

School Board Report – September 2026

WHA Elementary

1. On August 6, I recorded a podcast with two principals from Pierz and Rachel Logan from Sourcewell focused on effective school systems. The conversation provided an opportunity to share experiences and perspectives around building and sustaining effective systems within our schools. You can listen to the podcast [here](#). I'll just say this took me a little outside my comfort zone, so if you listen, please be kind!
2. On August 10, a representative from each grade level participated in a Social Studies Standards Unpacking training with a Sourcewell consultant. The team learned about the shifts in the updated social studies standards and analyzed a strategic instructional approach for intentionally embedding social studies standards into our ELA instruction whenever possible. This work is still in progress and will continue during PLC time as teams work to identify meaningful connections between the two content areas and plan for implementation.
3. Jeremy, Julie, Kevin, and myself presented at Rotary on August 11th. We gave updates on happenings in our district and discussed the upcoming referendum.
4. On August 13, our elementary leadership team came together for intentional planning for the upcoming school year. We began the day with our Pk-12 leadership team and were joined by our Minnesota Department of Education COMPASS lead, Anna Potvin. Together, we reviewed last year's FastBridge data and worked toward a shared definition of high-quality Tier 1 instruction. Our combined Pk-12 leadership team will come together three times throughout the school year to continue this work. Following the joint session, the elementary leadership team continued planning for the year by establishing the focus and priorities for our monthly leadership meetings. We also clarified several procedures and processes that we wanted to introduce and communicate to staff during Workshop Week, including building operations and committee responsibilities. This time together provided an opportunity to establish clear priorities and create a shared direction for our leadership work throughout the year.
5. On August 19, our special education teachers met with Freshwater to learn more about the cooperative and what our partnership will look like, including the supports and resources they offer. The team also spent time clarifying due process procedures and other important pieces as we transition to Freshwater. Our staff left the meeting very excited about the partnership and, most importantly, felt well supported as we move forward with this transition.
6. The afternoon of August 19th, I renewed my Handle with Care certification in conjunction with our special education teachers.

7. On August 20, we welcomed eight new teachers to WHA for New Teacher Orientation. We started the day by going over how we do business at WHA and helping our new staff get familiar with the systems and processes they will use throughout the year. They received their technology and were walked through the various sites and platforms we use. Payroll also joined us to provide important information, and mentors joined later in the day to support our new teachers. The day included a school tour, lunch, and dedicated time for new teachers to connect with their mentors, ask questions, and dive into our list of “need-to-knows.” It was a full and productive day designed to help our new teachers feel welcomed, prepared, and connected as they begin their first year at WHA.
8. The week of August 24–27 and August 31 was Workshop Week, and it was busy! The week was filled with professional development, meetings, and time for staff to prepare their classrooms for the start of the school year. On August 24, we kicked off the week with a welcome-back gathering in the auditorium and several presentations, including a session with our school attorney, “Trending for the Wrong Reasons: Pitfalls to Avoid.” We also grilled lunch for staff. Tuesday was a half day of ELA training, where we reviewed and recommitted to our intentional work with LETRS and continued unpacking the ELA standards. This work set us up for a full day of learning on Thursday at Northern Lights Casino with Dr. Warrick, where we focused on developing proficiency scales. We continued this work in PLCs on August 31, and it will remain an ongoing area of focus throughout the school year. We will also be gathering feedback from our leadership team on how they felt Workshop Week was structured to help inform our planning for future professional learning and staff development.
9. September 1st and 2nd was Back to School Conferences and we welcomed students in grades 1-5 on September 3rd, Three-Year-Old Express and kindergarten on September 8th and preschool on September 9th. Our turn-out was really good!

PreK = 100%
K = 94%
1 = 97%
2 = 94%
3 = 92%
4 = 90%
5 = 89%
TOTAL = 94%

10. On September 1 and 2, we held a PBIS review with students focused on what it looks like and sounds like to demonstrate Ready, Respectful, and Responsible behavior throughout our school. Students reviewed expectations for common areas such as the Commons, playground, bus, hallways, bathrooms, and classrooms. Our school bus also came to the

school, where one of our bus drivers reviewed bus safety with students and helped them practice a bus evacuation. This provided students with an opportunity to review expectations and practice important safety procedures in an authentic setting.

11. As of September 8th, we had 21 new students enroll at WHA Elementary and 9 students leave WHA.

Student enrollment:

Month	Student Count
September	PreK = 22 Kindergarten = 32 Grade 1 = 34 Grade 2 = 48 Grade 3 = 39 Grade 4 = 39 Grade 5 = 47 Total Pk-5 = 261 + 15 3-year-olds