



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

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Superintendent

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MS/HS Principal

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School Board Report October 22, 2026

Fall is certainly in the air. Shorter days, cooler nights, and harvested fields means we are ending October and heading toward November. Here are a few items to share with the board.

1. **Working on Competencies** – This year we are being very intentional with the focus on the Portrait of a Graduate and the five attributes that have defined the Pipestone Area School Portrait of a Graduate. Throughout the year the district is focusing on one core attribute and the related competency associated with the attribute. We are asking staff to focus on the attribute and, when appropriate, capture evidence of the attribute in action. As you watch our social media pages, you may notice staff members highlighting evidence of the students demonstrating the attributes of the Portrait of a Graduate. We want to continue elevating this work and emphasizing the importance of these durable skills in our graduates.
2. **Elementary Gym Floor Update** – Last year we shared that we had an issue with the elementary gym floor. While we had hoped to address the floor in the summer of 2026, due to scheduling challenges with the vendor, we are going to address the floor at the end of this school year. We anticipate the replacement will occur within this fiscal year.
3. **Rally the Region Event** – Mrs. Ortman and I attending the Rally in the Region event sponsored by the Southwest Initiative Foundation. The event was held in Marshall on September 29. The primary focus was on rural economic development and how we are engaging youth in the future of our communities in Southwest Minnesota. The keynote speaker was Mark Perna ([Mark C. Perna | Generational Keynote Speaker on Education & Workforce](#)) and he highlighted the needs to embrace our competitive advantage with our connectedness in our rural communities. Several others from the Pipestone community were in attendance including representation from the business community, the Chamber, and the Economic Development Authority. Overall, this was a great event and it reinforced many of the things we are acting on in Pipestone including the Portrait of a Graduate and the Pipestone Area Career Expo. Here is a link to Mark Perna that you may enjoy: [How to Supersize PK–16 Student Engagement: Skill Tree](#)
4. **Roofing** – We are in the midst of final punch list items on the roofing project. One area that has emerged as a needed fix is around an air handler. We had found that there are some air leaks that are causing the adhered roof to “balloon up”. After discussing this with several different contractors, we think the fix will be peeling back the adhered roof, filling in with foam fill, then attaching a metal plate to seal the area before re-attaching the adhered roof. It is going to add to the cost of the final roof project but it is something that must be addressed.

White area filling with pressurized air due to a faulty seal on the air handler that was discovered during the roofing project.



1. **Christmas Party** – Over the last 3 years, the administration has sponsored a Christmas Party for district staff. We believe that this is one of several actions we take to create a positive culture for our district team. We are in the planning process to once again host the all staff Christmas party. I anticipate that final dates/times will be set in the next week or so and will be communicated to all staff as well as school board members. As always, we encourage school board members and spouses to attend.
2. **High School Gym Curtain** – As I have shared before, we still have some issues with the newly installed curtain dividers in the gymnasium. The installer will be adding some additional bracketing and support to, hopefully, address the issues with the curtain.
3. **Referendum Updates** – We have worked very hard to inform the community about the referendum vote and what it means to the district and community as a whole. It has been a collective effort to keep our website updated, to feed information through our social media outlets, and for the community meetings we have held to inform and educate the community about the vote. I know this has been an added responsibility and I think our team has worked very hard to deliver information in a timely and easy to understand format. As we enter the last days of the election process, it is important that we continue to promote voting. We have one last community meeting scheduled for October 29 at 6:30 pm in the auditorium to answer any last questions or concerns from voters.



4. **Permanent School Fund Constitutional Amendment** – In addition to the referendum vote, we have been working to inform the local community about the proposed constitutional amendment for changes to the Permanent School Fund. The constitutional amendment would modernize the way the funds are distributed from the Fund to local school districts. It is important that people vote on the proposed constitutional amendment. You can learn more about the Permanent School Fund here: [Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands / Minnesota Office of School Trust Lands](#). There is more information about the constitutional amendment and the ballot question here: www.mnpsfamendment.org. It is my hope that voters are informed and understand that modernizing the way funds are distributed will support every school district in the state without raising taxes.
5. **Principal Appreciation Month** – October is officially Principal Appreciation Month. At a time when it is increasingly challenging to find qualified leaders willing to serve, we can be thankful for the dedication and commitment of Mrs. Ortman and Mrs. Moravetz to the students and staff of the Pipestone Area School community! Please join me in thanking both principals for all they do to serve the district and community. Thank you Mrs. Moravetz and Mrs. Ortman. Your service and commitment is appreciated!



That is all I have at this time. Thank you for your work on the board on behalf of the entire community.