

# Anaconda Public School District

## Case Study

---

### How Anaconda School District used Pine Cove Consulting's Innovative Technology to Improve Education and Efficiency

Pine Cove Consulting implemented an enterprise level wireless infrastructure, a VOIP phone system, Chromebooks for the students, and cyber-security protection.



Contact:  
[www.pinecc.com](http://www.pinecc.com)  
[sales@pinecc.com](mailto:sales@pinecc.com)

# Introduction

---

## Superintendent Message

---



*Gerry Nolan, Superintendent  
Anaconda Public Schools*

“The new system installed by Pine Cove ensures that the 500+ new devices the Board has added in the past two years can all function at their maximum capacity. To have the devices but not the network to support them would be foolish. The Board of Trustees has demonstrated great vision and commitment in supporting our students with both the devices and the network that help make the Anaconda School District a 21st century school and a great place to learn.”

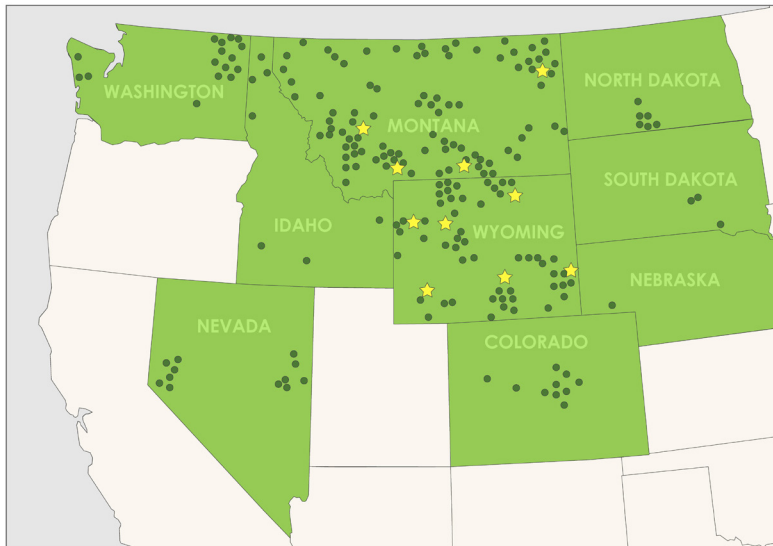
Located in southwestern Montana, in Deer Lodge County, Anaconda is home to more than 9,000 Montanans. Central to the community, is the public school district which includes Anaconda High School, Fred Moody Intermediate, and Lincoln Primary School. Although a smaller community, the school board and superintendent have big ideas when it comes to implementation of technology in their schools.

Gerry Nolan took over as Superintendent for Anaconda School District in March 2015. Having previously worked with Pine Cove Consulting as the Superintendent and Curriculum Director for Fremont County School District in Dubois, WY, Gerry knew Pine Cove could help him in his desire to make Anaconda public schools a 21st century school and great place to learn.

Gerry began working with Pine Cove to implement an enterprise level wireless system, Chromebooks for the students, a VOIP phone system, and cyber-security protection. This case study highlights the process and outcome of this upgrade.

# About Us

## Pine Cove Consulting



● Client ★ Pine Cove Employees/Office locations

## Where We Work

We work with businesses, government agencies, and educational institutions across the rocky mountain region. We have employees stationed across the region ready to assess and address your technological needs.

Visit  
[www.pinecc.com](http://www.pinecc.com)

## The Pine Cove Process

We are dedicated to providing our clients the very best that technology has to offer. We personalize our services for each individual client by completing a comprehensive assessment which involves:

- Assessing your current technology
- Defining ways your technology could improve
- Reviewing all technology service and solution possibilities
- Implementing a solution that works for you

## Our Solutions



Cyber-Security



Communication



Infrastructure

## Technical Background

- 30,056 Malicious attacks stopped every day
- 20,103 Users currently supported
- 2,527 Wireless access point installations
- 2,008 Server configurations/installations

## Contact Us

[Sales@pinecc.com](mailto:Sales@pinecc.com)  
[pinecc.com/contact](http://pinecc.com/contact)



