school and the impact they may have on other schools and our bussing. The administration was not in support of the three options and agreed they would be going back to the consultant, working on it to provide more options with less impact to the other school start times and bussing.
- o Residency re-verification – All students entering middle school and high school must re-verify their residency.
- o Streaming Board of Ed meetings – they all agreed they would work out a plan on streaming and staying within the student privacy requirements.
- o School Testing – Overlapping tests - discussion was had on overlapping testing of major subjects for HS. They agreed that they would modify practice of not giving tests on the Tuesday after a 3-day weekend, as it is presently prohibited by practice. They also discussed the coordination of teachers from major subjects not giving testing on the same day.
- o Mercy First – Major security issues from Mercy First being discussed. The Raise the Age law that went into effect has shed light on the Mercy First facility and the residents who live nearby. The board discussed the issue of security and that they should be required to have the same level of security that we have in the district.
- o Audience to the public:

- a. Mercy First – Brought up by many parents and residents. Bob Swanson – Syosset Fire Commissioner - requested the Board of Ed to intervene with the CEO of the facility and provide a public forum for residents to ask question to the CEO and dispel any rumors and false information.

Upcoming Dates:

11/6 MJ Beanz Fundraiser 10:00-6:00	11/20 Thanksgiving Luncheon
11/8 School Store	11/21 Pie Sale pick up
11/12 No School	11/22-11/23 No School
11/15 PT Conferences	11/29 Picture Make up Day
11/19 BOE Mtg	11/29 School Store

PTA Meeting Times

Wednesday, December 5th at 9:45 am	Thursday, April 4th at 7:30 pm
Thursday, January 3rd at 7:30 pm	Thursday, May 2nd at 9:45 am
Wednesday, February 6th at 7:30 pm	Thursday, June 6th at 7:30 pm
Thursday, March 7th at 9:45 am	

School Store Dates

November 29 th	March 21 st
December 13 th	April 4 th
January 3 rd , 24 th	May 2 nd & 30 th
February 7 th and 28 th	June 13 th

Spirit Dates

Friday, November 9 th	Friday, February 1 st	Friday, April 26 th
Wednesday, November 21 st	Friday, February 15 th	Friday, May 10 th
Friday, December 7 th	Friday, March 1 st ,	Friday, May 24 th
Friday, December 21 st	Friday, March 15 th	Friday, June 7 th
Friday, January 4 th	Friday, March 29 th	Friday, June 21 st
Friday, January 18 th	Friday, April 12 th	