



MINOOKA

COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

MEDIA RELEASE

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Minooka Community High School Creates Diversity Committee and Training Initiative

(Minooka) – Based on the feedback from students, faculty, and members of the community, Minooka Community High School (MCHS) has taken steps in creating a Diversity Committee, along with a training initiative for staff and administrators.

After the May 21, 2019 MCHS Board of Education meeting, MCHS Board President, Mike Brozovich, released a statement saying in part, “We further vow to work with our students, staff, and our community on initiatives including training and programs to ensure that all are welcome in our schools.” The training Mr. Brozovich was referring to came in the form of Mr. Troy Cicero, President and Chief Skill Officer, of MulticultuREAL. Mr. Cicero spent time with the MCHS Board of Education in a training session called - Diversity and Inclusion: Awareness, Application, and Accountability.

Mr. Cicero then spent 2 hours during the first day of the 2019 MCHS Teacher Institute in a training session with teachers, staff, and administration providing the same message that was delivered to the Board of Education.

“The Board of Education was impressed and appreciated all they gained from Mr. Cicero,” stated MCHS Superintendent, Dr. Kenny Lee. “We learned a lot about our own perceptions and how we will apply that knowledge on a day-to-day basis. This was an introspective, and enlightening, moment in our personal and professional lives. It was also rewarding to see the entire staff being so engaged during the teacher institute day,” continued Dr. Lee.

The MCHS diversity committee will continue to take the pulse of the school community regarding all aspects of diversity. The committee will include members of the staff, community, and students. MCHS Board members Deirdra Crye and Dustin Heap have volunteered to serve on the committee. Other members of the committee will include various MCHS stakeholders.

MCHS will also continue the T.A.L.K. Day program for students and staff. T.A.L.K. Day stands for **T**eens **A**ctivating the **L**anguage of **K**indness. The program was created by Oswego High School, and was introduced to MCHS during the 2017/18 school year. MCHS presented it to the students in both fall and spring of the 2018/19 school year. The goals of the program are to

break down barriers between peer groups, enhance empathetic behavior, encourage healthy choices, and promote cohesiveness.

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