MINOOKA COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

High Expectations and Continuous Improvement for All

To: Dr. Robert Schiffbauer, Board of Education
From: Jamie Soliman
Date: November 18, 2026
Subject: November Board Report

School Improvement Team Updates

The School Improvement Team met on October 27 to review staff outings and idea box submissions. Staff outings are a way to get staff together outside the classroom setting. This year, we hosted a food prep party after school in the new culinary arts lab and made chiles rellenos. Additionally, we have invited staff to sign up for a line dancing lesson. The idea box is a way for staff to submit suggestions on how to improve MCHS, including anything from student involvement, to increased communication, to professional development opportunities for teachers. Staff members submit ideas, and the school improvement team explores how to accomplish them, if possible.

Student Group Meetings

In the past month, I met with the Student-Principal Committee groups at both campuses. The South Student-Principal members discussed positives and challenges to the new Math and English skinny classes. The top two positives were that students liked the shorter classes and felt the topics stayed fresh because they practice every day. The top two challenges were adjusting to daily homework and having less in-class time to complete assignments.

The Central Student-Principal members discussed the positives and challenges to limited cell phone use in the classroom and the potential schedule change. Overwhelmingly, the students reported being more focused, on task, and productive without their cell phones. However, they noted the challenge of someone not being able to reach them in an emergency. Regarding the potential new schedule, they felt a positive outcome would be better material retention due to repetition, while the possible loss of a flex schedule and an increased homework load would be their biggest struggles.

Senior Assembly

On October 27 a Senior Assembly was held for all senior students. At the assembly, students received information from Brian Walters (Jostens) regarding graduation, ordering their cap and gown, and deadlines for turning in paperwork. Mr. Wikoff and I offered words of encouragement for seniors to finish the year strong!

Veterans Day Assembly

On November 11, we held a Veterans Day breakfast celebration and assembly at both campuses. Approximately 100 veterans and family members from our community joined us for this celebration. Our assembly included a welcome and introduction of our veterans, recognition of each branch of the military, an MCHS choir performance, thank you letters read by Interact members (MCHS students wrote over 640 letters this year), and "Taps" played by students Trinity Shelby and Sophia Bailey. Students Grace Metke and Keaton Kapellas (Student Council President and Vice President) did an amazing job as emcees of the event! Thank you to Aubrey Knight and Hillary Holden for organizing this program.