

# Woodlin Elementary School PTA Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday, October 6, 2026

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** In-Person (Woodlin Elementary School)

**Meeting Type:** PTA Executive Board & General Community Meeting

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## 1. Executive Summary & Key Highlights

- **School Administration Updates:** Mr. Jackson addressed county-wide enrollment shifts and budget tightening, urging the Woodlin community to lead with compassion and positive partnership. Detailed clarifications were shared on student health protocols, instructional differentiation, transportation delays, and dismissal procedures.
  - **Key Fundraisers & Community Events:** Preparations are underway for the **Dash of the Runaway Wizards** (primary annual fundraiser on Oct 23), the **Harvest Festival** (Oct 30), the **Election Day Bake Sale**, and **International Night** (Nov 7).
  - **MCPS Boundary & Consolidation Study:** An overview was presented on the county's upcoming elementary school boundary study prompted by declining district enrollment. Formal boundary implementations will not take effect until the 2029–2030 school year.
  - **School Grounds:** The native plant garden installation was a success, with long-term ecological development underway.
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## 2. Administration Report & Community Q&A

### A. District Climate, Enrollment & Budget

- **Budget & Enrollment Landscape:** Montgomery County is experiencing tightening operational budgets and notable shifts in student enrollment.
- **Community Culture:** Mr. Jackson emphasized the importance of a resilient, compassionate school community. He requested that families insulate the school environment by approaching challenges with curiosity, constructive questions, and mutual grace.
- **Core Priority:** When asked about top priorities, Mr. Jackson emphasized the need for district and state leaders to relieve undue testing and bureaucratic pressure on classroom educators so they can focus fully on teaching and learning.

## B. Health, Safety & Daily Operations

- **Health Room / Nurse Notification Protocol:** The school nurse is shared across multiple schools. District guidelines require the health room to call parents directly in cases of head injury, vomiting, or suspected emergency room evaluation.
- **Recess and Hydration:**
  - Recess is not withheld as a disciplinary measure without prior direct consultation with parents. (Admin noted student perceptions of time lost can occasionally differ from staff records).
  - Students are never denied access to drinking water at Woodlin; staff reinforce student personal responsibility for staying hydrated throughout the day.
- **Building Security & Visitor Check-In:** Administration enforces strict identification checks upon entry (targeted at 100%). While staff occasionally recognize daily recurring visitors, Mr. Jackson affirmed readiness to maintain a strict, 100% ID check policy across the board if preferred by families.
- **Dismissal Logistics:** Dismissal order proceeds first with walkers, car riders, and Kids After Hours (KAH), followed by sequential grade-level dismissals. Staff actively match students to authorized caregivers, even if the procedure is not immediately apparent from the exterior.

## C. Academic Instruction & Differentiation

- **Early Grades (K–2):** A dedicated daily instructional block is established for targeted intervention, on-grade-level instruction, and enrichment. Official state notifications are provided if a student is performing below grade level.
- **Upper Grades (3–5):** Differentiated scheduling allows for flexible groupings. In Grade 4, where a significant cohort was identified for accelerated mathematics, the administration allocated a full focus teacher and a part-time focus teacher position to deliver dedicated small-group enrichment and co-teaching support.
- **Parent Inquiries:** Parents with questions regarding classroom differentiation or math placement should contact their child's classroom teacher first. If questions remain unresolved, parents are invited to contact Mr. Jackson.

## D. Transportation & Communication Logistics

- **Bus Delays:** Delays (such as the recent Red Bus pickup issue) stem from broader county-level transportation challenges. Administration does not always receive real-time updates from central dispatch but communicates delays as rapidly as information becomes available.
- **Advocacy on Bus Tracking:** MCPS previously piloted a bus-tracking application that was paused due to privacy concerns. The community discussed requesting that county leadership revisit a secure transportation tracking solution.

- **Personal Devices:** While cell phones and smartwatches are not permitted during the school day, administration will work individually with families facing extraordinary transportation concerns.
- **Absence Notifications:** Parents inquired regarding the time gap between morning attendance taking and mid-day automated notifications; administration continues to refine notification workflows.

## E. School Spirit & Volunteer Engagement

- **Guest Reader Pilot:** Mr. Jackson is piloting a guest-reader program for Kindergarten through Grade 3.
  - **Volunteering:** Strong appreciation was expressed for Kindergarten recess parent volunteers. Parents with ideas to bring extra curriculum support, vitality, and creative engagement into the school while maintaining security protocols are encouraged to reach out.
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## 3. PTA Executive Board Updates (Angie)

The PTA board reviewed ongoing community initiatives and volunteer needs:

- **Election Day Bake Sale:** Calling for bakers and shift volunteers.
  - **Staff Appreciation Breakfast:** Scheduled for Friday, October 16.
  - **Snider's Receipts Program:** Ongoing tabulations to secure community retail rebates for the school.
  - **Ongoing Programs:** Heritage Month celebrations and teacher snack cart restocking.
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## 4. Committee Reports & Upcoming Events

### A. Dash of the Runaway Wizards (Fun Run Fundraiser)

- **Date:** Friday, October 23, 2026
- **Coordinator:** Nikki Schulman (nikki.schulman@gmail.com)
- **Details:** This fun run is Woodlin's primary PTA fundraiser of the school year, funding educational programs and community grants. Families are urged to register their student's fundraising web page. Parents are warmly invited to attend and cheer on students, even if not volunteering for a formal shift.

