



Waverly Elementary School PTA

wavespta.com

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General Meeting

October 28, 2025 at 6:30 PM

Virtual via Google Meet

ATTENDANCE (38)

Cherilyn Brown, Principal
Cheryl Santoni, Assistant Principal

Sarah Girardi, President
Benjamin Bach, Treasurer/PTACHC Representative
Erin Miller, VP of Fundraising
Tiffany Tangen, Vice President of Membership
Ashley Jolissaint Hopper, Corresponding Secretary
Vanessa Hong, Recording Secretary
Shari Haddaway, Teacher Liaison

Jennifer Bagdasarian
Atousa Fouladichami
Nordia Williams
Denny Gregory
MaryBeth Derbyshire
Ridah Gregory
Kelly Van Horn
Sandhya Pulivarthy
Edmund Asante

MEETING AGENDA

6:30 PM: Call to order by Mrs. Girardi (President).

Reports from School Administration

- Update from Mrs. Brown (Principal)
 - Expressed appreciation to the PTA for organizing the **Trunk or Treat** event on Saturday.
 - Thanked the PTA for supporting the **Book Fair kick-off** held yesterday; noted that the media center looked amazing.
 - **Quarter 1** ends this **Friday**.
 - **Club Day** scheduled for **Thursday**.
 - **Friday** will be a **half day** and **pajama day** for students.
 - **Parent-Teacher Conferences** will take place **November 23–25**. **Conference scheduling** will open **November 7**.

- Update from Mrs. Santoni (Assistant Principal)
 - Thanked parents for **following the traffic pattern** during drop-off and pick-up.
 - Reminded families **not to turn right into the school parking lot from Rt. 99**, as it **blocks bus access**.
Reported an **increase in student behavior issues on buses**; asked parents to remind students that **school rules apply on the bus** as well.
Praised the **Trunk or Treat** event, noting it was a great success.
Thanked the **PTA for providing staff T-shirts** and for their **continued support throughout the year**.
- Update from Mrs. Haddaway (Teacher Liaison)
 - Reported that **Trunk or Treat was the best yet**, with strong **community participation**. The **timing of the event** worked very well, and the **extra activities** were a great addition. Shared that **students were still talking about the event on Monday**, showing high engagement and excitement.
 - Thanked the **PTA for providing staff T-shirts** to wear on **spirit days**.
 - **PTA President** requested that the **Teacher Liaison** ask teachers to **create their Book Fair wish lists**. The **PTA plans to purchase one book for each teacher's classroom** from these wish lists.

Reports from Executive Board

- Update from PTACHC Representative (Ben Bach):
 - The last county PTA meeting was held a few weeks ago.
 - The next county PTA meeting will take place at the Howard Building. Key discussion priorities will include:
 - The Maryland Blueprint for education.
 - School funding and the operating budget.
 - A vote on allowing the Student Board of Education member to have voting rights.
 - A school food initiative aimed at expanding farm-to-table options.
- Mrs. Girardi reporting for Yi Han (SECAC and Special Education rep): Update from Office of Special Ed
 - **Leadership Transition:** Welcomed the **incoming Director of Special Education**, who will officially join **HCPSS on November 2**. This transition marks a key step in strengthening leadership and continuity within the department.
 - **Transportation Review:** The **Special Education Citizens Advisory Committee (SECAC)** reviewed transportation expenditures, noting **high costs and long travel times** for students receiving special education services—up to **85 minutes each way** in normal traffic.
 - **Cost-Saving Proposals:** Proposed exploring **more efficient service models**, including:
 - **Relocating duplicative non-public programs** into HCPSS facilities.
 - **Expanding RECC programs** to better align with the geographic distribution of students.
These strategies could help **reduce travel burdens** and **optimize resource use**.
 - **Board of Education Engagement:** SECAC now has **two appointed representatives** to the Board of Education, who are actively **reviewing special education spending** to promote **transparency and informed decision-making**.
- Sarah Giraldi (President)
 - **Trunk or Treat Recap:**

- Event was a **great success** with **40 decorated trunks** and strong community turnout. Appreciation extended to all **volunteers** who decorated trunks, donated candy, helped sell wristbands, assisted with the craft table and bounce house, and supported **setup and cleanup**. Thanked all families and attendees for making it a fun community event.
- **Upcoming Events**
 - **Book Fair (10/27 – 11/7/25):** Hosted by **Literati**, currently set up in the Media Center. Encourages reading excitement and family participation.
 - **Preview Week:** 10/27–10/31
 - **Sales Nights:**
 - **Mon, Nov 3:** 4:30–8:00 PM – *Teacher Reader Night (5:30–7:30 PM)*
 - **Wed, Nov 5:** 4:30–7:30 PM
 - **Thu, Nov 6:** 4:30–7:30 PM – *Pop In for Books & Popcorn (5:00–7:00 PM)*
 - **Restaurant Night – Ledo’s Pizza (11/12, 4:00–8:00 PM):**
 - Coincides with **student half day**.
 - Show PTA flyer to **donate 20% of proceeds** to Waverly PTA.
 - Great chance for families to support and enjoy dinner together.
 - **Turkey Trot (11/15, 9:00–11:00 AM, Marriotts Ridge HS):** Details to follow in upcoming PTA communications.
 - **International Day (12/5):**
 - **Student performers** already signed up.
 - Seeking **parent volunteers** for:
 - **Classroom cultural presentations**
 - **Day-of coordination** for performances
 - Event is **not open to the public**, but **volunteers may attend**.
 - **SignUpGenius** link will be sent via email for volunteer registration.
- Update from Ben Bach (Treasurer)
 - **Audit for the last fiscal year** has been completed. As of 9/2025 our balance in Savings was \$32,000, and we have spent ~\$10,000 since then.
 - Special thanks to **Heather** and **Jen** for their work in **finalizing the books** for last year.
 - The PTA may **consider changing banks** in the future for improved convenience.
- Update from Tiffany Tangen (VP of Membership)
 - Current **PTA membership stands at 205 members** — a **new record** for the school.
 - Expressed appreciation to all families and staff for **supporting PTA events and initiatives** throughout the year.
 - **Encouraging volunteers** to participate through the **new Parent Volunteer Incentive Program**.
- Update from Erin Miller (VP of Fundraising)
 - **Trunk or Treat Wristbands:** Sold wristbands at the event, raising approximately \$2,000, which helped cover event costs.
 - **Restaurant Night – Ledo’s Pizza:** Scheduled for November 12. Details to be shared via email and Facebook.
 - **Turkey Trot Fundraising Goal:**
 - Goal: \$6,000 per grade, totaling \$24,000.
 - Funds will support this year’s budget needs and help prepare for next year.
 - A silent fundraiser will reward students who raise money with Turkey Trot

tickets. Prizes include teacher experiences, with teachers able to sign up by contacting Mrs. Deckman in the front office.

- Mrs. Girardi
 - Hospitality: **Next Event: Teacher Conference Dinner on November 24. Volunteers needed** to help with the event. A **SignUpGenius link** will be sent soon for parents to volunteer.
 - Winter Dance: Save the date for February 20, 6-8pm
- Tiffany Tangen (5th Grade Committee): the 5th Grade Committee has formed and started planning events for this year.

6:55 PM: Meeting adjourned.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 – 6:30 PM

No December meeting

Tuesday, January 27, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, February 24, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, April 28, 2026 – 6:30 PM

Tuesday, May 19, 2026 – 6:30 PM