

Pembina Trails School Division

📍 Winnipeg, Manitoba

🏫 34 Schools

👤 14,000 Students



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Managing an outdated paging system throughout an entire school district is a common pain point for many district IT managers.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:

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 lafolla, 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 (IPSW-SM) in common areas that required 2-way communication.

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.

"Once we started looking at the features we wanted, there really wasn't anything on the market like the products Advanced Network Devices has."

Luigi lafolla
Network Manager
Pembina Trails School Division

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 lafolla, 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."

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