



WALTER JOHNSON BOOSTER CLUB

6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda MD
20817

www.wjboosterclub.org

Welcome

President Mary Bittle Koenick called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and outlined the agenda, noting that funding requests would be heard first, followed by reports, committee updates, financial discussion, and voting on requests at the end of the meeting.

Funding Requests

Youth & Government – \$4,400

Youth & Government representatives presented their annual request to support participation in the Maryland Youth & Government Conference in Annapolis (April 25–27). Twenty-seven students are registered to attend, more than double last year's participation.

Students described the three-day legislative simulation, where participants draft bills, debate in committee and full sessions, and advocate for policy proposals. Members emphasized growth in public speaking, debate, leadership, and civic engagement.

Funds requested will cover conference registration and an additional advisor due to increased student participation. The club has raised approximately \$200 to date and will be working concessions and planning a bake sale.

WJ Production/Music/WJ Stage – \$16,000

Production Club and Music Department representatives presented a capital request for new performance risers. Current risers are deteriorating, with bent metal, broken safety locks, and missing parts, creating safety concerns.

The department regularly supports over 200 students at concerts, assemblies, productions, elementary and middle school promotions, and athletic events. Current inventory supports only 176 students.

Estimated cost for new risers is approximately \$30,000+, subject to the Montgomery County bidding process. The Booster Club is being asked to fund half of the final cost,

with the Performing Arts Society raising the remaining funds. New risers will include safety guards, improved locking mechanisms, and long-term durability.

Reports

Administration – Terry Heintze

Administration provided updates on traffic safety during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up. Families are reminded to use school property for drop-off and avoid stopping on the roadway. Near-miss incidents have occurred recently.

The school is advocating for additional security staff due to its size. A new School Resource/Community Engagement Officer (Officer Miller) has joined and will be introduced to the community.

Athletic Director – Larry Hurd

Coach McRae was introduced as the new Head Football Coach and current Montgomery County Coach of the Year. The community expressed excitement about his leadership.

Recent athletic events were highlighted, including a well-managed overtime win against B-CC that received praise from Montgomery County Police for event safety coordination.

An update was provided on the gym floor replacement project. Bids have been submitted; projected cost is \$32,000–\$40,000. Final approval from MCPS is pending, and timing remains uncertain.

Treasurer – Anna Park (Mid-Year Financial Report)

Net income year-to-date is just under \$11,000. Current cash position is approximately \$160,000.

Major upcoming expenses include Post Prom, Sports Awards, Appreciation events, and other standing obligations. Two major fundraisers (Used Book Sale and Mulch Sale) are forthcoming.

Discussion included long-term planning for potential support of Woodward High School as it opens, including possible financial and knowledge-sharing support.

Committee Updates

Concessions – Dawn Harris

- Indoor concessions credit card fees discussed.
- Exploring alternative payment systems to reduce processing fees.

School Store – Becky Sher

- Ongoing operations; no major updates.

Used Book Sale – Natalie Shelton (Feb 28–Mar 1, 2026)

- Over 12,000 books collected to date.
- Additional donation days scheduled Jan 31 and Feb 14.
- Volunteers and student teams needed for heavy lifting and setup on Feb 27.
- Advertising efforts underway through feeder schools, Constant Contact, fire departments, and marquee signage.

Mulch Sale – Mary Bittle Koenick (Mar 13–14, 2025)

- Planning underway; communication to prior customers forthcoming.

Sponsorships/Banners – Rachel Singer & Kara Kehoe

- Three new winter banners secured; goal of eight additional sponsors.
- Banner installations pending weather conditions.

Monthly Newsletter – OPEN position.

Website – Jen Dooren & John Ryder.

Sports/Clubs Commissioners – OPEN.

New Business

Open Positions:

- MCPS Coaches & Officials Appreciation Week Coordinator
- Sports Commissioner
- Positions-in-Training (President; Committee Chairs for Mulch Sale, Concessions, and School Store)

Discussion emphasized the importance of having co-chairs from both North Bethesda and Tilden to ensure continuity and knowledge transfer.

Funding Motions & Votes 16

Youth & Government – \$4,400

- Motion to approve by Sarah Allison; second by Jen Doran.
- Approved unanimously (18 votes).

WJ Production/Music/WJ Stage – \$16,000

Next Meeting February 11, 2026 – 7:00 PM (Media Center)

Attendance:

ATTENDEE	EMAIL	GRADE OF STUDENT
Becky Sher	becky_sher@verizon.net	12th grade
Sarah Allison	sarah.b.allison@gmail.com	10th grade
Natalie Shelton	nshelton@pobox.com	11th grade
Deborah Berger	realestatewithdeb@gmail.com	12th grade
Vanessa Eisemann	veisemann@yahoo.com	9th grade
Christine Herman	herman.chrissie@gmail.com	11th grade
Melissa Forburger	forburgerfive@gmail.com	12th grade
Anna Park	annapark00@gmail.com	10th grade, 11th grade, 12th grade
Morgan Mitchell	Mitchellbrintley103@gmail.com	11th grade
Rachel Singer	rachelforman@yahoo.com	11th grade