

**Subject:** Fwd: Discussion Items  
**From:** Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>  
**Date:** 2/21/2024, 9:59 AM  
**To:** School Board <schoolboard@mokena159.org>

Board - Above are some emails this morning from Kelli and Julie. My email last night was meant to ensure all board members were aware of discussions at the meeting so they could prepare appropriately.

Community Engagement - Kelli has noted that she wants this to be the start of a discussion based on the workshop. Please bring ideas for discussion. Thanks for clarifying Kelli. Should be a good discussion.

Board Policy - Julie and Kelli feel we approved the format at November's meeting others disagree. I would like to agree on the format tonight so we can move forward.

Regards

Eric

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Kelli MacMillan <[macmillank@mokena159.org](mailto:macmillank@mokena159.org)>  
**Date:** Wed, Feb 21, 2024 at 7:51 AM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Discussion Items  
**To:** Eric Bush <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)>, Mark Cohen <[cohenm@mokena159.org](mailto:cohenm@mokena159.org)>

I am guessing we are all struggling with the volume of recent emails, as am I. We are going around and around which is hard to track. I find myself asking something then needing to re-ask or remind or resend, which is time consuming and difficult. Some of my emails are not getting any response, which creates a second email follow up. Sometimes responses are incomplete or unclear which causes another email for clarification. It would be helpful if we all took a little more time to ensure we are making real progress in our correspondence.

Eric,  
Please see below in [Blue](#) responses to your items 1-3.

Also, I've requested two additional items be added for discussion for today's meeting that have been brought to you, but have not been added for discussion. Can you please update the board on the following items 4 and 5 as well:

#### **#4 Board Agenda structure**

Here is a list of the many emails I sent requesting the "revised Board of Education meeting structure" be added to the 2/21/24 meeting agenda for board of education discussion. The topic was not added to the agenda by Mark or Eric despite requests from multiple board members. You can see how many times I've had to follow up, which adds a lot of unnecessary noise. It remains outstanding.

Eric and Mark – how do you determine which topics are added to the agenda based on BOE member request versus not added to the agenda?

1. 2/12/24 11:24am email responding to Mark, cc: Eric
2. 2/15/24 5:39pm email to Mark and Eric
3. 2/15/24 9:13pm email to Eric
4. 2/15/24 10:41pm email to Eric
5. 2/16/23 6:23am email to Eric and Mark
6. 2/16/24 2:38pm email to Eric
7. 2/17/24 1:44pm email to Eric & board members

#### **#5 MTA Settlement agreement**

Here is a list of the many emails I sent requesting the "MTA Settlement Agreement" be removed from the consent items and added to the agenda so that it can be discussed. Currently, it is not removed from the consent agenda, nor have we addressed how / when it can be discussed. I also questioned public recitals on the topic. You can see how these many follow up emails add unnecessary noise. It also remains outstanding.

Eric & Mark - can you please explain to the board of education how the two of you determine which topics are worthy of removing from the consent agenda upon a board member request versus not? You did this when I requested the closed session minutes be moved but you did not do it for this item.

1. 2/16/24 4:10pm email to Eric and Mark
2. 2/17/24 1:44pm emails to Eric & board members
3. 2/19/24 9:39am email to Eric and Mark
4. 2/20/24 6:58am email to Eric and Mark
5. 2/20/24 4:08pm email to Eric and Mark
6. 2/20/24 8:54pm email to Eric and Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Eric Bush** <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)>

Date: Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 10:24 PM

Subject: Discussion Items

To: School Board <[schoolboard@mokena159.org](mailto:schoolboard@mokena159.org)>

Board - I am aware of the following discussion items for Wednesday's meeting:

1. Closed Session Minutes - Anna and Lisa can provide an update on the process. We will also discuss Kelli's multiple requests for access to closed session recordings and minutes.
2. Community Engagement - Kelli requested this item, but I haven't seen or heard about what topics will be covered. Thus, I don't know where this discussion will go.

