Board Friday Memo

West Contra Costa Unified School District
Office of the Superintendent

February 6, 2026

Upcoming Events
February 9: Virtual Town Hall, Virtual, 6:00 p.m.
February 9: All Student Congress, DeJean, 6:00pm
February 10:District Local Control Accountability Plan (DLCAP) Committee Meeting, Virtual, 6:30 pm
February 11: WCCUSD Regular Board of Education Meeting, DeJean, 6:30 pm.
February 12: WCCUSD Science Fair : Awards Night, DAHS, 6:30 pm
February 16 - 20: Presidents' Week Recess, No School and District Offices Closed

Superintendent Update

On Tuesday, February 3 and Wednesday, February 4, District leadership hosted a series of in-person and virtual listening sessions with TK–8 and middle school families to discuss the proposed fiscal changes necessary for long-term solvency. We also held a districtwide virtual Town Hall for all staff, students, and families, which saw high participation and underscored the community's commitment to shaping WCCUSD's future. To accommodate those unable to attend, an additional virtual Town Hall will be held on Monday, February 9, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., providing another chance for families to engage with the presentation and next steps. We encourage families to attend and look forward to presenting this feedback to the Board on February 11.
Link to Zoom Meeting: https://wccusd.zoom.us/j/99601156245

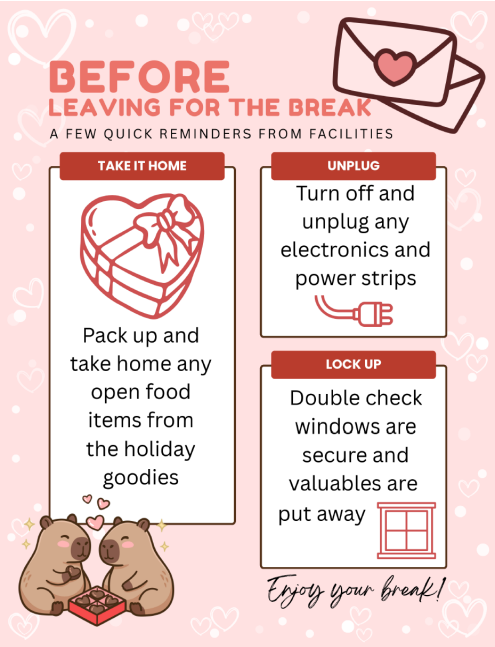
Facilities Project Updates - Ellen Mejia Hooper
Lake Elementary School Turf Opening
The Lake Elementary School Turf, walking path, and garden are scheduled to open upon our return from the February break!





Before Leaving for the Break

Please take a moment to review a few quick reminders to help keep our schools safe, clean, and energy-efficient, and ready for us when we return from our break.



<u>Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment TK-12 STEM- Katherine Acosta-Verprauskus & Team</u>

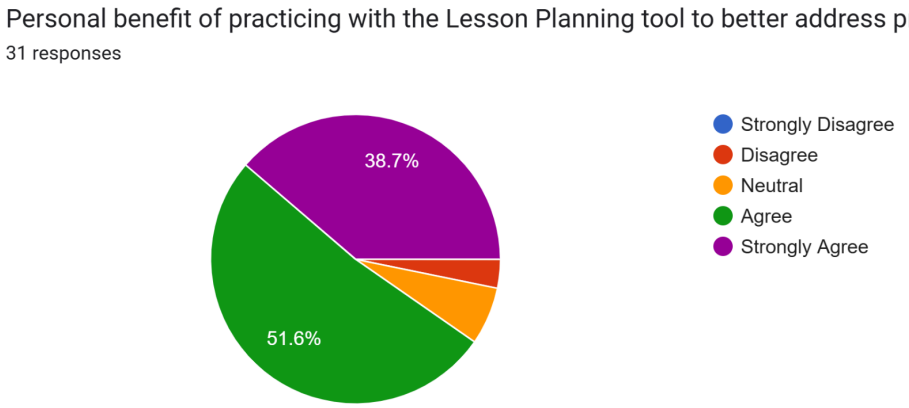
El Cerrito High School hosted a "Star Party" led by students from Mr. Lavie's Astronomy class
Visitors from the ECHS Community explored a variety of hands-on activities and demonstrations, all designed and facilitated by students, including the phases of the Moon, scaled models of distances in the solar system, parallax views of stars, and the color spectrum produced by different gases. Guests also learned from a physical model why zodiac signs are associated with the time of year we are born and the position of the stars in the sky. The evening also included telescope viewing supported by local astronomers from the Eastbay Astronomical Society. Using several types of telescopes, attendees observed the rings of Saturn, the moons of Jupiter, the Pleiades star cluster, and learned how telescopes track Earth's movement and stack images to create sharp, detailed views of the night sky. It was an inspiring night of student leadership, curiosity, and cosmic exploration!



