



## WAHKIAKUM SCHOOL DISTRICT

February 2026 Superintendent Report

### Superintendent's Office

#### Thank you

Thank you to the Wahkiakum School Board for supporting my professional growth and enabling me to attend the National Conference on Education. In these tight fiscal times making the decision to invest money in professional development can be difficult and I thank you for seeing the value in ensuring that as the superintendent of WSD that I am equipped with personal and professional tools as well as researched best practices in leadership to lead our district and move us forward on our journey of ensuring an excellent education for every student everyday.

#### Levy Passes

The Wahkiakum County Schools Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) levy was approved by voters with a decisive 69.82% passage rate. This outcome is a testament to our community's shared values and commitment to investing in our students' future. The levy will provide essential enrichment funding, supporting programs and opportunities that extend beyond state allocations and directly benefit all 412 students in our district. Together, these contributors wove a tapestry of action and care, each thread representing unique strengths and perspectives. Their unified approach not only advanced our initiative but also honored the principle that leadership is about uplifting the entire community. Through shared effort and mutual support, they demonstrated that extraordinary outcomes are possible when we work together with purpose and respect.

#### 1. Levy Results Analysis

Voting Outcome	Percentage	Community Impact
Approved (Yes)	69.82%	Strong community endorsement
Opposed (No)	30.18%	Opportunity for continued engagement
Margin	39.64%	Clear mandate for educational investment

- Significance: The 69.82% approval rate far exceeds typical passage thresholds, demonstrating robust community support and shared ownership of educational outcomes.
- Implication: This strong mandate provides a solid foundation for implementing planned educational enhancements and culturally responsive programming.



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### 2. Community Engagement Overview

Our successful levy campaign was rooted in authentic collaboration and inclusive engagement, reflecting both local and Indigenous values of collective responsibility for education.

Engagement Strategy	Implementation	Community Response
Grassroots Outreach	Door-to-door conversations	High voter participation
Educator-Led Advocacy	Teachers engaging with families	Positive feedback
Collaborative Leadership	Shared decision-making	Sustained volunteer support
Transparent Communication	Clear, accessible information sharing	Trust-building achieved

### Acknowledgment of Key Contributors

The success of our levy initiative is a testament to the power of collective responsibility, with each contributor playing a vital role in achieving our shared vision through unity, mutual support, and unwavering dedication.

I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the remarkable individuals and groups whose dedication, leadership, and collaborative spirit made our levy initiative a resounding success. Their efforts beautifully exemplify the Indigenous leadership principle of collective responsibility, demonstrating that true progress is achieved not by individuals alone, but through the strength of a united community.

#### Honoring Our Contributors

- Ron Wright

As a Levy Committee Chairman, Ron provided essential guidance and leveraged his deep community connections to anchor our efforts. His wisdom and ability to build bridges were instrumental in fostering trust and support throughout the process.

- Ric Palmer

As a Levy Committee Member, Ric offered invaluable mentorship and steadfast support to our new superintendent. His leadership brought stability and confidence, nurturing a collaborative environment that empowered all involved.

- District Educators

As passionate community advocates, our educators went above and beyond, engaging in door-to-door



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outreach and facilitating meaningful conversations. Their efforts brought the needs and aspirations of our students and families to the forefront, strengthening the human connection at the heart of our campaign.

## **Wahkiakum School District Board Update – Phase I**

**Status:** Fully Funded!

**Total Project Cost:** \$5,638,000 **Funding Sources** - OSPI Small Rural School Modernization Grant: \$5,603,000 and OSPI Planning Grant: \$35,000

### **Project Scope (FIM Summary)**

#### **FIM-01: High School Electrical Remediation**

- Replace outdated, unsafe paper-wrapped wiring throughout the HS.
- Install new 2,000A main switchgear, subpanels, conduit, and wiring.
- Replace field lighting disconnects and bring electrical systems into compliance with current code.
- **Key Benefit:** Eliminates a major fire hazard and provides capacity for future HVAC improvements.

#### **FIM-04: Elementary School Roof Upgrade**

- Remove failing EPDM/gravel ballast roof.
- Install a new TPO membrane with added insulation to achieve **an R-38 rating**.
- Replace fascia and flashing; correct drainage and leak issues.
- **Key Benefit:** Long-life, warrantied roofing system with improved envelope performance.

