



# PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

Dr. Clint W. Willert  
*Superintendent*

Sonja Ortman  
*MS/HS Principal*

Jennifer Moravetz  
*Elementary Principal*

Lisa Pease  
*Coordinator of Curriculum,  
Teaching, and Learning*

Jacque Kennedy  
*Business Manager*

Rick Zollner  
*Activities Director*

Len Burzynski  
*Maintenance Director*

Kim Tuin  
*Food Service Director*

## School Board Report Superintendent March 2026

The last week has reminded us once again why March has a history of being a snowy month. However, given the warmer temperatures on the forecast and the transition to the new school quarter, we are reminded that spring is here. Within this report you will find a few items of note for the March board meeting.

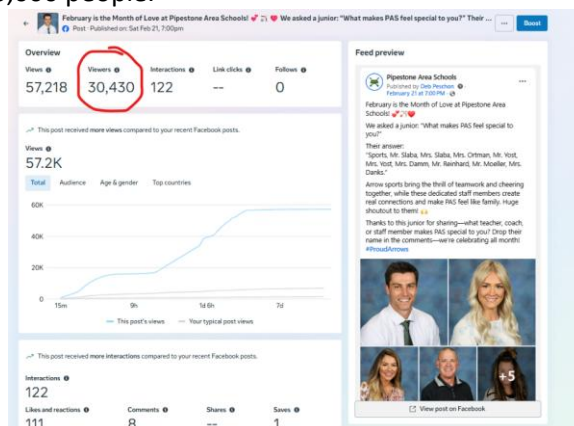
- Special Work Session** – We are working to schedule a special work session for the board. The work session will center on two key topics. The first will be a discussion regarding the district operating levy. We will invite Steve Pumper and Michael Hart from PMA to present. The second topic of discussion will be the ALC program in Pipestone. At this time, it appears Cliff Carmody and Stephanie Strenge will be presenting. I anticipate if there is any action to follow, that would occur at a later school board meeting.
- Budget Development** – The district leadership team is engaged in budgeting work. At this time, the district does not anticipate budget reductions or adjustments for the 2026-27 school year. However, looking forward, we need to remain vigilant on the state budget and how the funding from the state may impact budget decisions in 2027-2028.
- Social Media Contract** – We have renewed our agreement with our social media partner. We have been pleased with the results from our partnership and the impact of the partnership. The collaboration has helped us tell the story of Pipestone Area Schools and continue to update and engage our community. As of today, the district has 3,928 followers on Facebook and 874 on Instagram. So far this year on Facebook, our posts have reached over 111,000 people! As you can see, the “Month of Love” posts from district staff reached so many people! The post below was observed by more than 30,000 people.

1401 7th St. SW  
Pipestone, MN 56164

**Main Line:**  
507-825-5811

**Main Fax:**  
507-825-6729

[www.pas.k12.mn.us](http://www.pas.k12.mn.us)



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

4. **College and Career Expo** – Mrs. Ortman and I, along with Mrs. Dulas have met on a few occasions with the Chamber and the Economic Development Authority. We are working on the development of a College/Career/Skills Expo. The plan is to host this event at the High School on May 1. The effort is really centered on developing greater career awareness with local employers for our students and community. I am super excited to see this effort become a reality.
5. **Pipestone Area FFA Alumni** – The Pipestone Area FFA Alumni and Supporters chapter is being re-activated. Given the proud history of the FFA program in Pipestone, this should prove to be a great way to connect school and community. If there is interest or questions, please reach out to Maggie Wertish at [Maggie.wertish@pas.k12.mn.us](mailto:Maggie.wertish@pas.k12.mn.us).



**Pipestone Area FFA Alumni & Supporters – We're Back!**

**About Us**

The Pipestone Area FFA Alumni & Supporters chapter is being reactivated, and we are looking for individuals who want to support agricultural education and student leadership in our community.

**Who can Join:**

- ✓ Former FFA Members
- ✓ Parents of FFA Members
- ✓ Community Members
- ✓ Local Businesses
- ✓ Anyone who supports agriculture

You do **NOT** have to be a former FFA member to join

**How to Join:**

- Scan the QR Code to join!
- Email [Maggie.wertish@pas.k12.mn.us](mailto:Maggie.wertish@pas.k12.mn.us) with any questions

**Why Join:**

- Support local FFA members
- Invest in agricultural education
- Help fund jackets, trips, and scholarships
- Strengthen youth leadership in our community
- Give back to the next generation
- Support hands-on classroom learning
- Mentor and encourage students
- Stay connected to FFA
- Build community involvement

**SCAN ME**

**Rooted in Agriculture      Driven by Leadership**

6. **District Website to Change** – The district will be transitioning to a different website vendor. As a result, we will be updating our website and ensuring complete compliance with ADA accessibility. We had a team representing several facets of the district participate in a review of some primary vendors. After reviewing a few options, our team landed on a partnership with Aptegy. We will start the transition process yet this spring with the full transition to occur in July.
7. **Legislative Activity** – There continues to be a great deal of legislative action. Some current discussions center on school safety, compensatory funding, and special education. I should have an update from MREA that I can share on Monday at the board meeting.
8. **Robotic Equipment for School Services** – Len and I will be attending some demonstrations that will be held at the Edgerton Schools regarding robotic cleaning equipment. As you may recall, the district has already embraced robotics with the TurfTank field painting system. The cleaning machines may be a potential solution to add autonomous cleaning systems if and when we struggle to fill custodial positions in the district.

9. **Site Visit** – In April, the district will be taking a team to Northern Cass School District in North Dakota. Northern Cass is a regional district recognized for success in applying personalized, student centered teaching and learning practices. The intent is to have a team represent the elementary, middle school, and high school staff. The cost of the site visit will be covered with the CEOG grant funding. Here is a video that is about 4 years old from Northern Cass that highlights their work: <https://youtu.be/gUO6h6rxV6s?si=KJn8coY7V107e7hh>
  
10. **Artificial Intelligence** – The district continues to move forward in the space of artificial intelligence. Mrs. Pease and I have updated the district Achievement and Integration plan and incorporated AI tools and support in the grant plan. The intent and focus will continue to be on the Flint AI tool that was previously referenced at a board meeting. That tool is currently being piloted by several teachers in the district and I have received very positive feedback about the tool and the functionality of the tool to assist in personalizing teaching and learning. I believe we will want and need a special work session of the board sometime in May or June focused solely on artificial intelligence, what it means for the teaching and learning process, and how we can ensure our teaching and learning practices as well as our systems in the school reflect this rapidly emerging and changing technology. I believe there were some questions about Flint, so I have provided a video link with an overview what Flint AI is and what it does for staff and students: [Flint demo video \(AI personalized learning platform for schools\)](#).

That is all I have at this time. I appreciate the support of the board and the commitment of board members to encourage and support the administration, staff, and students that make Pipestone Area Schools a special place to be.