

CASE STUDY

Building Safety and Community Confidence:

Big Horn County School District #3 Partnered with Pine Cove and Verkada

Big Horn County School District #3 (BHCS D #3) in rural Wyoming faced a challenge familiar to many small districts: one technology director managing multiple buildings with outdated security systems. Safety concerns were growing, yet the IT resources to address them were limited.

With Pine Cove acting as an extension of its IT team and Verkada's flexible, cloud-based platform, the district modernized cameras, access control, and intercoms — creating a system that is simple to manage, trusted by staff, and reassuring for the community.

The result: safer schools, stronger communication, and confidence for everyone from the superintendent to the parents dropping their kids off each morning.



About Big Horn County School District #3

BHCS D #3 serves about 500 students across elementary, middle, and high schools. Like many rural districts, it operates with lean staff, tight budgets, and the responsibility of keeping every student safe.

Technology Director Julie Tracy is a team of one. For her, technology is not just about devices and dashboards — it's about protecting children and giving teachers and parents peace of mind.



I don't have a tech department — I have Pine Cove. They're my team, my go-to experts, and they make it possible for me to manage all of this on my own."

— Julie Tracy

The Challenge

When Julie took stock of the district's systems, the risks were clear:

- 1 Outdated cameras made it hard to identify incidents quickly.
- 2 Aging intercom system left staff without modern, reliable communication.
- 3 No central management, forcing Julie to manually juggle multiple systems.
- 4 One-person IT department meant solutions had to be simple, scalable, and trustworthy.

For the board, staff, and parents, these weren't just IT issues — they were student safety issues.

Pine Cove: Extending the IT Team

Julie had long relied on Pine Cove, but at Big Horn their role became even more critical. As her "team of experts," Pine Cove:

- ✓ Provided strategic guidance on which solutions would meet today's safety needs and scale for tomorrow.
- ✓ Took on the heavy lifting of deployment, so Julie didn't have to do it alone.
- ✓ Served as an on-call department, giving her confidence she could handle challenges with backup.

The Solution: Verkada's Flexible, Unified Platform

With Pine Cove's support, Julie rolled out Verkada's cloud-based platform across the district. Verkada provided:



High-quality cameras: Reliable, clear footage accessible to administrators and, when needed, law enforcement.



Access control: Secure, easy entry for staff — eliminating the risk of outdated door systems.



Modern intercoms and vape sensors: Clear communication tools and proactive safety measures integrated into the same system.



Single dashboard management: Cameras, doors, and communication tools all in one place, saving countless hours for a one-person IT team.

Results & Community Impact

- 1 Safer schools:** Administrators and staff trust the system to keep students protected, and law enforcement has reliable access when needed.
- 2 Improved daily life:** Teachers and staff communicate more easily, parents know safety is prioritized, and students learn in a secure environment.
- 3 Efficiency for IT:** One technology director can manage it all from a single dashboard — no extra servers or complex setups required.
- 4 Future-ready:** The district can expand capabilities as grants and funding become available, without overburdening staff.
- 5 Community trust:** "The biggest change is peace of mind. I know our schools are safer, and I know I can manage it without being overwhelmed."
— Julie Tracy



What I love about Verkada is the flexibility. Cameras, intercoms, vape sensors — it's all in one place, easy to manage, and I can expand as the district grows."

— Julie Tracy

Lessons Learned



Partnership matters: For small districts, a trusted partner like Pine Cove is essential.



Flexibility reduces risk: Verkada's all-in-one platform simplifies management and adapts to changing needs.



Technology should empower people: From parents to principals, safety tools should strengthen trust, not add complexity.

Conclusion

Big Horn County School District #3 demonstrates that even small districts can achieve enterprise-grade safety with the right partner and platform.

By leaning on Pine Cove as her "team of experts" and choosing Verkada for its flexibility, Julie Tracy turned outdated systems into a secure, unified foundation. The outcome isn't just better technology — it's a stronger, safer community where students can learn with confidence, parents can trust the schools, and staff can focus on teaching, not troubleshooting.