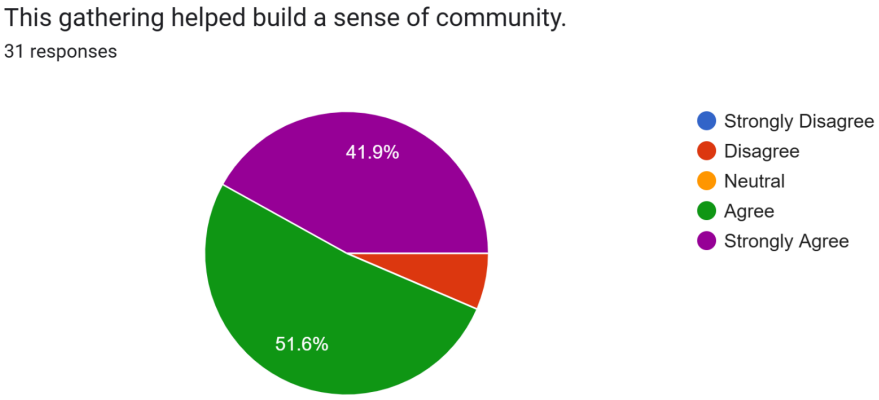


Our January Math Teacher Leads (MTL) Meeting Synopsis
Math Coordinator Mark Lobaco and Instruction Partners Associate Kyle Moyer facilitated an all-day MTL meeting in January. Here is an overview of takeaways that MTLs shared:

- **Planning and Curriculum Deep Dive:** Intentional module and lesson planning, using the IPG (Instructional Practice Guide) checklist and 'look fors', and delving deeper into the curriculum were highlighted as key takeaways. Taking module assessments at the start and utilizing the backward teaching model were emphasized for better pacing and identifying important lessons.



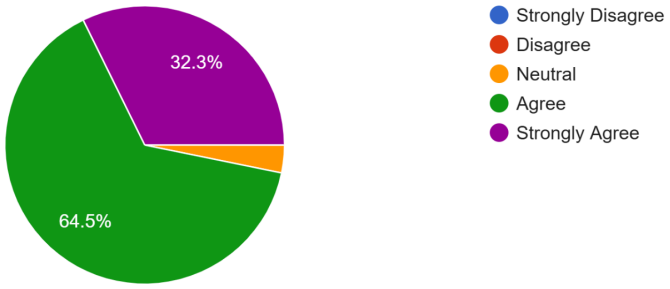
- **Collaboration and Shared Learning:** The importance of collaboration, gaining different perspectives, hearing about colleagues' struggles and successes, and building stronger support connections were frequently mentioned. This includes leaning into planning with grade-level teams and offering support to teachers struggling with pacing or lesson planning.



- **Professional Development and Site Implementation:** MTLs plan to ground PD and collaboration in the IPG and its indicators, use the 'why' framework/prompts when addressing issues, and focus on specific IPG criteria with their school's ILT (Instructional Leadership Team). Some plan to lead PD sessions on lesson planning with IPGs.

