



MINOOKA

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

District #111 mchs.net

*Mission: Strengthen **M**astery, **C**ollaboration, **H**igh Expectations, and **S**uccess for All Students.*

James Kelly
Director of Technology

Date: 03/14/2025

To: Board of Education
Dr. Robert Schiffbauer

RE: E-Rate Network Upgrade (Both Campuses)

To the Board of Education,

We propose a critical technology infrastructure upgrade at our South and Central campuses, focusing on replacing aging network switches and expanding connectivity to the new CTE and Field House buildings. The current network switches, now 6-8 years old, are reaching the end of their reliable service life. Upgrading these devices at this time aligns with our district's 5-year technology plan (attached), ensuring both campuses remain on the same replacement cycle. Modernizing our network infrastructure will improve connectivity, reliability, and security while supporting the increasing demands of digital learning and administrative operations. This proactive approach will prevent future performance issues and costly emergency replacements.

To maximize cost efficiency, we plan to leverage E-Rate funding through the Universal Service Administrative Co. (USAC) under the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This program can cover up to 40% of the project costs, significantly reducing the financial burden on the district. We have already taken the first step in the E-Rate process by filing Form 470 and gathering bids from multiple vendors. The equipment will cost about \$278,180 before the E-Rate reimbursement (Up to about \$111,400) and configuration services cost roughly \$13,200. At the April Board of Education meeting, we would like to take the next step by approving the bid that best fits the needs of our district. It is important to move forward now, as this summer marks the final year of the current E-Rate funding cycle, and federal budget cuts indicate that similar funding may not be available in the future.

Investing in this infrastructure upgrade now ensures that our students, teachers, and staff benefit from a robust, future-ready network supporting modern educational technology. The improved network will enhance digital learning, streamline administrative efficiency, and provide a strong foundation for future technological advancements. We urge the Board to approve this proposal at the upcoming meeting so we can move forward with securing funding and implementing these necessary improvements.