

School Board Report – February 2026
WHA Elementary

1. On January 19th, the elementary staff continued our LETRS training. We learned how the way sentences are written can strongly affect how well students understand what they read. We focused on noticing where students often get confused by sentence structure and learning how to anticipate those challenges before they happen. The training emphasized helping students make sense of ideas as they read by building both mental clarity and clear connections within the text itself. We also practiced simple, practical instructional strategies that teach students how to recognize different parts of a sentence—such as phrases, clauses, and sentence types—so they can better understand meaning, not just decode words.
2. On January 21st, I attended the Sourcewell District Literacy Lead Community of Practice. I serve as the literacy lead for our school district. We spent a significant amount of time networking with colleagues from Region 5. 20 districts were represented, which is almost all of them. It was helpful to hear where other districts are in their literacy work and to see how aligned many of our conversations were.

Across districts, we discussed:

- Literacy plan goals, curriculum, and resources
 - FastBridge winter benchmarking
 - Capti ReadBasix and who has started
 - Phase 2 professional development options
 - Change management and how this concept impacts the work we are doing in our districts
3. Winter Olympics will take place on Wednesday, February 25th! Families are welcome to join us as we cheer on our students during this fun and exciting event. Opening Ceremonies will begin at 12:50 PM in the high school gym.
 4. During our recent stretch of bitterly cold weather, one of our school nurses, Ms. Courtney, found a creative way to bring smiles to students' faces while showing them just how cold it really was outside. Just before students arrived at school, she wet a few pairs of pants and placed them in the snow. Within minutes, they froze solid!

The frozen pants gave students a good laugh as they arrived—and made the cold temperatures very real in a memorable, hands-on way. The frozen pants helped students see exactly why recess needed to be indoors that day. Thank you, Ms. Courtney, for making the message clear—and giving students a smile to start the morning.



5. We're excited to kick off our annual Rotary Reading Challenge in partnership with the Walker Rotary! This year's theme, "The More You Read, the Sweeter it Gets," promises a month full of reading, learning, and fun.
During February, our students will dive into deliciously engaging stories: Preschool and Kindergarten will enjoy *Curious George Goes to the Chocolate Factory*, and Grades 1–5 will explore *The Chocolate Touch*. Each class will participate in special activities connected to the books that integrate writing, math, problem-solving, and more, making reading a sweet adventure for every learner.
We can't wait to see our students' excitement grow as they read, learn, and celebrate the joy of books!



6. On January 30th, we held our monthly pepfest. We concluded our focus on the word *perseverance* and introduced our new word of the month, *honesty*. One student from each classroom who demonstrated perseverance was selected to participate in Cookies with the Principal. Students also enjoyed a Minute-to-Win-It game called *Johnny Applestack*, where they worked to stack five apples within one minute. In addition, we recognized our cleanest classroom with the Golden Garbage Can award and celebrated a classroom that has been consistently showing Wolf Pack Pride by awarding them the Wolf Pack Pride rug.



Tracking student enrollment:

Month	Current School Year (25-26) Student Count, Pk-5	24-25 School Year Student Count, Pk-5
September	Did not calculate due to start of year	

October	275	306
November	271 (relocation to non-neighboring districts)	301
December	277	301
January	272	302
February	273	305