Petersburg School District Technology Department

Board Report – February 2025

Technology Infrastructure & Network Updates

- Over spring break, we installed four additional wireless access points (AP-535) to replace older AP-335 units, improving connectivity in the middle school, elementary school, and gym.

- Additional Ethernet cabling was installed in the middle school office and surrounding rooms to support high school office staff during the remodel. These connections ensure reliable device connectivity for computers, printers, and phones.

- Engaged with cybersecurity firm Solutionz as part of the Federal Fiscal Year 2022 State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCGP) to assess vulnerabilities and provide recommendations, including staff training on best practices. Solutionz has encountered issues scanning our network, and I have been working to install the scanning software to ensure reliable results.

We received four complete responses to our Form 470 proposal for the district-wide network switch upgrade under USAC Category 2. ITOutlet was awarded the project, and we have filed a Form 471 requesting funding. If funding is approved, the upgrade will be implemented during the 2025-26 school year.

Instructional Technology & Digital Learning

- Ongoing professional development and one-on-one time with teachers utilizing GoGuardian Teacher. This tool gives teachers greater access and control over student activity, maximizes instructional time, and enhances learning when students are online.

- Continued transition plan from IXL Math to Khan Academy Learning Paths for math instruction, leveraging MAP scores to personalize student learning. Full implementation is planned for the 2025-26 school year.

- Supporting staff in integrating Khanmigo, Khan Academy's AI-powered tutoring tool, to enhance individualized student learning experiences.

- During the April 21st in-service, the Technology Department will support the final training of Thrillshare Rooms, conduct an annual cybersecurity training, and provide time for teachers and staff to explore AI tools. This includes hands-on sessions with School AI, Khanmigo, and other platforms to foster collaboration and instructional integration.

- A few middle/high school teachers meet each Tuesday at lunch for an informal, optional 'Lunch and Learn' gathering. This allows teachers to explore AI tools, share insights, and discuss best practices for integrating technology into their classrooms.

Student & Staff Support

- Conducting a district-wide review of student devices to ensure assessment and instructional compatibility.

- Supporting ongoing cybersecurity awareness efforts among staff, reinforcing best practices for email security and phishing scam identification.

Upcoming Initiatives & Considerations

- A technology committee is being convened to discuss options for student devices. We will gather input from K-12 teachers, and details of the first meeting will be announced soon.

- Collaboration with Apple and several non-Apple vendors to provide information for discussions on the future of student devices, including the 1:1 program. This work includes pulling an inventory of currently used student devices, evaluating hardware and software needs for daily use, and assessing whether the hardware will support NWEA and AKStateSolutions testing.

- Further professional development opportunities for educators on AI integration and digital literacy.