

## **LPSD Technology Board Report**

*Sam Rigby - 10/7/21*

### **Tech Liaisons**

We have identified the need to have a staff member at each site to be a dedicated point of contact for troubleshooting technology issues. The technology team often needs on-site support outside of the school day as well as before and after the school year.

The job postings were sent out on 10/7 and will be closed on 10/14.

### **Internet**

*Why do all of our schools have the same bandwidth despite having various size enrollments?*

*Can we increase the bandwidth at our larger schools?*

LPSD's school internet is heavily subsidized by two programs: ERATE and the Alaska School Broadband Assistance Grants. ERATE essentially provides LPSD with a 90% discount on the total cost of internet service. The Alaska School Broadband Assistance Grant (BAG) program was created to cover the cost of increasing download bandwidth speed from 7mbps to 10mbps from 2014-2019, and to 25mbps in 2020 and forward.

The unsubsidized, annual cost for LPSD internet service is \$2,520,213.60. The monthly bill for each school would be \$16,641.28 at the current bandwidth. We pay less than 10% of that cost. The current speed of 25mbps is the max that is ERATE and BAG eligible. Additional bandwidth would be charged to us at full cost. Each additional 1mbps is billed at \$520/month. Doubling the bandwidth at one school would cost an extra \$156,000/year.

Until this year, there have not been any better or more affordable internet options available in our region of Alaska. However, the future looks promising as we are expecting access to new and disruptively priced internet options as soon as next year.