#### **FIM-06: AG Center HVAC Upgrade**

- Replace failed ERV and end-of-life radiant floor system.
- Install high-efficiency split-system heat pump, unit heaters, and makeup air unit.
- Add new 3-phase electrical service.
- **Key Benefit:** Restores reliable heating, adds cooling, and code-required ventilation.

#### **FIM-09: High School Window Replacement**

- Replace all HS windows with thermally broken, double-pane low-E units.
- Infill upper sections with insulated framing; install new roller shades.
- **Key Benefit:** Reduced drafts, improved comfort, and lower HVAC loads.

**We are seeking a motion to approve the Energy Services Proposal for the Scope and Budget, once the ESP has completed its final review by DES.**



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## Wahkiakum School District – Indoor Air Quality Grant

### Investment Grade Audit (IGA) Proposal Summary

#### Purpose of the IGA

Apollo Solutions Group proposes to perform an Investment Grade Audit (IGA) as part of the Energy Services Performance Contract (ESPC) between Wahkiakum School District and the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES). The IGA is intended to:

- Fully develop the Facility Improvement Measures (FIMs) identified in earlier assessments.
- Quantify energy, IAQ, and operational savings.
- Produce a complete Energy Services Proposal (ESP) with guaranteed cost and savings.

#### Scope of Engineering Services

ASG will:

- Conduct a detailed technical audit of all identified FIMs.
- Provide full engineering analysis, including energy modeling, assumptions, sketches, and supporting calculations.
- Produce both the IGA Report and the final Energy Services Proposal.
- Evaluate the district's Energy Use Intensity (EUI) and advise on compliance with Washington's Clean Building Performance Standard.

#### Financial Framework

- **IGA Fee (Not-to-Exceed): \$39,116**
- **OSPI Indoor Air Quality Grant: \$2,118,000** (awarded 12/15/25)
- The district pays **no IGA cost** if ASG cannot produce a project meeting the district's cost-effectiveness criteria.

**Cost-Effectiveness Criteria** - To move forward, the ESP must:

1. Fit within the IAQ Grant budget (including sales tax, DES fees, etc.).
2. Include agreed-upon operational savings in the financial analysis.
3. Meet all DES requirements, including guaranteed costs and savings.

#### Legal

No report this month



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#### Superintendent's Travel Calendar-

**Date:** July 21-22

**Location:** Olympia WA

**Reason for travel:** New and Incoming Superintendents Conference

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** July 29th

**Location:** ESD 112, Columbia Boardroom, 2500 NE 65th Avenue, Vancouver, WA

**Reason for travel:** New Superintendent Orientation. The orientation will be an opportunity to meet our leadership team and receive a brief overview of ESD 112 services. Tim also hopes you will share your goals for the upcoming year and any assistance you need.

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** September 26th

**Location:** Vancouver, WA ESD 112

**Reason for travel:** Superintendent's Regional Business Meeting

**Funding Source:** Superintendent Travel

**Date:** October 2nd

**Location:** Oakville WA

**Reason for travel:** Superintendent's Small District Gathering

**Funding Source:** Superintendent Travel

**Date:** Oct 13, 2025 8:00 AM - Oct 14, 2025 3:00 PM

**Location:** DoubleTree Suites By Hilton At Southcenter

16500 Southcenter Parkway

Seattle, 98188-3388

**Reason:** WSPA School Law Conference |

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** January 9th & 10th

**Location:** Seattle

**Reason for travel:** Legislative Conference

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** January 16th

**Location:** Vancouver



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**Reason for travel:** ESD 112 Quarterly meeting. Agenda items include new math standards

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** January 27th

**Location:** Olympia

**Reason for travel:** Legislative Advocacy Day

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** February 12th-14th

**Location:** Nashville, TN

**Reason for travel:** Superintendent's National Conference

**Funding Source:**

**Date:** February 18th

**Location:** Olympia

**Reason for travel:** Legislative Meeting with Rep Joel McEntyer

**Funding Source:**

### Departmental Reports

#### Business Office

**Expenditures:**

- General Fund: \$71,947.27 (- \$10,324.27 credit on BMO statement)
- MS ASB: \$167.76
- HS ASB: \$3,614.73
- GF Comp Tax \$17.55
- Payroll: \$ TBD

**Fund Balances:**

- General Fund: \$1,475,899.83
- ASB: \$244,398.22
- Capital Projects: \$634,804.45
- Transportation: \$11,364.17

**Audit Update:** The audit start date has been postponed to February 23rd. Risk Assessment meetings have been completed by Bobbie, Ralph, and me.



