



# PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS District No. 2689

Dr. Clint 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 May 19, 2025

It wasn't all that long ago since our last board meeting. It is earlier this month due to the Memorial Day holiday. As a result, we will have a larger gap between the May board meeting and the June board meeting.

Here are a few items of interest to share with the board.

1. **School Day Legislation** – The legislation to add some flexibility to the school instructional day met resistance in the legislative process. As a result, the work was not included in the final committee work to craft a final bill for action. I did participate in a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Education deputy commissioner on Tuesday, May 13 to discuss this legislation and the Department's vision of competency-based teaching and learning in Minnesota. The conversation went very well and it appears there will be more opportunities to revisit the instructional day bill as well as others related to competency-based work in the state.
2. **FFA Banquet** – I enjoyed attending the FFA banquet last week. We have a great group of students who are accomplishing great things. We also are blessed with strong staff and volunteers helping our students realize their potential. A special congratulations to the state champion Meats Judging Team!
3. **Vacancies** – We are continuing to work on filling vacant spots in the district. We can provide a quick update at the board meeting on existing vacancies.
4. **Grievance** – As of the time of writing this, I have not received any notification regarding the reaction of the Educational Support Professionals (ESP) regarding the grievance. If I hear anything, I will update the board at the meeting.
5. **Roofing Update** – The flashing repairs/improvements are moving along nicely. It is great to see the work that is being complete so far. We are still on track for the roofing company to begin at the very end of May. There will be considerably more activity as the roof replacement begins.
6. **Music Community Recognition** – Congratulations to the entire music department as well as the Pipestone Area School community. Our school district was named a Best Communities for Music Education by a top Music Educators Organization in the country. Needless to say, this is a prestigious award. Only eight Minnesota schools received the recognition this year and only 2 South Dakota Schools. We are among approximately 900 nationally recognized music communities. Dr. Ploeger completed the lengthy application process earlier this year.

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



7. **Musical** – I have heard many positive comments about the spring musical as I have been in the community. People were impressed with the work of the staff and students alike. It was a great event for the district and a great way to showcase some of our talented musicians!
8. **Portrait of a Graduate (POG) Next Steps** – We are planning to have KnowledgeWorks on site on June 5. At that time, we will work through all of the data gathered in the survey process and at the community forum as well as through the student and staff focus groups. Using that information, we will start to develop a rough draft of our proposed key competencies of a Pipestone Area School graduate. I envision presenting the draft version of the competencies at the June board meeting. As we finalize the direction of the district with the POG, we will need to convene another group to help create our strategic plan supporting our POG. I will communicate with Brad to determine who he would recommend as school board representatives in this process.
9. **Elementary School Flooring** – As I shared briefly at the last meeting, we are having some failure on the flooring cover of the elementary school. We are working to gather as much information as we can to find a resolution with the contractor, the construction manager, and the manufacturer. This is a significant project that will take some time. I envision a facility committee meeting sometime in the future.
10. **Staff Training on Student Centered Teaching and Learning** – We are going to have a team attend some training and information sessions on competency-based teaching and learning at the conclusion of the school year. We will attend a mini-conference at a school district near Fargo. We are planning to drive the minibus as we have representatives from the elementary, the middle school, the high school, and administration attending the event. I think it is important that we do what we can to support our staff as we embark on the journey of implementing student centered competency-based approaches into Pipestone Area Schools.
11. **Legislative Update** – The legislative process has essentially stopped. The looming deadline does not appear to create any urgency at this time. When I asked what it will take to finish the legislative process, I was told June 30. Despite not knowing exactly what will happen, Jacque and I are working with the team to do the best we can to project a 2025-26 budget.
12. **Teacher Appreciation** – I want to thank all that made Teacher Appreciation special for Pipestone Area Schools this year. We had different businesses and individuals donate. It was a great week and I enjoyed firing up the grill for our team. We are blessed with great staff at PAS! #ProudArrows