Personal benefit of building capacity with the IPG and knowing how to make progress on my school's priority indicator:

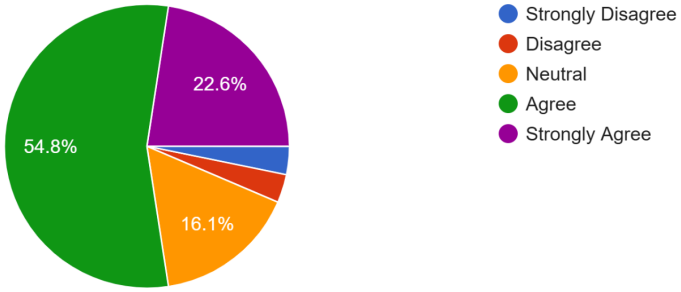
31 responses



- **Mindset and Confidence:** Renewed commitment to supporting teachers, realizing that high expectations are achievable, increased confidence in pacing compared to peers, and the inspiration to intentionally apply the learning were expressed.

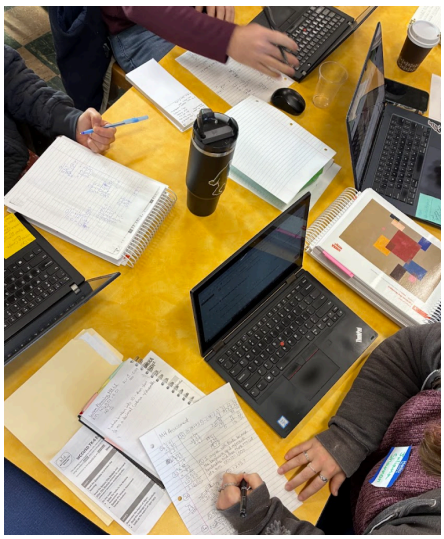
Personal benefit of making my own commitments for priorities and practices in the 2nd half of the SY

31 responses







Communications Department - Raechelle Forrest

This week, West Contra Costa Unified School District continued to see steady growth and engagement across its digital platforms. The District reached a total of **21,601 followers** across **Facebook**, **Instagram**, **LinkedIn**, and **X**, reflecting a **1.1% increase** from the previous week and **a gain of 34 new followers**. As the District continues to build its presence on its new platform, **Nextdoor**, awareness and engagement increased, with **17 visits this week, representing a 1,600% increase** from the previous week. The community showed strong appreciation for several key posts, including the January 15 celebration marking the full completion of the new Lake Elementary School campus, the Pan African Flag Raising Ceremony held on Monday, February 2, 2026, at the District office to honor Black History Month, and recognition of Fred T. Korematsu Day, highlighting his lasting impact on civil rights. Throughout February, the Pan African Flag will be flown at schools across the District as a symbol of unity, pride, and collective strength. The Board and community can expect additional Black History Month recognitions throughout the month across all district platforms.

The District also experienced an increase in online reports regarding alleged U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) sightings. District Safety actively monitored and vetted all reported concerns, and all reports investigated were determined to be false. The District continues to remind families that protocols are in place in the event of an ICE sighting on or near a campus and encourages families to visit the District website to review these procedures. District Safety will continue to monitor reports closely and coordinate with public safety partners as needed to ensure the safety and well-being of students, staff, and families.

KECG 97.7 FM Returns to the Airwaves, February 10, 2026

West Contra Costa Unified School District is pleased to announce that KECG 97.7 FM and 88.1 FM will return to broadcasting on Tuesday, February 10, 2026. The student-led radio station, which has been off the air since early 2025 due to power infrastructure repairs at El Cerrito High School, will resume providing students a hands-on experience in broadcasting, journalism, and media production. For the remainder of the 2025-26 school year, WCCUSD will ensure consistent daily programming on KECG while building student capacity through audio contributions from all schools. The district plans to reopen the radio broadcasting class at El Cerrito High School in fall 2026, providing comprehensive training that will transition students toward increased leadership in station operations. KECG broadcasts on 88.1 FM in

El Cerrito and 97.7 FM in San Pablo, serving as an educational platform that develops communication skills, technical expertise, and career pathways while amplifying student voices throughout WCCUSD.



News of the Week:

- [West Contra Costa School Board Tables Decision on Betty Soskin Middle School Closure | Grandview Independent]
  The West Contra Costa Unified School District board voted 3-2 late Wednesday to table a proposal to close Betty Reid Soskin Middle School and relocate the district's growing Mandarin immersion program to the Soskin campus. The board approved only the current year's fiscal solvency measures and delayed voting on the school merger proposal until February 11 to allow more time for community input.