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### Human Resources

#### Staffing Count: 56

- Administrative - 3
- Certificated - 25
- District - 4
- Classified - 24

**Open Positions:** None

### Facilities/Maintenance

**Reporting Period:** January 12, 2026 – February 12, 2026

**Prepared by:** Shawn Stanley, Facilities Director

**Prepared for:** Ralph Watkins, Superintendent

## 1. Capital Improvements, ESPC Progress, and Strategic Projects

### 1.1 ESPC / DES Approval Status

- DES is scheduled to return the **approved proposal to Apollo**, allowing project advancement.
- Timing is critical. Contractors must begin **material procurement immediately** to:
  - Avoid seasonal delays
  - Lock in pricing before volatility impacts cost
- Scott plans to attend the upcoming Board meeting to present the DES-approved proposal.
- No further scope reductions occurred during this reporting period.

## 2. Mechanical Systems, Heating, and HVAC

### 2.1 Grade School Boiler Disruption and Corrective Work

A disruption occurred in the GS boiler system due to **fatigue failure of a 1/8" fuel line**, attributed to vibration from the fan motor.

Corrective actions completed:

- Replaced brass fittings with **steel fittings** to improve vibration resistance.
- Replaced burner **nozzles**, brushed and cleaned **air flutes**, and replaced the **fuel filter**.



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The system has returned to stable operation.

### 2.2 Fuel Oil Status – Grade School

- Current level: **40 inches**, corresponding to **just over 4,000 gallons** in the 10,000-gallon tank.
- Preferred operating level: **~60 inches**.
- Estimated refill required to reach preferred level: **~2,500 gallons**.

Maintaining elevated reserve capacity reduces exposure during late-winter cold snaps.

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### 2.3 AG Shop – Propane Energy Audit

An internal energy review is underway to assess propane consumption at the AG Shop.

Preliminary observations:

- Propane usage may be excessive.
- Absence of a heat-exchange unit may be contributing to inefficiency.

Next steps:

- Diagnostic instrumentation required to assess **hydronic output performance**.
- Further analysis pending data collection.

### 2.4 High School HVAC Events

#### HS Lunchroom Unit

- The unit experienced freeze-over.
- Powered down for **three full days** to fully defrost.
- Currently operating normally.
- If recurrence occurs, installing a resistive heating strip on **the radiator coil** may be necessary.

#### HS Art Room Unit

- The unit became stuck in **cooling mode instead of heating**.
- Manual override applied.
- After cycling, normal operation was restored.
- No further issues observed.

### 2.5 HVAC Preventive Maintenance



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- The district is nearing depletion of HVAC filter inventory.
- New filter order required to maintain PM compliance.
- Preventive maintenance tickets now account for the majority of new work orders as more units are formally scheduled.

### 3. Roofing and Building Envelope

#### 3.1 Weight Room Roof Leak

- Minor leak identified.
- Mitigated using a sealant applied to exposed fasteners.
- No further intrusion observed.

#### 3.2 Middle School Leak

- Leak near the **northwest windows** identified.
- Repair scheduled during the current dry-weather window.

#### 3.3 Grade School

- Grade School remains leak-free during this reporting period

### 4. Plumbing and Water Systems

#### 4.1 Prior Grade School Leak – Clarification

The abnormal water usage observed in the elementary school has been fully resolved. The source of the issue was identified as a leak beneath Room 109, near the far end of the service tunnel. The failure occurred at the first 90-degree copper elbow immediately downstream of a pipe reduction, at the point where the hot-water supply serving that wing loops back into the return line. Over time, the elbow developed localized erosion that eventually wore through the copper, resulting in a continuous, significant leak within the tunnel space.

Initial diagnostic efforts were complicated by the behavior of the building's main shutoff valve. Although the valve was assumed to fully isolate the building, it did not fully stop water flow, leading to an early working assumption that the leak may have been located between the water meter and the building's main service entrance. This assumption delayed direct confirmation of the internal tunnel infrastructure as the failure location.

