



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS District No. 2689

Dr. Klint W. Willert, Superintendent	Jacque Kennedy, Business Manager
Sonja Ortman, MS/HS Principal	Rick Zollner, Activities Director
Jennifer Moravetz, Elementary Principal	Josh Stukel, Technology Director
Len Burzynski, Maintenance Director	Kim Tuin, Food Service Director
Lisa Pease, Coordinator of Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, and Continuous Improvement	

School Board Report November 21, 2025

November is a month that reminds us to be filled with gratitude, particularly as we approach Thanksgiving! As our days have grown shorter and colder, we start to look toward December. As we look to begin the month of December, here are a few items of note for the board.

1. Minnesota Rural Education Association (MREA) Fall Conference – Last week, Brad and I attended the MREA conference in Brainerd. Just as in the past, there were many wonderful sessions. The keynote, Joe Beckman, was outstanding and we are going to attempt to bring him to Pipestone for our students and staff. At the event, we also received updates on the state of the legislature and the state of the Minnesota budget. As we get into the new year, there will be much to discuss when the new legislative session begins.

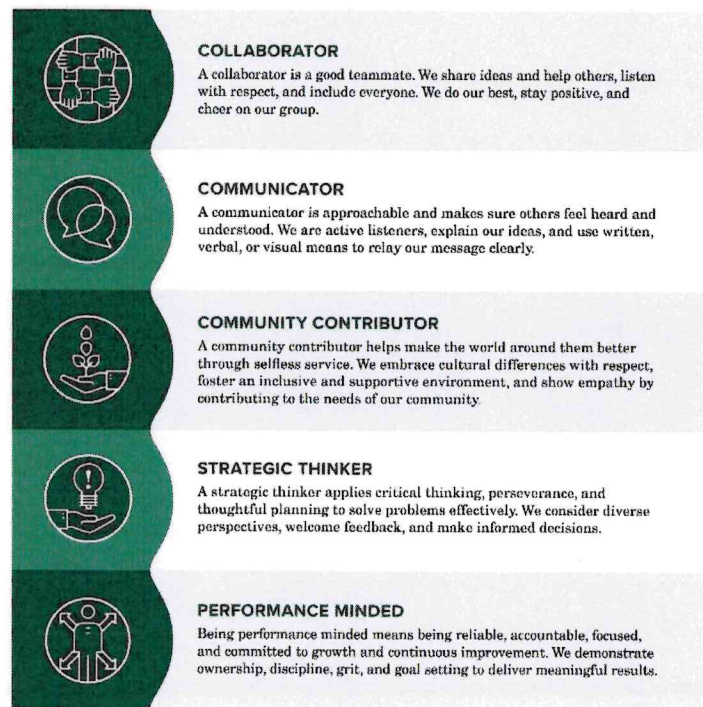
2. Tremco and Black Hawk Roofing – The roofing company has been wrapping up Phase I of our roofing project. They have been putting the flashing on and securing all of the newly installed roofing. Here is a recent drone photo (courtesy of Neil Ramsbey) of the roof. You can quickly see the new roof and how much has been accomplished in the last 12 months.



"Inspire life-long learners. Build Character. Prepare them for their future."

3. Negotiations Process – The board negotiations subcommittee worked diligently through the negotiations process with the Pipestone Area Education Association. As a result of the collaborative effort, the board will be asked to ratify the agreement between the Pipestone Area Schools and the Pipestone Area Education Association. Overall, I believe we have a positive settlement that falls within the budget parameters established earlier this year.

4. Grant Update – The administrative team is continuing to find opportunities to highlight and reinforce the board adopted Portrait of a Graduate. I have received great feedback from staff around the POG. Each month, the principals are focusing on one of the 5 Pipestone Area School Portrait of a Graduate attributes. I have encouraged our team members to be intentional about this work. We are also placing posters of our Portrait of a Graduate in every classroom in the school as a means of reinforcing and highlighting this work. We are also starting to discuss how we can recognize the POG attributes in student work and on the student records as a means to highlight and emphasize the five attributes we have adopted. One aspect of the grant also included coaching and support. We will begin some of this work after the beginning of the calendar year.



5. Christmas Party – The district administrative team will once again host a staff Christmas Party. The party is set for December 13. I would really hope the board members could attend and participate. It has been a great evening of laughter, fun, and fellowship as well as culture building in the district. Watch for additional details to come!

6. Pipestone Christmas Care – Once again this year the Pipestone Area Schools will partner with the Pipestone County Christmas Care program. We will place drop boxes in each of the staff work rooms for toy donations. It is a great way to give back and share the Christmas spirit.

7. Minnesota School Board Association Leadership Conference – The MSBA leadership conference is coming soon. It is not too late to sign up if you are interested in attending. Here is a link for more information: [2026 MSBA Leadership Conference Preview Flyer](#)



8. Minnesota Paid Leave – We are working hard on the implementation of the new Minnesota Paid Leave plan. There have been more developments in the last seven days suggesting that the employer may need to take a greater role in the process of fraud prevention. Here are some slides from a recent presentation by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED). [Paid Leave and Program Integrity](#)

9. Strategic Plan – I have completed a feedback survey of staff regarding the current strategic plan. I will do a brief presentation of the findings at the board meeting and share some of the next steps I am working on to develop our new strategic plan.

10. Student Data – I have asked Lisa Pease to create some longitudinal charts on our student state assessment results. I believe we need to continue to dig deeper into our achievement results to better understand how we can positively impact the results on the state assessments. At a future board meeting or workshop meeting I envision we will share those and discuss action steps and strategies we are taking to improve student achievement.

That is all I have at this time. I want to wish each of you and your families the very best as you celebrate Thanksgiving. May we all pause for a few moments to reflect on the many gifts and blessings we have received this year.

