



# MINOOKA

## COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

District #111 [mchs.net](http://mchs.net)

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

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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 covers up to 40% of project costs, significantly reducing the financial burden on the district. We have already initiated the E-Rate process by filing Form 470 and soliciting bids from multiple vendors. The total equipment cost is approximately \$278,180, with potential E-Rate reimbursement of up to \$111,272. Configuration services will cost \$19,706.20. After evaluating bids, we propose selecting SHI International, which offers the best solution for our district's future needs while remaining fiscally responsible. Moving forward now is crucial, as this summer marks the final year of the current E-Rate funding cycle, and federal budget cuts may limit future opportunities..

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.

The total Equipment cost is \$278,180, with financing from American Capital at \$75,169 per year over 4 years with payments beginning in July 2025. Configuration services will cost \$19,706.20 for a one-time payment in July 2025. After completing the project, MCHS will seek E-Rate reimbursement for up to \$111,272.

The installation of this project will take place during the Summer of 2025.

If the foregoing is acceptable to the Board of Education, the following would be an appropriate motion

**“Motion to approve the SHI International proposal for Equipment and Configuration services for \$297,886, with E-Rate reimbursement available upon project completion.”**