



# WALTER JOHNSON BOOSTER CLUB

6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda MD 20817

[www.wjboosterclub.org](http://www.wjboosterclub.org)

## Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2025

### 1. Call to Order / Attendance

Meeting called to order by President Mary Bittle Koenick. QR codes were provided on tables for parents and attendees to sign in so that attendance could be recorded.

### 2. Student Club Funding Presentations

#### **Model United Nations (MUN) Funding Request – \$3,210:**

Presenters: Rema (Director of Finance) and club officers.

Club Overview:

Approximately 40+ active members; open to all WJ students.

- Focus on simulating the UN General Assembly and Security Council.
- Weekly Wednesday lunch meetings include workshops, public speaking practice, debate training, and preparation for conferences.
- Students attend multiple local and regional conferences at high schools and universities around Maryland and the East Coast (e.g., PENG/Wong, William & Mary, WAMUNC at GW).

NAIMUN at Georgetown University is a four- day flagship conference and one of the premier Model UN conferences on the East Coast.

- Plan to send 20 students; registration costs approximately \$125 per student (~\$2,500 total).
- Substitute coverage for the sponsor, Mr. Rodman, is estimated at \$710 (two days, two substitutes).
- Club is only requesting Booster support for this one high- cost conference; other smaller conferences will be funded through club fundraising and participant fees.

Fundraising:

- Ran concessions at a volleyball game and a large spring bake sale that raised over \$1,000.
- Scheduled to staff an indoor basketball concessions shift in February.
- Additional fundraisers are planned later in the year.

Discussion:

- Question was raised about why the request is limited to a single conference. Students explained that NAIMUN's fees are substantially higher than regional events and represent a significant financial burden; therefore they are focusing their Booster request on this one flagship opportunity.

### **Latino Competitive Dance Team Funding Request – \$3,500):**

Presenters: Student team representatives.

Club Overview:

- Competitive Latin dance team founded in 2023 by WJ students; currently about 20 members.
- Perform at MCPS events (Clarksburg HS social, elementary school programs, pep rallies) and compete in regional competitions, earning multiple trophies in the last two years.

Funding Request – \$3,500:

- Competition entrance fee: approximately \$250.
- Costumes average about \$130 per dancer, not including shipping.
- Additional costs include tights, shoes, hair and makeup supplies, props, and other accessories (estimated at ~\$400).
- Total seasonal team costs are estimated between \$1,600 and \$2,600+ for costumes alone, plus accessories.

Fundraising & Booster Support:

- Plan to staff concessions, help with the school store, hold bake sales, and host a multi-school Latin dance social with food sales.
- Expectation that every team member will work at least one Booster-sponsored event.
- None of the current members are on Booster yet, but they expressed willingness to become involved and support Booster initiatives.

Status / Discussion:

- The team currently has a temporary sponsor (Mr. Moore) and is working with administration to confirm a permanent club sponsor.
- Because the official funding request was submitted close to the meeting and the sponsor status is not yet finalized, the Booster treated the request as a preliminary approval contingent on confirmation of an official WJ staff sponsor and completion of required paperwork.

### **African Student Union (ASU) Funding Request – Up to \$600:**

Presenters: Clifford Hubbard (President) and club officers.

Club Overview:

- Represents and celebrates the African student community at WJ.
- Meets biweekly on Fridays during lunch in Ms. Kelly's room.
- Hosts game days, cultural discussions, picnics, and participates in school assemblies.
- Focused on sharing African culture and building community.

Panzi Hospital Documentary Project:

- Club is partnering with Panzi Hospital in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Dr. Denis Mukwege.
- Hospital provides maternal care and specializes in treating survivors of gender- based and sexual violence through its four- pillar model (medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic, and legal support).
- A student created a documentary using footage from group therapy sessions and interviews with doctors.
- Screening is planned for January 9; event will include donation- based admission, with proceeds directed to Panzi- related advocacy organizations.

Funding Request – Up to \$600:

- Primary expenses are an honorarium/payment for Mr. Mohan to run the event and potential security costs.
- ASU also plans to hold bake sales associated with the screening; proceeds will support Panzi- related efforts.
- Club has a history of directing concessions income to international causes (e.g., a coding school in Kenya).

Discussion:

- Booster funds cannot be used as a direct donation to charity; they can only cover specific event- related costs.
- Any funds raised by ASU through donations at the screening may then be donated to Panzi by the club itself.

### **Modeling Club Funding Request – \$2,000 (Preliminary):**

Presenters: Henry (President), Sivan (Modeling Leader), club treasurer and officers.

Club Overview:

- New and growing club continuing the legacy of a prior Fashion Club at WJ.
- 43 active members divided into Modeling, Photography, and Fashion Design groups.

- Meets regularly and works toward an end-of-year fashion show where students serve as designers, runway models, and photographers.

Past and Current Activities:

- Zumiez back-to-school styling project.
- Macy's homecoming partnership.
- Collaboration with Becca's Closet runway show (free homecoming/prom dresses for students).
- Halloween-themed fashion photoshoot and mood-board design work.

Funding Request – \$2,000 (Preliminary):

- Cutting mats and rotary cutters to protect school tables while cutting fabric.
- Curved sewing rulers and dress forms/mannequins for pattern making and fittings.
- Several sewing machines (average \$300–\$500 each) and storage totes.
- Fabric, thread, and notions (buttons, zippers, etc.).
- Entry-level cameras (\$100–\$300 each) to expand photography beyond cell phones.