### B. Harvest Festival & Costume Parade

- **Date:** Friday, October 30, 2026 (Afternoon)
- **Parade:** Annual outdoor costume parade (tentatively scheduled along the front entrance).
- **Class Parties:** Coordinated in classrooms by room parents directly following the parade.
- **Communications:** An informational letter will be sent home to families the week of October 19.

### C. Election Day Bake Sale

- **Date:** Tuesday, November 3, 2026
- **Volunteers:** Seeking baked good donations and volunteers for table shifts.
- **Drop-offs:** Baked items can be dropped off at Angie's residence prior to the election or at the school table after 6:30 AM on Election Day.

### D. International Night

- **Date:** Saturday, November 7, 2026
- **Coordinator:** Chrissy
- **Format:** School-wide potluck and cultural showcase in the All-Purpose Room (APR) and hallways.
- **Highlights:** Student showcases alongside professional guest performers (including Latin and Ethiopian dance). Families are encouraged to host cultural display tables and contribute culinary dishes representing their heritage or traditions they admire. Further participation details will be distributed shortly.

### E. Woodlin Native Plant Garden

- **Coordinator:** Libby Sander (libby77@gmail.com)
- **Update:** Garden planting day was an overwhelming success, with 60–70 participants planting native species.
- **Ecological Note:** Because the garden is 100% native species, foliage will appear sparse during the first 1–2 growing seasons while plants establish root networks beneath the soil before thriving.
- **Get Involved:** Contact Libby Sander to lead garden-based student activities or assist with seasonal maintenance.

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## 5. County & District Advocacy: Boundary Study

Angie L. provided a briefing regarding Montgomery County Public Schools' newly launched elementary school boundary study:

1. **Context & Objective:** The county is initiating a comprehensive study to evaluate school closures, building consolidations, and boundary adjustments due to regional enrollment declines and resource underutilization.
  2. **Timeline:** Any implemented boundary shifts or consolidations will **not take effect until the 2029–2030 school year**, impacting students currently in Grade 3 and below.
  3. **Impact on Woodlin:** Woodlin Elementary is not slated for facility closure, though its geographic catchment boundaries may be adjusted. Middle school feeder patterns could be influenced if Silver Spring International Middle School (SSIMS) is impacted by feeder consolidations.
  4. **Community Engagement:** Public engagement sessions are anticipated to involve complex discussions.
    - **First Public Engagement Meeting:** Zoom session on Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 1:15 PM.
    - Additional community hearings will precede final recommendations to the Board of Education.
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## 6. Countywide PTA & District Leadership Updates

- **Superintendent Taylor Meeting:** Tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 12, 2026.
  - **Montgomery County Council of PTAs (MCCPTA):** Information was shared regarding joining MCCPTA advocacy committees to represent Woodlin's interests at the county level.
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## 7. Action Items & Key Dates Calendar

| Date                     | Event / Milestone                  | Contact / Action Required                             |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Oct 8, 2026 (1:15 PM)    | MCPS Boundary Study Public Forum   | Attend via Zoom to represent Woodlin feeder interests |
| Oct 12, 2026 (Tentative) | Meeting with Superintendent Taylor | PTA leadership advocacy                               |
| Oct 16, 2026             | Staff Appreciation Breakfast       | Donate breakfast items / assist hospitality team      |
| Week of Oct 19, 2026     | Harvest Festival Info Distributed  | Review classroom party guidelines from room parents   |

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oct 23, 2026</b>      | <b>Dash of the Runaway Wizards</b> | Set up student pledge page; RSVP to cheer or volunteer     |
| <b>Oct 30, 2026 (PM)</b> | Harvest Festival & Costume Parade  | Room parents coordinate classroom celebrations             |
| <b>Nov 3, 2026</b>       | Election Day Bake Sale             | Drop baked goods (6:30 AM) or sign up for volunteer shifts |
| <b>Nov 7, 2026</b>       | International Night                | Sign up to host a cultural table, perform, or bring a dish |
| <b>Ongoing</b>           | Woodlin Native Garden              | Contact Libby Sander to help with maintenance/workshops    |

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*Meeting adjourned following community open Q&A.*