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DISTRICT OFFICE

To Whom It May Concern,

We the custodial staff at Minico High School have been given an opportunity to voice our opinions as to why we feel that a rotating schedule would or would not be a positive change in our school. I am grateful for the opportunity to share my concern with those involved with this final decision. I understand that you have been considering these changes for quite some time to help resolve a great deal of stress on our parts and also to reduce the overtime hours on behalf of the custodial staff at Minico.

I took this job a few years ago due to some misfortune of event that occurred within my family. But, over time have learned to grow to love my job due to the fact that I have had some wonderful staff members, students and visitors stopped me and said, "Thank you." I have come to learn that what I do is important and very helpful for my teachers and students I serve. It makes me feel good when I get done cleaning a classroom, bathroom, or other area of the school when I turn around one last time and see a neat and tidy room before turning out the lights and shutting the door. Don't get me wrong it's not easy work and it takes a lot of time each and every night to make sure everything is clean and tidy especially in my assigned area (west end of the school to the gym all the tech building, shops art rooms etc..) which consists of very large rooms lot of dirty equipment. Most nights I must clean off equipment, sweep, and mop, take out the trash, and vacuum (where is needed in), each room/hallway so that my teachers can resume with their lessons the next day and then I make sure that my bathroom are shiny clean and smell good for use the next day as well. This is a lot of stressful work to get done within 6 hours of time so that I can on a normal evening, which doesn't happen often at Minico, help clean the gym, the mulita purpose building and hallways each night.

Minico is known as the school that never sleeps and that is so true and I feel that if we are reduced to a small cleaning staff (on a good night we have all 7 custodians) but as of lately we have been working with as few as 4 people due to illness and injuries. Most people don't understand that among our staff of 7 we have at least 3 on lite duty and some night we are all struggling with great aches and pains in all our joints, hands, and feet due to hard work and limited time to get the school cleaned and in orderly fashion for the next day's activities. On a quiet night (HaHaHa!!!) it's fairly easy with a limited staff to get the all the school and out building that tend to get forgotten such as field house, football stadium, multipurpose building, and parking lots, and soon baseball building cleaned in less than 8 hours. But, if you factor in all the activities such as concerts via Minico, middle schools and element schools, sporting event, outside sporting groups activities and practice (youth baseball, basketball, wrestling), as well as afterschool club activities, plays etc... (That doesn't usually get over until after 8-9 o'clock at night.) add that much more work that need to get before we go home at 11:30 at night.

I don't feel that as a custodial staff member a rotating schedule would help reduce the level of stress each night, reduce overtime hours, and reduce injuries due to pushing our bodies past the breaking point to get so much done in a short amount of time. It is my opinion that a couple more custodial staff members should be add to work part-time (come in after 8-9 p.m. and pitch in on busy nights and weekend activities) especially nights during large activity game night, plays, concert, craft fairs etc.. to help clean up these additional areas so late at night.

I am not fond of losing my weekends to having to go in and work. I am a mother with kids at home and a grandma and like to spend time with my kids and grandkids. I travel out of town on many weekends during the fall, spring, and summer, time to help take care of grandkids while their parents are busy planting and harvesting crops.

I also use my Saturdays to work on my college homework and if I have to work it will reduce my studying time.

If we have to work with less people each night the school will not stay as clean and organize during the week. I will get burned out fast physically, mentally, as well as emotionally if my area don't get clean and tidy each and every night.

I feel that if we have to reduce our cleaning to just trash, sweeping somewhat, spot mopping and vacuuming each night our school will get dirtier and dirtier beyond a simple cleaning job which will add to stress causing more injuries and mental breakdowns.

It would not be fair to the 2 workers on Saturday to do all the extra cleaning throughout the whole school that couldn't get down during the week. It would also not be beneficial or less stressful that if on Saturday daytime activities such as

Red Halverson, Idaway, and Youth basketball to keep up with the extra cleaning as well as keeping up with the trash, bathrooms, and spills during the activities.

I also feel if we have to reduce our cleaning our staff and students will be sick more often than they are now. I think we will become one of the schools that have a higher rate of skin diseases such as ringworm, impetigo, and staff infections.

Let's be honest reducing and rotating the custodial staff would not be a good idea for the cleanliness of our school. We get great compliment now from our staff, students, and visitor for having and maintaining a clean school.

It wouldn't be beneficial for the health and safety of our staff and students. It will cause more stress to the custodial staff which will increase our physical, mental, and emotional breakdowns.

I think we have done a pretty good job with our limited staff and staff on lite duty keeping up with the cleaning overall even though we are getting very tired and burned out. Please don't forget the many extra hours we have put in this year during early morning hours and evening hours shoveling tons and tons of heavy wet snow for the safety of our students, staff and visitors.

If you truly want to help: add a couple more part-time workers to help with cleaning the outside (parking lots, football stadium etc...) duties and extra buildings (mult-purpose building, baseball building etc...) each night especially on busy nights and weekends.

Thank you for your time reading my letter of concerns about the rotating schedule this coming school year. If you have any comments or questions don't hesitate to call or email me.

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