



Minooka Community Consolidated School
District # 201

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Minooka Elementary School
400 Coady Drive
Minooka, IL 60447
Principal - Mrs. Natalie Baxter
Asst. Principal – Mrs. Teresa Miller
Phone: (815) 467-2261
Fax: (815) 467-1323

Minooka Intermediate School
321 West McEvilly Road
Minooka, IL 60447
Principal - Mr. Harold King
Asst. Principal – Mrs. Tiffany Staab
Asst. Principal – Mrs. Ciara Petrussek
Phone: (815) 467-4692
Fax: (815) 467-3120

Aux Sable Elementary School
1004 Misty Creek Drive
Minooka, IL 60447
Principal – Mr. Sam Martin
Asst. Principal – Mrs. Teresa Miller
Phone: (815) 467-5301
Fax: (815) 467-2166

Walnut Trails Elementary School
301 Wynstone Drive
Shorewood, IL 60404
Principal - Mrs. Kathleen Cheshareck
Phone: (815) 725-9360
Fax: (815) 725-9366

Jones Elementary School
800 Barbary Way
Joliet, IL 60431
Principal – Mr. Rodney Hiser
Phone: (815) 290-7100
Fax: (815) 290-7120

Minooka Junior High School
333 W. Mc Evilly Road
Minooka, IL 60447
Principal – Mr. DJ Skogsberg
Asst. Principal - Mrs. Jeana Pekol
Asst. Principal/AD–MAJ (Ret.) Wm. Geasa
Phone: (815) 467-2136
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February 2, 2010

Dear Parents and Community Members,

Gossip and misinformation is always difficult to battle; but it is even more difficult to battle when you hear it repeated by your friends and neighbors in your own home town. Recently there are rumors circulating the community that indicate that the district is in a "dire" financial situation and the district is planning to address the "crisis" by cutting programs offered to our students and increasing class sizes dramatically in our schools. None of these rumors are true.

In fact, the district recently received (for the fourth year in a row) the state of Illinois' highest financial designation, Recognition. The Recognition designation is a result of the district's efficient use of taxpayer dollars; this can be evidenced by the districts very low per pupil operating expense (\$6,575/student compared to the Illinois average of \$10,417/student). We also have the lowest per pupil operating expense in the area (Source: 2009 Illinois School Report Card). Our low per pupil operating expense is reflective of how hard our staff works.

We do have a problem and the problem seems to be the source of the rumors. We have projected financial deficits that will not go away by ignoring them. The Board of Education and the district's Finance Committee has been studying ways to resolve this issue. Their goal was to create a deficit reduction plan that would not impair the high quality academic programs offered in the district and we believe that we have created a plan that will resolve most of our financial problems in the coming year.

The plan has not been approved yet, but will be discussed further by the Board and Finance Committee this month. The plan was developed and discussed in public meetings of the Finance Committee and the Board of Education. The plan does not eliminate any regular classroom teacher positions. The plan does limit the district to one Social Worker per school, instead of the current one and one-half per school the district is maintaining. The plan also involves making cuts to Fine Arts/PE staff, but this will not impact Fine Arts (weekly) or PE (daily) instruction; we will use our staff more efficiently. The deficit reduction plan does not cut one minute of Fine Arts or PE instruction to any student in the district.

The plan does reduce some of the regular education teacher aides in our schools, but maintains regular education teacher aides serving students in our buildings; each teacher aide will serve at least two grade levels and will have a similar "workload" as was experienced in the 2008-2009 school year. Last year we added two Teacher Associates to each of the schools (twelve total district-wide), in an effort to support students associated with the RtI program. They are doing tremendous things with our students. The plan keeps ten of the Teacher Associates and eliminates four of the Teacher Aides associated with the RtI program.

There are a few other aspects of the deficit reduction plan, but none of them impair the district's curriculum and instruction. We are no different than other surrounding school districts that have been affected by the poor local economy. I was quoted in the paper nearly two years ago stating that schools will feel the effects of the economy, but it will be slightly delayed because we receive money primarily from property taxpayers and property tax bills are based on the value of the property two years prior (2010 tax bills are based on the value of property in 2008). When the economy improves, the increase financially to the district will be delayed for the same reason.

As always I am available by email (agegenheimer@min201.org) or by phone, if you have any further questions or concerns.

Respectfully,


Al Gegenheimer

We work best when we work together!

Our mission in Minooka Community Consolidated School District # 201 is to provide each child in the community with a safe, caring learning environment that addresses the educational needs and potential of each student in a manner that encourages lifelong learning.