

## Petersburg School District

### Technology Department Board Report

October 17 – November 6, 2025

*Each click, tap, and swipe — make it count. Use technology to build a better world.*

The Technology Department continues to focus on strengthening cybersecurity, optimizing instructional software, modernizing network infrastructure, and providing consistent classroom and staff support.

#### **Cyber Hygiene Assessment – CISA Report (November 2025)**

CISA's November 2025 Cyber Hygiene scan confirms that Petersburg School District's network remains secure and compliant. The report identified no critical vulnerabilities and only one minor, low-risk finding, following the resolution of last month's false positive.

#### **Phishing Reporting Transition**

The district has completed its transition away from the KnowBe4 platform and the retired Phish Alert Button (PAB). All Adult users with PCSD accounts can now use the KillPhish icon, integrated directly into the Gmail interface when logged in via a district account in a web browser.

This one-click reporting tool allows users to flag suspected phishing attempts (not spam) for review. Messages reported that are not part of the simulation are reviewed and blocked to prevent future delivery. A phishing simulation campaign has also been launched to reinforce awareness and support staff in identifying malicious emails. Participation and reporting accuracy are being tracked to inform future cybersecurity training.

#### **Instructional Software Review**

Three instructional software subscriptions were reviewed this month: Renaissance Accelerated Reader, Kami, and BrainPOP.

- Accelerated Reader will continue to be used in grades 3–5 as part of the district's reading program. Professional development sessions are being scheduled to support implementation.
- Kami, originally adopted during COVID-19 for digital PDF annotation, has seen reduced use as teachers have transitioned to other tools or traditional methods. The subscription was reduced this year and will likely conclude after the current school year.
- BrainPOP, previously funded by the Alaska Library System, is no longer supported at the state level. After reducing costs in other areas, the district has funded it for continued use in the elementary school, where it remains a teacher favorite and highly requested resource. The cost to the district is \$2,700 after a 67.07% discount (originally \$8,455).

Each software review involves collaboration among teachers, administration, finance, and vendors/educational partners to align resources with classroom needs and instructional priorities.

#### **Network Infrastructure Upgrade – Switch Installation**

The district is preparing for a network infrastructure upgrade scheduled for mid-November, pending the arrival of the final equipment. This project replaces switches installed initially in 2016–2017, modernizing both the core and edge networks to enhance reliability, performance, and long-term manageability.

The upgrade utilizes Ubiquiti network switches, funded in part through E-Rate Category 2 support. TechOps/SERRC, in coordination with the Technology Department, will complete installation, documentation, and testing. The on-site visit will also provide valuable hands-on professional development for Jakyle and me. Work is planned for Friday afternoon through the weekend to minimize classroom disruption.