



PIPESTONE AREA SCHOOLS

District No. 2689

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Superintendent

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MS/HS Principal

Jennifer Moravetz
Elementary Principal

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*Coordinator of Curriculum,
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Activities Director

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Maintenance Director

Kim Tuin
Food Service Director

Superintendent School Board Report June 18, 2026

While just less than a month ago we celebrated the class of 2026, it feels as if the summer is nearly over. There has been a great deal of activity at the school since we wrapped up the school year. Here are a few updates for the board.

1. **Portrait of a Graduate** – Last year at this time we were working on the final draft of the Pipestone Area Schools Portrait of a Graduate (POG). We had staff, school board, administration, and parent representation present through the process. As we now look to more fully integrate the POG in our work throughout the district, the administrative team met and mapped out a calendar to emphasize each of the attributes throughout the year.
 - September 1 to October 14 – Communicator
 - October 19 to December 4 – Collaborator
 - December 7 to January 29 – Strategic Thinker
 - February 1 to March 24 – Performance Minded
 - March 29 to May 27 – Community Contributor

It is my hope that this level of focus and emphasis will help us engage the community and center us on these priority areas in the year to come.

2. **Portrait of a Graduate Competencies** – Shortly after the conclusion of the school year, a team of teachers and the administration worked on developing the competencies for each of the 5 POG attributes. The competencies were written for grade bands and will provide some guidance and support for recognizing and assessing the 5 attributes of the POG. The session was facilitated by Knowledge Works and provided some added clarity as we look to implement the POG more fully into the district. It is important to note the competencies are works in progress and can be modified, updated and changed as needed. I want to offer a sincere thank you to all that were part of this process and moving our POG forward.
3. **Budget** – This will be a challenging budget year. Like many districts across the state and nation, we are facing a situation where expenditures are outpacing revenues from the State. I want to personally thank Jacque for her tireless work and commitment to fiscal responsibility. As we move to approve the preliminary FY 2027 budget, I believe it will be important for the board to follow up on the discussion we had earlier this year on the sunsetting of the district operating referendum and what that means for financial plans and programming in the years to come. In the next few weeks, I anticipate the finance subcommittee will meet to consider next steps and bring a recommendation to the full board in July on how we might proceed with an operating referendum discussion in the future.

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4. Roofing – The roofing work has resumed in the district. Black Hawk Roofing is on site and has started to remove the rock from the ballasted roof in preparation for the new roof material. As you may recall, we did have some leaks during some heavy rains this spring in the roof area that is yet to be replaced. I want to applaud the board for acting decisively on investing in the roof replacement. There is no way the previous roof would have lasted another 5 to 7 years.

5. Legislative Session and Policy Changes – MSBA will be sharing several policy changes that have come from the recent conclusion of the legislative session. As a result, we will schedule a policy subcommittee meeting sometime in July to review the policy updates and consider them for either the July or August board meeting.

6. Academic Eligibility – Last year, and again this year, there have been conversations on the need to review the district academic eligibility requirements. I have directed Mrs. Ortman and Mr. Zollner to create a task force that includes some coaches, administrative representation, some teaching staff, and other potential participants to review our current practices, compare to other Big South District eligibility requirements, and bring forward a recommendation for inclusion in the activities handbook in June 2027. I have also asked that the team would consider how we can incorporate the five attributes of the POG into the eligibility requirements within the district.

7. Emerging Leaders Coaching and Training – I am very excited to share that Pipestone Area Schools is being recognized for our work in the Portrait of a Graduate and efforts to personalize the teaching and learning experience. We have been invited to participate in a leadership development process facilitated by Knowledge Works that will provide training, support, and coaching for district administrators on this work. The District will be able to participate free of charge and will join several other districts across the country in this training and support. The training is nearly all virtual, with one quick trip in early September to Denver for an on-site training at the Westminster, CO school district. It is always exciting to receive recognition for the work of better serving students and making improvements in the school system.

8. Legislative Session – The legislative session has finally closed. This was a unique session that required some compromise. Next session will look and feel quite different as there are many seats that will be filled by brand new legislators due to a number of current legislators deciding not to run again. One area that will be of particular interest next year will be the ongoing developments around a state-wide health insurance plan that would require mandatory participation by all school districts. The program, called E-GIP, is envisioned to help manage health care costs for school districts. As we all know, there are challenges in schools with rising premiums and out-of-pocket costs for teachers and education staff. The vision of E-GIP is to spread medical risks across the entire state, rather than isolating costs in smaller individual districts and pools. The long-term view is to create a singular self-insured pool that allows all public-school employees to participate alongside current members of the Public Employees Insurance Program (PEIP). During the 2026 session, there was action to complete a study that requires school districts to submit their detailed health insurance costs to lay the groundwork for full EGIP implementation in the budget. At a recent presentation by MSBA, it was suggested the full implementation of E-GIP could come at a price-tag in excess of \$1 Billion to the state. Obviously there concerns about the costs. Additionally, there are concerns about the mandate to local school districts that would come with this new plan on what insurance would be required, who would be required to be offered the

insurance, and how that cost would be addressed in the negotiated agreements within the school districts. This is a topic that will be widely discussed in the upcoming election season and in the next legislative session.

9. Educational Support Staff Contract Negotiations – We are beginning to work on the Educational Support Professional group. We have the first session scheduled for 5:30 pm on June 23.

10. Attendance Boards – Since the district did not meet our attendance goals for the Achievement and Integration requirements, we are implementing score-boards for attendance in the buildings. We want to make our results visible for staff and create some incentives for students to attend school. Watch for these to come in new school year.

11. New Website – Our new and improved district website will be operational very soon. I am very excited about this. There will be several noticeable improvements. One is the way we will work to centralize communications among coaches, families, and participants. Currently, there are several different apps that are utilized with various activities within the district. The new site will have a feature that will allow us to centralize to one app. This will prevent multiple apps from being used and provides a better sense of security and safety for all in the communications process. Watch for the new launch coming soon!

12. Strategic Design – We are wrapping up the strategic design work for the district. As the process occurred, there were multiple focus groups with staff members, school board members, administrators, students at all grade levels, and parents. There was also a community wide survey that was shared to gather additional perspectives of parents, business leaders, and community members. We placed a particular emphasis on engaging the Hispanic and Latino community within the district as we are striving to close the educational opportunity gaps in our district. Richard DeLorenzo will be available to present the draft of the strategic design, which will be included in the board packet. Then, in July, I anticipate final board action on the new strategic design. I plan to share the new strategic design at the Back to School kickoff in August.

That is all for now. I am excited about our direction, the focus on student-centered education, and the promise of what is yet to come. Thank you for your dedicated service to the students, staff, community, and taxpayers.