Rationale & Future Impact:

- Materials will support multiple years of students and enable more advanced design and construction.
- Club aims to offer workshops to non-members and help students build fashion portfolios for college and career pathways.
- Officers emphasized their commitment to supporting Booster through concessions and by encouraging families to join Booster.

Status:

- The request had not yet been formally submitted via the online form, and sponsor documentation is still being finalized.
- Booster considered the request for preliminary approval, contingent upon proper submission and verification of a school-based sponsor.

### **3. Athletics Report – Athletic Director**

The Athletic Director provided a winter sports and budget overview:

- Winter season has begun strongly; track and swim both opened with wins and both basketball teams started 2–0.
- Large, positive crowds at home games with strong sportsmanship from students and families.
- The Wildcat Athletic Leadership Council met to discuss challenges and celebrations, and student-athletes pledged to support all teams and promote one another's events.

#### Athletics Budget Presentation:

- Each coach completes an end-of-season Google form summarizing the year and listing program needs and wish-list items.
- The AD's goal is to meet all essential needs each year and to address larger wish-list items through long-term planning and fundraising.
- Varsity uniforms are on a four-year replacement cycle; retired sets are passed down to JV. All programs are now fully aligned to this rotation.
- Major fundraiser is School Fun, which charges a 2.9% fee. Football raised approximately \$37,000; track raised about \$15,000 last year.
- Concessions are the second-largest revenue source, while bake sales and food nights generally yield lower profit.
- Key annual expenses include officials, invitational entry fees, mandatory helmet reconditioning (~\$8,000/year), uniforms, medical supplies, field maintenance, coach clinics, weight-room equipment, custodial overtime, and security for Saturday events.
- Capital requests (e.g., gym floor and scoreboard upgrades, safety infrastructure near track throwing areas) have been submitted to MCPS and are built into the future budget as placeholders.
- The AD emphasized that once fixed football safety costs are accounted for, overall spending on boys, girls, and co-ed sports is equitable and that every team's essential needs are being met.

#### **4. Committee Reports**

##### Used Book Sale:

- One sorting session has been completed; approximately 100 boxes of books are already in storage.
- Three additional sort dates are scheduled prior to the January/February sale weekends.
- Volunteers are still needed for upcoming sorts and sale days.

##### Concessions:

- Winter concessions began last Friday; all 25 available slots for the winter season are currently filled.
- The indoor concessions refrigerator was removed due to malfunction. The Booster is working with school facilities to secure a replacement unit without requiring a high-cost bottled water contract.

##### Basketball Senior Night:

- There is interest in a combined boys/girls senior night on January 16; final decisions are at the discretion of the coaching staffs.

## **5. Funding Motions & Votes**

### **Model UN – \$3,210:**

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

### **African Student Union – Up to \$600 in expenses:**

- Motion to approve by Cheryl Hughes; second by Dawn Harris.
- Approved unanimously.
- Funds will cover documented event expenses only, not direct charitable donations.

### **Latino Competitive Dance Team – \$3,500 (Preliminary):**

- Motion to preliminarily approve \$3,500 in funding, contingent on confirmation of an official WJ staff sponsor and proper submission of the funding request.
- Once requirements are met, club may draw on the approved amount for competition fees and costume- related expenses.

### **Modeling & Fashion Design Club – \$2,000 (Preliminary):**

- Club was not approved. They will be asked to return with a more detailed itemized list for final approval.

## **6. Adjournment**

The Booster will develop and share a standard presentation template to help future student groups make concise funding requests.

Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting is January 14, 2026.**

### **Attendance:**

<b>ATTENDEE</b>	<b>EMAIL</b>	<b>GRADE OF STUDENT</b>
Joseph Robinson	josephlouisrobinson@gmail.com	10th grade
Becky Sher	becky_sher@verizon.net	12th grade
Joseph Robinson	josephlouisrobinson@gmail.com	10th grade
Robert Coomber	bob.coomber@gmail.com	9th grade
Kate Proger	kate.proger@gmail.com	11th grade
Jennifer Dooren	jcdooren@gmail.com	12th grade
Andrea Brush	dre92077@gmail.com	9th grade, 11th grade

Marisol Suarez	wilmary2@hotmail.com	9th grade
Deborah Berger	realtordeb10@gmail.com	12th grade
Dawn Harris	dmp_harris@yahoo.com	12th grade
Sarah Allison	sarah.b.allison@gmail.com	10th grade
Melissa Forburger	forburgerfive@gmail.com	12th grade
Cheryl Hughes	crhughes11@verizon.net	12th grade
Howard Mann	howard_mann@yahoo.com	9th grade, 11th grade
Brent Davidson	brentrdavidson@gmail.com	10th grade, Middle school
Rachel Singer	rachelforman@yahoo.com	11th grade
Anna Park	annapark00@gmail.cm	10th grade, 11th grade, 12th grade
Nicole Morgan	nicole.j.morgan@mcpsmd.net	10th grade
Kimberlyn Faulkner	kimberlyn.m.faulkner@mcpsmd.net	9th grade, 10th grade, 11th grade, 12th grade