Advanced Network Devices

Pembina Trails School District

CASE STUDY



Identifying the Solution

Managing an outdated paging system throughout an entire school district is a common pain point for many district IT managers. Bell schedules and alerts running on separate systems, failing speakers, and inflexible wiring impedes school communication, expansion, and safety. Pembina Trails School Division was more than ready to replace their 40 year old paging system with a solution that fit the needs of all 34 schools.

After months of researching and gathering information from their current users, they concluded that the new mass notification system should include:

Winnipeg, Manitoba

14
Schools

14,000
Students

Challenge

The first proof of concept site was a success. AND devices were installed, configured, and tested successfully on the network. However, one issue remained before Pembina Trails School Division could install AND devices throughout their district: the budget. Securing a budget for school board approval is another common pain point for mass notification installs.

Pembina Trails' Network Manager, Luigi Iafolla, found a way to implement a budgetary solution. He connected the Advanced Network Devices Zone Controller (ZONEC2) to their existing amplifier to act as an IP hub for analog speakers in sectors that only required one-way broadcasting.

The district then chose strategic placement of the AND IP speaker with display (IPSWD) in all the classrooms, the large IP display (IPCSL-RWB) in auditoriums, the double-sided IP display (IPCDS-RWB) in specific hallways, and the surface mount IP speaker (IPSWS-SM) in common areas that required 2-way communication.

20-30
Minutes
to configure
the system

Walton Central School District reported spending just 20–30 minutes setting up ANetD's configuration file, with devices ready to operate once connected.

Results

System Integration: AND devices can connect and interoperate with various VoIP phone platforms, mass notification software, alarm systems, and peripherals. When Pembina Trails recognized this opportunity, they started integrating a lone worker safety system to send audio alerts through AND devices if a lone employee experiences an emergency situation.

Scalable: School administrators now have the flexibility to add and move AND devices as they see fit. With a simple network drop, the Pembina Trails tech team can easily install and make adjustments to enhance mass notification coverage throughout the building.

Platform Consistency: Office staff members are frequently moving from one school to another to manage the announcements, bell schedules, and alerts throughout the school. Before Pembina Trails upgraded their paging system, schools operated with inconsistent scheduling platforms, which interrupted office workflow. Installing AND's IPClockWise (included with device) in each school has simplified scheduling, paging, and overall operation of each IP device connected to the network for office staff and administration.

Show and Tell: Pembina Trails is showcasing their mass notification system to various school districts in Winnipeg. Network Manager, Luigi Iafolla, said, "We have had IT from other school divisions take a look at one of our schools, and they are looking to install the paging system as well."

> *"Our administration is five people, and we are responsible for every single thing happening on this campus. Once this kind of thing is efficient and easy, we can get it off our plate and do better."*
>
> *Andrew Ricabal, Superintendent, Forest Lake Christian School*