

Petersburg School District Technology Department

Board Report – August 15, 2025

- **Special thanks to Jakyle Williams and Nolan Lutomski for their outstanding summer work. Their efforts made it possible to prepare all district technology for the new year.**
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Technology Infrastructure & Devices

All K–12 student devices have been cleaned, updated, and inspected over the summer in preparation for fall deployment.

iOS devices were successfully migrated from our previous mobile device management (MDM) platform to the same system used for macOS. This unified platform allows us to manage updates, enforce security settings, and streamline support across devices.

Finance and accounting systems were upgraded from Windows to macOS, enhancing security and enabling these devices to be managed through our MDM for consistent patching and permission control.

Smartboard Upgrades

Our classroom smartboards have undergone a modular upgrade, allowing them to operate independently of a teacher's MacBook.

Teachers and students can now connect and present more efficiently, reducing downtime and preserving instructional minutes.

This upgrade also extends the lifespan of our smartboards and maximizes the district's investment in classroom technology.

Chromebooks

Chromebooks purchased in 2020 are approaching the end of their lifecycle and will not be reissued for home use this school year.

Students in grades 6–8 will continue to have access to devices during the school day. Families who need a device for home use are encouraged to contact the school administration to explore available options. Backpacks will be provided for middle school students upon request to support safe transport when needed.

Students in grades 9–12 will continue to be supported with take-home devices as part of the ongoing 1:1 program.

Secondary Office Remodel

The Technology Department has supported the secondary office remodel by updating phone and data ports, as well as installing camera drops for future expansion.

Digital Safety Event

On **September 17–18**, Petersburg School District will host nationally recognized digital health and safety expert **Katie Greer** for a two-day, community-wide event focused on proactive digital citizenship education. Katie will deliver developmentally tailored presentations to students in grades 2–12 during the school day, addressing topics such as online privacy, cyberbullying, social media use, screen time balance, and healthy digital relationships.

An evening presentation for parents and caregivers will provide practical guidance on emerging tech trends, social media safety, family device rules, and how to foster meaningful conversations around digital life at home.

This event is made possible thanks to the generous planning and financial support of **the Petersburg Police Department, Partners in Education, Wave, PIA, and Petersburg Medical Center (PMC)**.

Communication Tools

We are preparing to launch the Rooms communication platform districtwide.

Staff will receive training during in-service week, followed by a community-facing PR campaign to promote use and support family engagement.

Professional Development & Staff Training

A “Technology Boot Camp” for new certified staff is scheduled for Monday, August 18. Dustin Crump and I will co-facilitate this training.

Throughout In-Service Week, the Technology Department will provide hands-on support to help teachers set up their classrooms, devices, and essential instructional tools.

Cybersecurity

As part of our ongoing participation in the 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program, PSD has enrolled in two federal services provided by the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA):

- **Vulnerability Scanning (VS):**

Continuously scans and evaluates internet-accessible devices for risks. Weekly reports and urgent alerts help us take immediate action on any detected vulnerabilities.

- **Web Application Scanning (WAS):**

Evaluates public-facing web applications for security flaws. Monthly and on-demand reports help ensure the security of our online systems.

In addition:

The district is transitioning from KnowBe4 to **Hook Security** for staff cybersecurity awareness training.

Hook Security will deliver monthly phishing simulations and brief, engaging training modules to help build skills in reporting, recognizing, and avoiding cyber threats. (Staff will be trained on how to report these simulations, as well as on other emerging cyber threats.)

“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