

# Technology Board Report - February 2023

*Sam Rigby*

**Starlink** - We are in the process of installing temporary, consumer Starlink terminals at Port Heiden and Port Alsworth. We anticipate service to be active at both locations by 3/10/23.

**ERATE** - We filed our ERATE form 470 at the beginning of December and accepted internet service proposals through 1/20/23. We received proposals from 6 providers in total. The winning bid(s) will provide internet service starting 7/1/23. We have the option to sign a 1, 3, or 5-year contract.

Laura, Kasie, and I have been reviewing the proposals and will score them against a predetermined rubric that was included in our RFP. Those scores will be combined and used to select the winning bid.

Each of our schools is currently connected to the internet by a single, high-latency, geostationary satellite terminal. Up until this year, that was our only option other than a cost-prohibitive, GCI Terrestrial connection. We are seeing a variety of options in this year's proposals. We are seeking to improve the quality of our internet connections in three key areas.

**Latency** - Latency refers to the time it takes for internet data to travel from one point to another. Bandwidth looks at the amount of data being transferred, while latency looks at the amount of time it takes data to transfer. Increasing bandwidth alone does not make internet service "faster". All bids received offer low-latency connections.

**Failover** - Internet connections are going to experience downtime, this is inevitable. With LEO (Starlink and OneWeb) now available in Alaska, affordable internet failover is possible. A network with failover technology in place will automatically switch between multiple connections if one connection experiences an outage or other degradation. We are only considering internet options that include some form of failover.

**Capacity** - Bandwidth is the measure of internet capacity. The more users on a network, the more bandwidth is needed. Our larger schools have struggled to get by with only 25mbps. We intend to increase the bandwidth available to over 25mbps relative to current and projected enrollment.