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WALTER JOHNSON BOOSTER CLUB

6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda MD
20817 www.wjboosterclub.org

Meeting Date: October 8, 2025

Funding Requests

The Pitch: \$6,500. Presentation [here](#).

The Pitch Editorial Board: Maayan Keren; Michal Shmaya; Vania Charo; Meher Parsinni; Bea Roberts; Will Murphy; Jeremy Silberglied; Marie-Isabelle Nachege; Jonathan Bahat; Jay Resnik

STEM4All Club: \$530 total. Presenters: Presentation [here](#).

Co-Presidents: Katya Sanamyan and Clara Frank. Roster/Attendance of [members](#).

- The club's mission is to create an inclusive, relaxed environment for students interested in exploring STEM fields without the pressure of high-commitment academic teams like Science Olympiad. Activities include hands-on experiments every other Tuesday, guest speaker events, and an annual Science Fair held between final exams and senior week.
- Recent projects: chemical reaction demos (elephant toothpaste, lemon volcanoes), solar ovens, water filtration systems, and battery-powered clocks.
- Guest speakers: last year's event featured a University of Maryland physicist presenting on light spectra.
- Growth: Club membership expanded from a few students to over 20 participants. Booster funding was credited for supporting successful experiments and student engagement.
- Fundraising: Held a small science-themed fundraiser last year (~\$50 profit) to support science fair materials. Members also volunteer for Booster events such as the mulch and book sales.
- Request: \$530 total – \$195 from Amazon and Giant orders (supplies/produce) plus additional funding for experiments and Science Fair materials.

- Science Fair is scheduled for the week following final exams but before senior events. Booster members requested photos and Instagram tags from the Science Fair for promotional visibility.

Key Club – Senior Citizen Luncheon: \$2,900 total. Presentation [here](#).

- Presenters: Gabby Sharer (President), Myra (Secretary), and Julia (Treasurer).
- The Key Club’s annual Senior Luncheon is a 45+ year WJ tradition hosting ~150 senior citizens and 250 student volunteers.
- Event features: Seated lunch, music, and dancing. Students serve food, host tables, and create decorations with help from Art and Child Development classes.
- Senior attendees come from local centers (e.g., Holiday Park Senior Center). Feedback from guests consistently positive.
- Budget Request: \$2,900 total – \$2,000 for catering, \$340 for substitute teacher coverage, \$560 for decorations and supplies.
- Fundraising support: Key Club members will volunteer at the Booster book and mulch sales. They are collaborating with additional student groups for decorating and setup.
- Administration confirmed local senior centers have already begun requesting participation invitations.

Main Office Beautification: \$1000 request. Presentation [here](#).

- Presentation by Principal Morgan and Mr. Heintze
- Request to continue enhancing the school’s main conference room to make it a more welcoming space for students, staff, and visiting families.
- Prior Booster funding supported new furniture last year; the room is used daily for meetings and presentations.
- New proposal: Add historical photo displays (including enhanced 1963 ‘Mad Cow’ senior prank photo), decor, and a wall-mounted flatscreen monitor to modernize the space and support presentations.
- Total Project Cost: \$2,000; Booster contribution requested: \$1,000 (50%).

REPORTS

- Administration — Terry Heintze
- Athletics Director — Larry Hurd
- Treasurer – Anna Park

- Since July, the Booster Club has raised approximately \$65,000 through fundraising, concessions, and sponsorships. Expenses ongoing for operations, events, and fund distribution to approved requests.
- Mary Bittle commended for continued leadership. Volunteers encouraged to assist with upcoming events, particularly fall concessions.
- Booster Instagram will highlight meeting outcomes and funded projects monthly.

- Reminder: Booster funds cannot be used for travel, lodging, meals, or personal items.
- Committee Chairs
 - Concessions – Dawn Harris
 - School Store – Becky Sher
 - Used Book Sale – Natalie Shelton (February 27–March 1)
 - Mulch Sale – Mary Bittle Koenick (Mar 13-14, 2025)
 - Sponsorships/Banners – Rachel Singer & Kara Kehoe
 - Ten corporate sponsors confirmed; banner renewals ongoing.
 - Banner hanging event. Volunteers needed to install ~30 banners near the athletic circle.
- Website – Jen Dooren & John Ryder
- Monthly Newsletter – **OPEN**
- Sports/Clubs Commissioners – **OPEN**
 - Homecoming Weekend and other community events forthcoming.

NEW BUSINESS

- Update from MCPS Booster Club President meeting – Sept 29
 - Discussion on defining Booster Club membership as ‘demonstrated support’ through volunteering, donations, or committee participation.
 - Implement a QR code sign-in for meeting attendance and membership tracking.
 - Student volunteer offered to manage Booster Club social media communications.
- Open Positions
 - MCPS Coaches & Officials Appreciation Week Coordinator
 - Sports Commissioner
 - “Positions-in-Training” – Important to have co-chairs from NB & Tilden**
 - President
 - Committee Chairs – Mulch Sale, Concessions & School Store

Motions & Votes

1. The Pitch Request – \$6500

- ☞ Motion to approve:
- ☞ Second: Debbie Berger
- ☞ Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed (including remote participation from Sarah).
- ☞ Motion PASSED.

2. Main Office Request – \$1000

- ☞ Motion to approve:
- ☞ Second:
- ☞ Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
- ☞ Motion PASSED.

3. Key Club Request – \$3000

- ☞ Motion to approve:
- ☞ Second:
- ☞ Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
- ☞ Motion PASSED.

4. STEM4All Request – \$530

- ☞ Motion to approve:
- ☞ Second:
- ☞ Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
- ☞ Motion PASSED.

Next Meeting – November 12, 2025, 7:00 PM