



# WALTER JOHNSON BOOSTER CLUB

6400 Rock Spring Drive, Bethesda MD  
20817

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

## Meeting Minutes – February 11, 2026

### 1. Robotics Club Funding Presentation

Total Request (rounded for contingencies): \$6,300.

Presenters: Alex (Treasurer) and Robotics Team Members.

Program Overview:

- Robotics competes in VEX and FTC (First Tech Challenge) competitions.
- Students design, build, program, and drive robots in inter-school competitions.
- Three teams operate under the Robotics umbrella: two VEX teams and one FTC team.
- Approximately 20 active members (7 FTC; 12+ VEX).
- Students serve in engineering, programming, design, leadership, and outreach roles.

Season Update:

- First competition: 8th place finish, representing a significant improvement from the prior year.
- Second competition: lower placement but against more competitive teams.
- Students reported strong growth and increased competitiveness overall.

Educational Impact:

- Develops engineering, modeling, programming, organization, and communication skills.
- Encourages teamwork and problem solving.
- Provides outreach opportunities to elementary schools to promote STEM education.
- Prepares students for careers in engineering and technology fields.
- VEX emphasizes mechanical engineering; FTC includes greater focus on outreach, 3D modeling, and printing.

Funding Request:

VEX – \$2,816.69

- Registration fees
- Annual competition field purchase (game changes yearly)
- Motors, metal parts, replacement components

FTC – \$2,200.69

- Registration fees

- Outreach materials and events
- Robot parts and supplies

Discussion:

- VEX parts must be purchased through the approved vendor; FTC allows broader sourcing.
- Both competitions change annually, requiring new robot builds each season.
- Robotics noted that material costs are higher than many other clubs due to required equipment.

## **2. Safety & Security Update**

Administration announced a Safety & Security information session scheduled for March 17 at 7:00 PM during the PTA meeting.

Topics to include:

- Annual safety drills and emergency procedures
- Operational planning for large events (basketball games, tournaments)
- Security staffing and preventative measures
- Importance of student reporting and trusted adult communication

Administration emphasized proactive planning, collaboration with security staff, and the shared goal of ensuring every student leaves school safely each day.

## **3. Athletics Update**

Winter Season Highlights:

- Wrestling – Daniel Gerson earned his 100th career win; team entering regionals as 3rd seed.
- Boys Basketball – 12–5 record and competitive playoff positioning.
- Girls Basketball – 10–7 record; strong playoff outlook.
- Pom Team – 5th place in MCPS Championship; Division I Spirit Award.
- Swim Team – Boys finished 3rd at Metros; Girls finished 5th; regionals upcoming.
- Baseball recognized for back-to-back championships.

Spring season preparations are underway.

## **4. Treasurer – Anna Park**

Financial updates were provided, including review of balances and funding allocations.

## **5. Committee Reports**

Concessions – Dawn Harris: Winter concessions ongoing; staffing updates provided.

Used Book Sale – Natalie Shelton: Sale scheduled Feb 28–Mar 1

- Food license inspection application submitted in January; awaiting confirmation.
- Sales tax exemption application submitted; awaiting state response.
- Upcoming book sale weekend currently has approximately 10 student and 10 parent volunteers for morning shifts; fewer for afternoon shifts.
- Additional volunteers needed.
- Discussion of placing yard signs to increase community awareness.
- Additional book sorting scheduled for Sunday the 22nd.

Mulch Sale – Sale scheduled Mar 13–14; planning underway.

Sponsorships/Banners – Rachel Singer & Kara Kehoe: Community outreach ongoing.

Monthly Newsletter – OPEN (position vacant).

Website – Jen Dooren & John Ryder.

Sports/Clubs Commissioners – Bob Poulin (new role introduced).

## 5. New Business

Nominating Committee:

- A nominating committee must be formed prior to the March meeting to prepare the 2026–2027 slate of officers.
- Several board positions will require new volunteers next year.
- Discussion included encouraging broader Booster membership engagement. Board emphasized the importance of co-chairs from North Bethesda and Tilden.

## 6. Funding Motions & Votes

### Robotic Club – \$3,210:

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

### 3D Printing Club – \$4000

- Motion to increase allocated amount to support the purchase of 2 large-format printers. 3D printers by Sara Williams; second by .
- Approved unanimously (18 votes).

### Modeling Club Revised Request from December meeting – \$500:

- Original request significantly reduced after materials were transferred from the former Fashion Club.

## 6. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting concluded following funding discussions and board updates.

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

**Attendance:**

ATTENDEE	EMAIL	GRADE OF STUDENT
Dawn Harris	<a href="mailto:dmp_harris@yahoo.com">dmp_harris@yahoo.com</a>	12th grade
Anna Park	<a href="mailto:annapark00@gmail.com">annapark00@gmail.com</a>	10th grade, 11th grade, 12th grade
Joseph Robinson	<a href="mailto:josephlouisrobinson@gmail.com">josephlouisrobinson@gmail.com</a>	10th grade
Lisa Panasiti Whisenhunt	<a href="mailto:lisapwhisenhunt@gmail.com">lisapwhisenhunt@gmail.com</a>	10th grade
Andrew Hennemuth	<a href="mailto:andy.hennemuth@gmail.com">andy.hennemuth@gmail.com</a>	9th grade, 11th grade
Deborah Berger	<a href="mailto:realestatewithdeb@gmail.com">realestatewithdeb@gmail.com</a>	12th grade
Vanessa Eisemann	<a href="mailto:veisemann@yahoo.com">veisemann@yahoo.com</a>	9th grade