



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

Dr. Klint W. Willert, Superintendent
Sonja Ortman, MS/HS Principal
Jennifer Moravetz, Elementary Principal
Len Burzynski, Maintenance Director
Lisa Pease, Coordinator of Curriculum, Teaching & Learning, and Continuous Improvement

Jacque Kennedy, Business Manager
Rick Zollner, Activities Director
Josh Stukel, Technology Director
Kim Tuin, Food Service Director

School Board Report
October 22, 2024

The days are turning cooler and the fields are being harvested. It is in full fall season now. As we close out October and turn our eyes to November, here are a few items to share.

1. Historical Society Partnership – We are very fortunate to have a positive partnership with many different organizations in town. One of those partnerships is the Pipestone Historical Society. Each year we work with them as they support our staff and students. This year I asked for their help in researching if Pipestone Area Schools would qualify for Federal Impact Aid. I am attaching a communication from the Historical Society detailing how they have supported our educational endeavors.
2. Roofing Update – At the board meeting we will provide updates on roofing. Tremco met with the board subcommittee to review the bids. You will find the summary from Tremco included in the packet. The intent is to complete the project over two years.
3. Track Update – As you may recall, one of the facets of the project we worked on was the track update with an overlay and new paint. The project is complete and it looks very nice! We still need to remain mindful of the need to potentially replace the track down the road, including the sub-surface of the track. When the borings were returned from the track, you may recall that the subsurface of the track was deteriorated. From the previous assessment with the borings, it was estimated the district has approximately 5 to 7 years left in the current track before we need to complete a whole-scale replacement. We will need to start planning and preparing for this as we consider the future needs of the district.
4. National Principal Month – October is National Principal Month. As we close out the month, I want to once again publicly thank Mrs. Jennifer Moravetz and Mrs. Sonja Ortman for their work, dedication, and commitment to serving the students, staff, and Pipestone Area School community. I know each of them spend countless hours working for the students and staff of the district. From early mornings to late evening telephone calls, they continually work with me to make Pipestone Area Schools the best it can be. The district is fortunate to have a talented team of administrators focused on improving the culture as well as the educational outcomes for students. Join me in thanking Mrs. Moravetz and Mrs. Ortman for their work and commitment to the Pipestone Area Schools.
5. End of Quarter 1 – The first quarter of school is quickly approaching. We are excited to transition to the next quarter. It seems as if things have gone well with the schedule changes, and cell phone policies. There continues to be some who challenge dress code requirements. We will continue to reinforce these items and continue to ask for parental support.

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

6. Closing the Educational Opportunity Gap (CEOG) Grant – The district was fortunate to be awarded a grant for nearly \$422,000. I participated in a webinar with the Minnesota Department of Education on this grant where I learned that Pipestone was one fourteen grant recipients out of a total of 57 applicants. We are working to finalize an agreement with KnowledgeWorks that will include facilitation of the district strategic plan around the Profile of a Graduate and staff development aligning work in the classrooms to the profile. The resources will support staff development and ongoing efforts to personalize learning around competencies in the district.
7. School Improvement Plans – I have asked each principal to create school improvement plans with their leadership teams for their buildings. I requested that each plan has one academic goal and one non-academic goal for the school year. I anticipate the principals will share details of their plans with the board at a future meeting and communicate progress on their respective plans accordingly.
8. Election Day – Remember to cast your vote! Election day is soon upon us. If individuals have questions about the election process, they can learn more at [Welcome to Pipestone County MN \(pipestone-county.com\)](http://pipestone-county.com).
9. School Board Conference – The Minnesota School Board Association will hold their annual leadership conference January 16 and 17 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. If you are interested in attending, please confirm with Deb. The theme of the conference is Inspire and Connect: Leading with Purpose. The conference is typically very good and filled with sessions regarding work in school districts across Minnesota. The keynote speakers are Mickey Smith Jr., a 7-time Teacher of the Year recipient and Hamish Brewer, an award-winning school turnaround expert. This should be an exceptional opportunity for the board.
10. Winter Weather Planning – As we plan for the winter months, I participated in a webinar with the National Weather Service recently. There are some changes coming regarding weather notices from the National Weather Service regarding cold and wind chill. Generally speaking, Wind Chill Watches are renamed Extreme Cold Watch. Wind Chill Warnings are renamed Extreme Cold Warnings. Wind Chill Advisories are renamed Cold Weather Advisories. I am attaching an information sheet from the National Weather Service regarding these changes.
11. Christmas Party – The administrative team is busy planning for the annual staff Christmas Party. We have a tentative date of December 14. Once we have venue confirmation, we will communicate to staff and the board regarding the plans. Please pencil this into your calendar. Last year was a great event and was something that many still talk about today.

That is all I have for now. Thanks for all you do to serve the students, staff, and communities of the Pipestone Area Schools.