



Superintendent's Report December 2025



Happy Holidays

As we approach winter break, I want to thank the Board, staff, students, and community for their continued support and partnership throughout a very busy time of year. This break is a well-deserved opportunity for staff and students to spend time with family and friends, rest, and recharge. The second half of the school year—and before we know it, graduation for the Class of 2026—will be upon us quickly.

I wish everyone a safe, restful, and happy holiday season.

Input on Teachers and Administrators

This time of year provides an opportunity for community members to share feedback on how the district is supporting students and the broader school community. Petersburg School District welcomes input regarding the performance of teachers and administrators. This feedback is reviewed and considered as part of the evaluation process. Links to the community feedback forms are available on the district website at:

<https://www.pcsd.us/page/community-feedback>

Teacher In-Service

Teachers will return on January 5 and 6 for two days of continued professional learning as we advance our Teacher Clarity and Visible Learning work with Yana, our consultant from Corwin. Funding from the RTBAK (Raising the Bar for Alaska Schools) and CLSD (Comprehensive Literacy Statewide Development) grants supports both this external training and sustained, job-embedded professional learning throughout the year, including Friday Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). These PLCs are led by in-house teacher leaders who have been identified and compensated through the grants to help guide this work across the district.

Professional learning remains focused on strengthening teacher efficacy, teacher clarity, learning intentions, and success criteria, with an emphasis on analyzing student data and reflecting on instructional practices through the lens of John Hattie's research on effect size and student learning. This work also includes a deliberate focus on improving literacy and instructional practices across all grade levels and content areas. Rather than introducing a new initiative, professional learning emphasizes ongoing reflection, collaboration, and refinement of practice to improve teaching effectiveness and student outcomes.

Budget and Finance

The district hosted its first Budget Committee meeting to review the status of the current budget and to receive input regarding the fund balance and the most effective allocation of those funds. The discussion focused on ensuring the year-end fund balance is reduced to 10% or less of annual expenditures, in compliance with AS 14.17.505. The next budget work session is scheduled for February 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Petersburg High School Library.

On December 11, Governor Dunleavy released his FY2027 *Budget at a Glance*. The proposal includes full statutory funding for K–12 education. Following the winter budget revision, the district will begin preparation of the initial draft budget for FY2027.

While the status of federal education funding remains uncertain due to changes at the U.S. Department of Education, the district was encouraged by the U.S. House of Representatives' December 9 vote (399–5) to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act through September 2026 and to provide the previously lapsed payments for 2024 and 2025. The legislation has been forwarded to the President for approval. These funds are held by the borough and are used to support district operations.

Facilities and Safety

Phase II of the Security Upgrade Project is ongoing. A request is being submitted to the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (DEED) Facilities Section to authorize the use of the Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) alternative project delivery method.

The project initially focused on converting all interior and exterior doors across campus to an electronic FOB-controlled access system. This concept guided the early design work, and the initial drawings reflect a comprehensive access control approach. As design progressed and facility condition assessments were completed, additional safety and security deficiencies were identified. Given finite funding, the project scope was refined and organized into prioritized phases aligned with life safety needs, access control requirements, and available resources.

- **Priority 0** includes replacement of interior and exterior doors that are deteriorated, improperly supported, or otherwise pose life safety hazards. These doors cannot be addressed through routine maintenance and must be replaced to ensure safe egress and functional locking. This phase also includes FOB access at selected exterior doors serving as primary entry and emergency exit points.
- **Priority 1** includes additional exterior doors requiring FOB access to establish a secure perimeter at both campuses. **Priority 1b** includes upgrades to the intercom, clock, and lockdown systems. These systems are outdated, unreliable, and in some areas no longer functional, presenting a significant safety risk during emergency situations. Replacement with a unified, campuswide system will ensure reliable communication and effective lockdown capability.
- **Priority 2** includes preparing high-use or publicly accessed interior spaces for future FOB access. These areas include administrative offices, common areas, the auditorium, gymnasium, library, and classrooms frequently used by visiting teams and community groups. These upgrades will improve emergency response, access control, and after-hours monitoring.
- **Priority 3** includes interior classroom doors requiring hardware upgrades that do not present immediate life safety concerns.
- **Priority 4** includes maintenance and custodial spaces, which will be addressed as funding allows.

The design documents are being developed to allow for future expansion of access-controlled doors beyond the scope of this construction phase. This priority-based approach ensures that the most critical safety needs are addressed first while maintaining fiscal flexibility. The CM/GC delivery method allows early contractor involvement to refine quantities, evaluate hardware options, confirm routing paths, and align the project scope with available funding, while maintaining system compatibility for future phases.

Anticipated Timeline:

12/21/25 Intent to Bid issued
1/13/26 Pre-Bid meeting with interested contractors
1/20/26 Bids Due
1/21/26 Issue Notice of Intent to Award
2/2/26 Anticipated Award
2/3/26 Contract Signing and Notice to Proceed
7/10/26 Substantial Completion
8/10/26 Final Completion