

# Petersburg School District

## Technology Department Board Report – September 10, 2025

“Learning is King. Growth is Queen. ‘Cool’ is the court jester. The jester is technology. And the jester has value, but don’t put him in charge of the kingdom.”

— **Bold School, Weston Kieschnick**

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## Special Thanks

- Thanks to **JaKye Williams** for steady daily support across buildings, including early-morning elementary coverage and high school device checkouts. His work has helped maintain smooth operations during a busy start of the year.
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## Technology Infrastructure & Devices

- **NWEA Testing Prep:** Devices and systems configured for fall MAP assessments.
    - **MS/HS:** Sept. 15–16
    - **Elementary:** Sept. 22–26
  - **Smartboard Upgrades:** Most boards are now fitted with the new modular upgrade, allowing use independent of teacher laptops. Teachers are beginning to explore enhanced software tools for interactive lessons.
  - **Secondary Office Remodel:** Tech supported the remodel by installing Ethernet drops, new phone lines, and cameras. Additional cameras are planned for ISS rooms, along with a wall-mounted **security display** for monitoring the front door camera (currently done via iPads).
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## Device Programs & Support

- **HS 1:1 Program:** MacBooks issued for student take-home.
- **MS (Final Year of Chromebook Deployment):** A few parents have reached out, and the tech department has issued Chromebooks/backpacks for home use. These devices are end-of-life, and this will be the last year of the program. Families interested in participating should contact **Nancy Curtiss** (\$25 insurance, paperwork). Nancy communicates requests to the Technology Department for fulfillment.

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## Software, Systems & Communication Tools

- **Rooms (Thrillshare) Rollout:** Training provided Sept. 5; teachers set up Rooms; ongoing Q&A document tracks issues.
- **Apptegy Data Sync:** Work continues with Apptegy and office staff to identify issues and ensure PowerSchool contact information flows correctly into the **Petersburg App**. The redesigned app will serve as the primary hub for parents to receive teacher communication and district updates.
- **Backend Systems:** At the start of the year, ongoing account setup ensures staff and students have access to required platforms. New and existing applications are being reviewed for instructional value and data privacy compliance.

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## Emergency Communication & Safety Tools

- Following a recent **phoned-in threat**, school leadership, along with Tech staff and other business and community groups, joined a meeting led by **Chief Kerr**.
- Local businesses expressed interest in the **Guard 911 platform** as a possible emergency communication solution.
- The Technology Department will continue to work with district leadership to strengthen communication systems and provide staff training for emergency response.

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## Digital Safety & Student Supports

- **Katie Greer Digital Safety Event (Sept. 17–18):**
  - Two-day program including student sessions (Grades 2–12), PSD staff PD, and parent/community events.
  - Topics include cyberbullying, online privacy, social media, screen time, and healthy digital balance.
  - Supported by Petersburg Police, Partners in Education, Wave, PIA, and Petersburg Medical Center.

*Detailed schedule provided in appendix.*

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## Cybersecurity

- Continued participation in **CISA Cyber Hygiene services** (vulnerability and web scanning).
  - Transitioning to **Hook Security**, which provides monthly phishing simulations and short training modules for staff.
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## Professional Development & Training

- **Technology Boot Camp (Aug. 18)**: Co-facilitated with **Mr. Dustin Crump**. His expertise enriched the training for new certified staff.
  - **In-Service Week**: Tech staff assisted teachers with classroom setup, devices, and instructional tools.
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## Upcoming / In Progress

- Exploring **BrainPOP** options, as state funding has ended.
  - Monitoring **Kyocera printer usage** and sharing monthly updates with staff to keep costs under control.
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## Support Tickets (Aug. 15 – Sept. 10, 2025)

- **159 tickets logged** during this period.
- **117 closed | 42 in progress.**
- Most requests related to **student and classroom devices**, with others involving printers, smartboards, and account access.
- Ticket volume reflects a **busy start-of-year period**, with steady progress ensuring classrooms and staff remain supported.

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## Appendix: Katie Greer Event Schedule

### Wednesday, September 17

- Grade 2 – Library – 12:50–1:10 (20 minutes)
- Grades 3–5 – Auditorium – 10:45–11:30 (45–50 minutes)
- Grades 6–8 – Auditorium – 2:08–3:00 (45–50 minutes)
- Parent/Caregiver Event (18+) – Auditorium – 6:00 PM (*Childcare provided by Wave*)

### Thursday, September 18

- Grades 9–12 – Auditorium – 2:08–3:00 (45–50 minutes)
- PSD Staff – Auditorium – 3:15–4:00 (45–50 minutes)
- Lunchtime Community Event (18+) – John Hanson Senior Member Hall (A & B Halls) – 11:00 AM–1:00 PM
- Evening Community Event – Auditorium – 6:00 PM (*Roundtable Discussion & Q&A; childcare provided by Wave*)