To further investigate the under-building utilities, an access vent was opened in the far room at the end of the tunnel to introduce airflow and facilitate inspection. Once the hatch was opened, the leak became immediately evident. The failure point was visually identified approximately 40–60 feet down the tunnel from the access opening.



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Upon confirming the exact location, repairs were initiated and completed the same day. The damaged section of piping was removed and replaced, restoring the integrity of the hot-water loop and eliminating the uncontrolled discharge.

Post-repair monitoring confirms the issue is fully resolved. The overnight water flow rate at the elementary school is now 0.00 gallons per hour, consistent with normal conditions and confirming that no residual leakage remains.

- Work is underway to fully restore hot water to rooms 101-110; completion is expected by 2/13/26.
- Clogged drains in rooms 144, 106, the HS art room, and the HS custodial closet. These issues have long been present and will be addressed. They may require a camera inspection, as the occlusions have persisted for over a year.
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- Lead testing is required to restore water service to rooms 103, 105, and 144, which were shut off due to elevated lead levels; the fixtures have been replaced.

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## 4.2 Fixture Efficiency

- Several toilets have failing vacuum breakers, resulting in excess water use; replacements and parts are needed to repair them.

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## 5. Utilities and Monitoring

### 5.1 Hit and Pitch Building – Electrical Spike

- An electrical usage spike was detected, and PUD notified the district promptly.
- Thermostat set to mid-60s (previously 55°F) to reduce the risk of pipe bursts while maintaining reasonable standby energy use.

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## 6. Grounds and Play Area Improvements

On **February 6, 2026**, a full day was dedicated to improvements in the Grade School play area following consultation with Janine and staff.

Work completed:

- Applied **truck bed liner** to high-traffic traction zones on new play structure.
- Installed **grip tape** on bars.
- Removed all **holly** and **Oregon grape**.



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- Removed protruding **oak tree stumps**.
- Mowed area to **2.5 inches**.

Area safety, traction, and visibility improved significantly.

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### 7. Athletics Transition – Seasonal Facility Impacts

The district is transitioning from **basketball and wrestling** to **baseball season**.

#### 7.1 Baseball Field Preparation

Upcoming needs include:

- Infield **clay** replenishment, line **chalk**, and field striping supplies.
- Infield need rolled to reduce high spots at the transition.

Current inventory: Adequate **field paint remains on hand from football season**. Procurement of clay and chalk is necessary to prepare the baseball program for competition.

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#### 7.2 Gymnasium Floor Repairs

As winter athletics conclude:

- Four areas of damage have been identified on the gym floor.
- Repair work will be scheduled as basketball and wrestling usage winds down.
- Timing will minimize disruption to athletic programming.

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### 8. IncidentIQ Operational Metrics

**Reporting Period: 1-12-2026 to 2-12-2026**

- **65 tickets submitted**
- **51 tickets closed**
- **14 tickets open**
- **Average resolution time: 1.7 days**

Notes:



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- The majority of new tickets are **system-generated Preventive Maintenance tasks**.
- PM workload will continue increasing as additional mechanical units are scheduled into the system.
- Other Maintenance assets to be added: Doors, water heaters, plumbing fixtures, service panels, vehicles, and mowers.

### 9. Staffing Update

#### 9.1 Custodial Position Filled

- **Dale Houdson** has been hired to fill the custodial vacancy.
- Performance has been exceptional.
- Staff feedback highlights Dale's strong attention to detail, high work ethic, and professional reliability.

### Transportation

No report at this time

### Athletics

I am delighted to share with you the remarkable achievements of our athletic programs this season, which have brought tremendous pride and recognition to our school community. These outstanding accomplishments reflect the dedication, hard work, and exceptional talent of our student-athletes, as well as the unwavering support of our coaching staff and the entire school community.

Our cheerleading team has made history this year by securing a phenomenal 2nd-place finish at their very first state championship competition. This extraordinary achievement represents not only the culmination of countless hours of practice and preparation but also the establishment of a new standard of excellence for our program.

The boys' varsity basketball team has delivered an outstanding season, capturing the league championship and advancing to regional competition. Their dominant performance throughout the season showcases the strength of our basketball program and the remarkable skill development of our players. The team's success in securing the league championship and progressing to regionals reflects their commitment to excellence and their ability to perform under pressure.