- [West Contra Costa Completes Lake Elementary Campus Replacement in San Pablo, Calif. | School Construction News]
  West Contra Costa Unified School District recently celebrated the completion of a new Lake Elementary School campus replacement designed to deliver modern learning environments for students in transitional kindergarten through sixth grade. The new campus is designed to serve 470 students and introduces 56,700 square feet of facilities that extend beyond standard classroom space. In addition to new instructional areas, the project includes a library, administrative spaces and a multipurpose building with a large kitchen that can serve the full student body.

- **20 High Schools Across Contra Costa County Compete in 45th Year of Mock Trial Program | Contra Costa News**
  The 45th Annual Contra Costa County Mock Trial Program officially kicked off on Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Over the next several weeks, the A.F. Bray Courthouse in Martinez will host seven evenings of competition as high school students transform into attorneys, witnesses, and courtroom staff. This year, 20 high schools will participate, showcasing their advocacy skills before panels of current and retired judges and more than 100 legal professionals who volunteer as scorers. Richmond High School, Hercules High, El Cerrito High, and De Anza High will be participants in the program.

- **Green Day says 'let's get loud' ahead of Super Bowl LX. How loud will they be? | Oaklandside**
  Oakland will be front and center at Super Bowl LX at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara this Sunday, when punk rock band Green Day kicks off the opening ceremony. The band formed under the name Sweet Children in the mid-1980s, when Armstrong and Dirnt were classmates at Carquinez Middle School in Crockett. While at Pinole Valley High School, the two met Tré Cool, and not long after he joined the band, they became Green Day.

IT Department- Laurie Wong Roberts, CTO

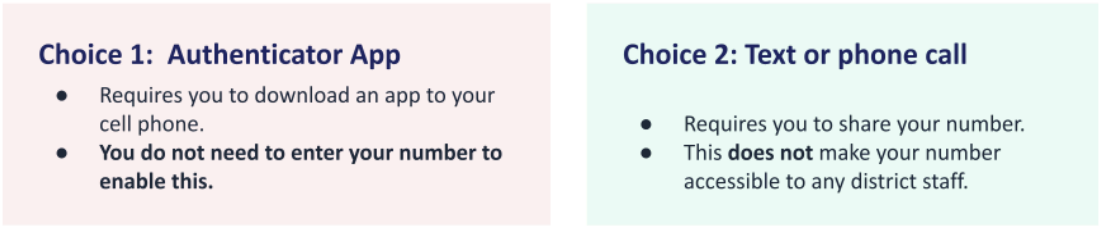
The WCCUSD IT Department has a solution to our phishing/hacker woes: We are officially switching to Microsoft Single Sign-On (SSO) and Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on Tuesday, February 10th.

- Why? Simply put, Microsoft offers "thicker walls and stronger gates" for our castle than Google does. It provides robust, enterprise-level security tools that allow us to better detect and block invaders before they breach our perimeter.

How does this affect you?

- **We need all staff to set up Microsoft Multi-Factor Authentication by Tuesday, February 10th.**

- There are 2 ways to set this up:



Instructions for Choice 1: Authenticator App

Instructions for Choice 2: Text or phone call

What happens if I don't set it up by the deadline?

- When you log in on Wednesday morning, you will be prompted to set up Multifactor Authentication. If you do not set it up at that time, you will not be able to access district email, Google Drive, Google Classroom, PowerSchool, or other single sign-on services from any device.
- **If you are unwilling or unable to use your cell phone for MFA, please have a colleague or office staff member submit a Helpdesk ticket on your behalf using this workflow** to request the alternate MFA method.
    - You will not have access on Wednesday morning.
    - Once you are set up with the alternate MFA method, you will only be able to access your district account on your district-issued device on the district network. You will not have access to your district account outside the district network.

For all information about this change, please visit the IT Insider at bit.ly/ITinsider. (You will need to access the Insider from your district account.)