



MINIDOKA SCHOOL DISTRICT

6 SCHOOLS SINCE 2018

Minidoka, ID

MINIDOKA SCHOOL DISTRICT EMBRACES INNOVATION AND TRANSFORMS HVAC MANAGEMENT ACROSS THE BOARD

Minidoka School District covers eleven schools in the Minidoka region in Eastern Idaho.

The district had an outdated, fragmented system of HVAC controls that was hindering its ability to effectively manage the indoor climate across its schools. Whenever the maintenance team received a comfort complaint, they had no way of knowing what was really going on in their classrooms, or how to troubleshoot it.

They also had various outbuildings that had specific climate requirements, but were isolated from the rest of their HVAC systems. All in all, their small maintenance team would spend a lot of time travelling around the district to monitor spaces and troubleshoot problems.

Faced with the growing burden of failing equipment and a lack of connectivity and control across his district, Maintenance Supervisor Patrick Swigert embarked on a project to find a better solution to their climate troubles.

Despite coming from a traditional controls background, Swigert was open to exploring whether a wireless, cloud-based platform would enable the district to take back control of their HVAC systems, and help them to achieve their goals with less resources. With recent community debate over whether the district should apply for bond funding to better equip its schools to meet population demand, it was important that they optimize their facilities resources and put their budget to best use.

On realizing the simplicity of Pelican and the ease with which he could bring all of the district's HVAC systems under one

platform, Swigert installed Pelican into Paul Elementary. With the power of Pelican's wireless mesh network, he was able to get access to the outlying buildings that had been causing him problems in the past.

But the real benefit to the district has been the transformation in their facilities management effectiveness. With limited facilities resources, they no longer have to settle for a limiting HVAC solution. They have the insight they need to troubleshoot problems quickly and effectively, without having to drive around the county to figure out what's happening in their classrooms. And they can be sure that their students have the comfortable learning environment that they deserve.

With Pelican installed across multiple schools, Swigert now has the data he needs to solve the next piece of their facilities puzzle - energy efficiency. He plans to replace many of their lighting systems with more energy efficient lights in the coming months, and use Pelican to track the energy savings he expects to achieve.

"I'm loving using Pelican - I can access everything on my phone, and it was really easy to install. We're looking forward to rolling it out across more of our schools," Swigert said.

With more schools yet to be installed with Pelican, Minidoka's journey with Pelican is set to continue, and everyone - staff, teachers and students included, will benefit.

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