

CAMPBELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

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Dr. Shelli Wilson, Superintendent | Adam Ritter, Assoc. Superintendent | Mark Krummen, Asst. Superintendent

February 27, 2024

Information Technology Oversight Committee:

Thank you for inviting Campbell County Schools to share our experience and learning.

In mid-November, our district became abruptly aware that we were victims of a cyberattack. We immediately worked within the district to secure our systems and mitigate impact. We communicated with law enforcement agencies, our insurance provider, a forensics team, and the Kentucky Department of Education to report the incident. While a cyberattack isn't visible to the outside eye, our district very much felt as upturned as one would after a natural disaster. This attack affected every department and building: HVAC, door access, wireless networks, communication systems, payroll, copying and printing, etc.

The forensics team assisted with next steps, through constant, daily contact with their expansive team, including legal advisors, to direct communication throughout the local and federal investigation. These supports were incredibly helpful, but we did face challenges as this group was geographically distant and disconnected from our community's needs. This brings us to several learnings from the event and tasks that followed.

While it took several months to respond, process, and recover, we are now in a position to reflect on how to proactively move forward, sharing our experiences to assist others in prevention and response. Needs we've recognized for K-12 institutions in Kentucky; the necessity for a cyberattack response team available to immediately assist in-person with investigation and communication protocol, annual antivirus (Trellix) training, frequent DNS examination and reports provided to district CIOs, and funds for K-12 appropriate audits. (For context, a quote received was \$14,000 a week, for an estimated 3 weeks.)

I am optimistic that this information can be helpful to other districts and to your committee. Please feel free to contact me at any time if we can be of assistance as you move forward with projects.

Sincerely,



Dr. Shelli L. Wilson, Superintendent of Campbell County Schools