



## WALTER JOHNSON BOOSTER CLUB

6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda MD  
20817 [www.wjboosterclub.org](http://www.wjboosterclub.org)

**Meeting Date: November 12, 2025**

### **Call to Order & Welcome**

Meeting called to order by **Mary Bittle Koenick**, Booster Club President.

### **Student Funding Requests**

#### **Art Ambassadors – Funding Request: \$550**

**Presenters:** Clara and other student representatives

Mission: Build a welcoming art community and connect with the broader WJ/neighboring community through creative projects.

- **Activities:**
  - Weekly meetings (various art media: painting, origami, photography, recycled art).
  - Community events (e.g., free library craft event for children).
- **Use of Funds:**
  - Art supplies (mirrors, tote bags, clay, etc.) primarily via Amazon.
  - Extra cushion for additional/expanded projects.
- **Engagement:**
  - Active fundraising (Chipotle night, concessions, mulch/book sale).
  - ~30 members are able to support Booster events.
- **Suggestions from Booster:**
  - Partner with elementary schools, Best Buddies, senior centers.
  - Consider student craft markets and collaborations with other arts groups.

#### **Science Olympiad – Request Approved: \$2,500**

- Large, competitive STEM club (~100 members) preparing for invitationals, regionals, states, and nationals.
- **Event Types:**
  - Building (bridges, boomilevers, helicopters, robots, etc.).
  - Lab (chemistry, materials science, etc.).
  - Study (anatomy, water quality, entomology, rocks & minerals, cryptography).

- Use of Funds:
  - Competition registration fees (often two teams per competition).
  - Building materials (wood, metal, electronics).
  - Lab supplies (chemicals, glassware).
  - Study resources (field guides, maps).
- Impact:
  - Intensive meeting schedule and leadership roles build strong academic, technical, and leadership skills.
  - Club is a major contributor to Booster concessions revenue.

### **Athletics & School Updates**

- **Parent–Teacher Conferences:** Scheduled for Monday–Tuesday of Thanksgiving week (half days); invitations mainly for students of concern.
- **Winter Sports:**
  - Record **400+ students** registered.
  - Eligibility process underway.
- **Student-Athlete Academics:**
  - Average GPA: 3.45.
  - 335 athletes have 3.25+ GPA; 65 have straight A’s.
- **Fall Highlights:**
  - Cheer: 3rd at Regionals, narrowly missed States.
  - Golf: 8th in Maryland.
  - Girls Cross Country: 10th in Maryland.
- Coaching transitions: Golf and long-time track/cross-country coach retiring.
- Flag football regional events brought strong concessions revenue.
- Larry Hurd will present the athletics budget at the December meeting.

### **Booster Finances & Operations**

- Financial status: Strong; ample cash on hand.
- A mid-year budget review is planned for January to assess six-month performance and plan for year-end.

### **School Store**

- Strong fall overall; homecoming and current lunch sales slower than expected.
- Exploring:
  - More pop-up sales (e.g., Basketball Community Night, arts/music events).
  - New ways to reach families beyond traditional sports crowds.

### **Used Book Sale**

- First sorting: November 22; sign-up link circulated.
- Four sale dates set for January–February (final details via email).
- Already have ~50 boxes of books to start.
- Action items:
  - Clarify and leverage tax-exempt status for purchases.
  - Clean up payment system logins with a shared email account.
  - Use membership lists to recruit volunteers.

## INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS

### Turf Field Advocacy

- Countywide Booster presidents are supporting **MCPS turf field expansion**.
- Key benefits highlighted:
  - Community access and rental revenue.
  - Consistent scheduling unaffected by field conditions.
  - Long-term cost savings vs. maintaining grass fields.
- Mary is drafting a letter (with Larry) to the Board of Ed and will share:
  - **Board contact info**.
  - A **sample letter** for parents to personalize.

### Theater/Auditorium Needs

- Noted recent issues with **sound and lighting** during performances.
- Recognized that multiple groups share the auditorium (theater, music, WJ Stage, cluster events).
- Next step: Encourage relevant staff (e.g., theater/music) to coordinate with administration and bring a **clear, consolidated funding request** for technical upgrades.

### Next Steps

- Suggestion that **Kelly Butler** and/or other theater/music staff:
  - Coordinate with school administration.
  - Develop a **specific funding request** (e.g., for shells, sound upgrades, lighting fixes).
  - Bring that request through the proper channel to the Booster Club for consideration.

## Motions & Votes

1. **Art Ambassadors Funding Request – \$550**
  - Motion to approve: Joseph Robinson
  - Second: Debbie Berger
  - Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed (including remote participation from Sarah).

- Motion PASSED.

**2. Science Olympiad Funding Request – \$2,500**

- Motion to approve: Becky Sher
- Second: Debbie Berger
- Vote: 8 in favor, 0 opposed
- Motion PASSED.

**Attendance:**

Your Name	What grade is your student in? If you have multiple children, check all that apply.	Which of the following positions are you interested in learning more about?
Sara Gallagher Williams	9th grade, 11th grade	
Sarah Allison (on phone)	10th grade	
Becky Sher	12th grade	
Joseph Robinson	10th grade	Mulch Sale Committee Chair
Debbie Berger		
Mary Bittle Koenig		

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