Eric, you helped organize a workshop where the board agreed member questions on the board packet would be submitted to the Mark by 12 noon on Monday. If you were unclear on this agenda topic, why did you wait until 10:24pm the night before our meeting to ask instead of following the protocol we'd agreed to?

During the same session, the board agreed to identify more ways to connect with our community. We agreed to have that as a "next step". Please tell me what specifically you need more information on so that you are prepared to participate in this discussion.

Here is my request on 2/12/24:

Dr. Cohen / Mr Bush,

Another thing to add to the February agenda for BOE discussion:

- Board of Education public engagement / outreach opportunities and possibilities (follow up to our workshop).

Here is a list of the emails you received that included the topic:

1. 2/12/23 2:51pm original request to Mark and Eric
2. 2/15/23 8:17pm email from Mark to Board confirmed topic has been added to agenda.
3. 2/16/24 3:22pm full board packet including agenda from Cathy Hite

3. Board Policy Committee - I have two Board members questioning why I sent out three options for the committee while we have four members who don't think we agreed on the committee's structure going forward. We will discuss and determine the will of the Board so we can move forward with this committee.

Eric, did you look at the November agenda / minutes? See below minutes and supporting document showing what the board voted in favor of the committee proposed by Julie, "as presented".

**Kelli MacMillan** <macmillank@mokena159.org>

Tue, Feb 20, 2:18 PM (10 hours ago)



to Eric ▾

Eric,

I don't understand this email. Why are you presenting option 2 and 3?

The BOE has already taken action on the policy committee back in November according to what Julie presented. At this point, you need to appoint the chair at our meeting tomorrow and maybe we can agree to a first meeting date.

Can you or Lisa please send us a document showing how the Finance Committee functions as you've referenced above as option 3? Where is this held?

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0**

#### **VII. I. Board Policy Review Committee**

##### **Recommended Motion:**

Mrs. Oost recommended that the Board of Education create a Board Policy Review Committee as presented; motion was seconded by Mrs. Briscoe.

##### **On Roll Call**

Ayes: Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mr. Bush, Mrs. MacMillan, Mrs. Oost, Mrs. Tunney, Mrs. Zielinski

Nays: None

Abstain: None

**MOTION CARRIED: 7-0-0**

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: Board Members  
FROM: Julie Oost  
DATE: October 17, 2023  
SUBJECT: Outline of Standing Board Committee Additions

Standing Committee Additions	Participants	Meeting Schedule	Goal/Work Product
<b>Board Policy Committee</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Board members, two of which would serve as Chair and Vice Chair</li><li>- Parent/Community input received via the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee and/or surveys</li></ul>	<p>First review and work product - monthly</p> <p>After the initial review and product produced - quarterly or twice yearly (e.g., Fall and Spring)</p>	<p>Review the D.159 policies and PRESS revisions.</p> <p>Written memo outlining the change(s), reason for change(s), recommendation</p>
<b>Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee (see note below)</b>	<p>At least one parent and one teacher from each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- MES</li><li>- MIS</li><li>- MJHS</li><li>- SELF</li><li>- Special services</li><li>- Open to public</li></ul>	Quarterly or as needed, especially if there is a special project	<p>Review and provide input on topics as needed, including the Parent - Student Handbook</p> <p>Address Behavioral Interventions Committee duties as needed (allowed per 2:150)</p>

**Background:**

Pursuant to Section 2:150 of the Mokena School District 159 policies, the School Board may establish standing and special board committees. Special committees are temporary in nature and are dissolved after issuing its final report to the Board. Standing committees have an indefinite term and currently include the following:

1. Board Policy Committee
2. Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee
3. Behavioral Interventions Committee
4. Finance Committee

**Standing committees:**

1. must adhere to OMA;
2. Make recommendations and cannot take any final action on behalf of the Board;
3. Report directly to the Board; and
4. May include both Board members and non-Board members (depending on the committee's purpose).

**Note:** Per Dr. Cohen, the current "Parent Advisory Committee" is the Board's "Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee" and teachers are not interested in participating, which is likely why it is called a Parent Advisory committee. The Parent Advisory Committee has not followed OMA and limits participation to two Board members.

Regards,

Eric