26. We assume the direction of motion is $+x$ and assume the refrigerator starts from rest (so that the speed being discussed is the velocity v which results from the process). The only force along the x axis is the x component of the applied force $\vec{F}$.

(a) Since $v_0 = 0$, the combination of Eq. 2-11 and Eq. 5-2 leads simply to

$$F_x = m\left(\frac{v}{t}\right) \implies v_i = \left(\frac{F\cos\theta_i}{m}\right)t$$

for $i = 1$ or 2 (where we denote $\theta_1 = 0$ and $\theta_2 = \theta$ for the two cases). Hence, we see that the ratio v_2 over v_1 is equal to $\cos\theta$.

(b) Since $v_0 = 0$, the combination of Eq. 2-16 and Eq. 5-2 leads to

$$F_x = m\left(\frac{v^2}{2\Delta x}\right) \implies v_i = \sqrt{2\left(\frac{F\cos\theta_i}{m}\right)\Delta x}$$

for $i = 1$ or 2 (again, $\theta_1 = 0$ and $\theta_2 = \theta$ is used for the two cases). In this scenario, we see that the ratio v_2 over v_1 is equal to $\sqrt{\cos\theta}$.