# Case Study

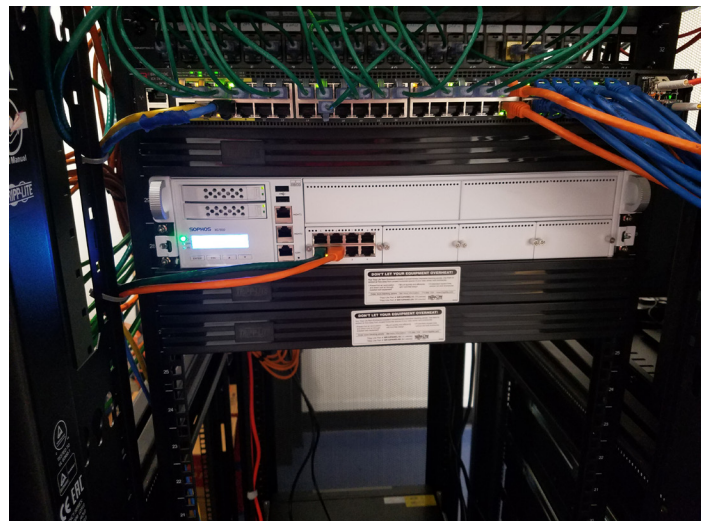
## The Story

Having been newly hired on at Anaconda Public School District as Superintendent, Gerry Nolan had big ideas for the district. Gerry inherited a school district whose technology was lacking. Specifically, the technology infrastructure consisted of switches that were off warranty and sometimes had to be restarted multiple times in a day, connections to the internet were known to drop frequently, and the phone system provided users with less than desirable connection. It was safe to say the technology infrastructure was not quite reliable. They were in a dilemma because they needed to replace their technology while on a tight budget.

Gerry reached out to Pine Cove Consulting to assist in developing a master plan that would improve the technology while securing the key assets, all under a tight budget. Pine Cove worked with Gerry and the school board to ensure that all the technology needs were being met. Specifically, Pine Cove and the school district laid out a plan to implement technology solutions which included:

- Enterprise level wireless infrastructure
- Chromebooks
- New switches
- VOIP phone system
- Cyber-security protection.

“Pine Cove helped with the visioning, planning and implementation. In short, they guided us every step of the way. What they did best was to listen and respond to our wants and needs.”



The process began with ensuring the technology infrastructure was in place to handle all of the demand from the school district. Following the transition to enterprise level wireless technology, the school district was able to transition from their PC environment to a web-based Chromebook environment which will save the school district hundreds of thousands of dollars in the coming years. We were also able to save the school district money by implementing a web-based VOIP phone system which eliminated the phone bill for the whole district.

# Case Study Cont.

## The Story Cont.

With the addition of the wireless infrastructure, Chromebooks, and cloud-based VOIP phones, the school district was using technology significantly more in the classroom and for administrative purposes. Both Pine Cove and the school district realized they needed to secure this data. Pine Cove implemented a complete cyber-security suite and a next-gen firewall which protected the whole district from their servers to their endpoints.

This whole process has propelled Anaconda School District into becoming one of the state's most technology savvy and secure districts. Pine Cove Consulting and Anaconda School District are eagerly looking forward to future projects together to further improve the technology landscape and improve the education as a result.

"The professionals at Pine Cove helped us design and work through a process that allowed us to upgrade pretty quickly, but also in a very sustainable way. Pine Cove helped us create a vision for where we wanted to be and then develop a pathway to get there in a fashion that is sustainable."



# Q & A with Gerry

Q: What was the purpose for this IT initiative?

---

A: In a big picture sense it was to upgrade rather old and ineffective systems to transform ASD 10 technologically into a 21st century school. There are so many great learning opportunities for our students that are available through the internet, we just wanted to make them available to our students and staff. The network and WIFI upgrade made our connection to the outside world efficient and elegant while the Chromebooks put that power into the hands of our students and staff.

Q: What was the process for implementation?

---

A: The professionals at Pine Cove helped us design and work through a process that allowed us to upgrade pretty quickly, but also in a very sustainable way. Pine Cove helped us create a vision for where we wanted to be and then develop a pathway to get there in a fashion that is sustainable. When we began we were so far behind it was a bit scary. We had an antiquated system running a bunch of ancient computers. Within two years we have been able to totally upgrade our systems and while putting over 500 state of the art Chromebooks into the hands of our students and staff.

Q: What impact has this had on your school?

---

A: Our students and staff now have unfettered access to the wonderful on-line products and services that are offered by virtually every text book company along with other services such as Achieve 3000, the Khan Academy, and so much more. The result has been a more robust, dynamic and engage learning culture for students and staff alike.

Q: How did Pine Cove assist in this initiative?

---

A: Pine Cove helped with the visioning, planning and implementation. In short, they guided us every step of the way. What they did best was to listen and respond to our wants and needs. We now have the systems we desired along with the products and services we were seeking access to. Pine Cove also helped us with financing these purchases over the long term so that we have a very level technology budget going forward. The transformation that our district has gone through over the past two years has been truly amazing. Pine Cove was one stop shopping for us. The helped us vision, plan, implement, and finance a technological transformation in less than two years.