Our wrestling program continues to demonstrate exceptional strength and depth, with ten wrestlers qualifying for the state championships on February 20th. This remarkable achievement highlights the comprehensive training and development within our wrestling program and positions our school as a formidable competitor at



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the state level. The qualification of ten athletes represents one of the strongest showings in our program's recent history.

These athletic achievements have created a tremendous positive impact throughout our school community, fostering school spirit, pride, and unity among students, staff, and families. The success of our teams has energized the entire school environment and provided inspiring examples of what can be accomplished through dedication, teamwork, and perseverance.

Congratulations to all our student-athletes, coaches, and the entire school community on these outstanding accomplishments.

#### **Special Education**

No Report at this time

#### **Food Service**

No Report at this time

#### **Technology**

I'm working on getting the server and backup refreshes underway. The "AI Boom" has created supply chain issues with server hardware, specifically storage and memory. This has led to significant price increases and equipment shortages.

At present, the ETA on the backup appliance/project start is mid-April. The pricing on that is unchanged.

The Hypervisor/Storage project has been reworked. I'm waiting on final quotes, but we're deferring the refresh on the storage server for now. This keeps pricing at or below the approved level while providing enough hardware to keep operations running if the current storage fails before we can refresh it.



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#### Site Reports

##### J.A. Wendt Elementary/John C. Thomas Middle School

The third quarter is going by very quickly, with the midterm being the 24th of this month! Since the last board meeting, students have participated, or will be participating in the following events/activities this month:

**JAW:** Fourth-grade students participated in the National Assessment for Education Progress (NAEP) on Wednesday, January 28th. The NAEP is a congressionally mandated large-scale assessment administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). It comprises assessments across various subject areas. Three of these subjects—mathematics, reading, and science—are assessed most frequently and reported at the state and select district level, usually for grades 4 and 8. The Nation's Report Card provides results on student performance based on gender, race/ethnicity, public or nonpublic school, teacher experience, and hundreds of other factors. JAW fourth graders were randomly assigned a math or reading assessment.

A team of three test administrators was provided through NAEP. The team shared that JAW was their favorite school they have visited and were impressed by the students' attitude and respect. They were impressed by the staff's helpfulness and the positivity they felt throughout the building. Results will be shared sometime this spring.

Fourth and fifth-grade students attended the annual Southwest Washington Symphony children's concert at the Columbia Theatre on February 29th. This year's program was titled "Once Upon a Time," and music included *The Star Spangled Banner*, a selection of songs from "Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves," and more. Students returned from the trip excited to share their experience. Teachers praised students for their representation of Wahkiakum at this special performance.

K-5 students are participating in this year's program through the American Heart Association. Fitness/Art teacher, Paul Johns, is coordinating the fundraiser. Students attended a kickoff assembly on February 12th, where second-grade teacher Jamie Cothren shared her personal story of her 2024 heart transplant and why fundraisers like those through the American Heart Association are so important. (Learn more about our fundraiser by going to: [J.A. Wendt Heart Challenge](#))

**JCT:** The boys' basketball team wrapped up its season earlier this month. The teams didn't end with the record they had hoped for, but wins aren't always determined by points. This group of boys made great improvements and showed grit when they faced their toughest opponents. Coaches were impressed by the team's positive attitude and the leadership shown by some of the youngest players. A big thanks goes to Charlie Ashe (head coach), Jaimie Mogush (asst. coach), and Shawn Miller (volunteer coach) for taking on the responsibilities of coaching while juggling busy work and family schedules.

The annual Valentine's Ball was held in the MPR on Thursday, February 12th, during 6th and 7th period. Sticking with tradition, retired Fitness teacher Mary Moonen spent the week teaching students classic ballroom



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dances during their Fitness class (Waltz, Polka, Swing, etc.). Most students look forward to this tradition each year and enjoy dressing up for the occasion. Thank you to Carrie Badger and Mary Moonen for keeping this longstanding tradition going at our school.

The first day of track practice is scheduled for Monday, March 9th. Jamie Brown (head coach) and Gena Montgomery (asst. coach) are looking forward to another season with their athletes.

#### **Wahkiakum High School**

#### **Legislative update**

Part of my role as superintendent is advocacy. In these critical times, it's important that school districts keep their unique stories in front of our state's decision makers. I have been invited to meet with Representative McEntyer and his colleagues in Olympia for a face-to-face meeting. Any of our board members who are interested in traveling with me for this meeting are welcome.

#### **End of Report**