


**Subject:** Fwd: Discussion Items  
**From:** Julie Oost <oostj@mokena159.org>  
**Date:** 2/21/2024, 7:36 AM  
**To:** Kelli MacMillan <macmillank@mokena159.org>

Board, I am really trying to show some sense of unity to our community. Below are screenshots of when we voted on the formation of the policy committee along with Eric's email with the edits that he said would get it passed. We discussed and voted in favor. My memo simply puts the agreed-upon structure on paper and then suggests next steps along with IASB recommended timelines and templates. I would really like to avoid another argument that truly can be avoided. What exactly is the problem other than the sense that it is has my name on it?

Julie Oost  
Board Member  
Mokena School District 159  


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

**From:** Julie Oost <[oostj@mokena159.org](mailto:oostj@mokena159.org)>  
**Date:** Wed, Feb 21, 2024 at 7:12 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Discussion Items  
**To:** Eric Bush <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)>

Here is a screenshot where I first presented the committees plus your email with your suggested edits.



## Custom Minutes for October 18, 2023 at 7:45 PM - Regular Meeting

## October 18, 2023 at 7:45 PM - Regular Meeting Version 1

October 18 2023.docx

thank you to District 159 who prepared those students. Mrs. MacMillan congratulated all the National Honor Society students, parents and teachers. Mrs. Oost thanked the parents who spoke tonight, congratulated the NHS recipients, and thanked the MTA for having teachers provide updates.

**V. DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Oost shared her proposal for a Board Policy Committee and a Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee. Mrs. MacMillan shared her proposal for a Board of Education Safety Committee and a Board of Education Enrichment Committee. Discussion was had and questions were asked and answered. These committees will become action items at the November 15<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

**VI. INFORMATION REPORTS**

**VI. A. SUPERINTENDENT – Dr. Cohen**

- Enrollment – As of October 3<sup>rd</sup>, the district has an enrollment of 1,555 students. An additional 18 students from other schools are housed in the Mokena schools through District 843's SELF Program. Dr. Cohen shared a historical breakdown of enrollment by grade level. The district's enrollment has been stable between 1,500 and 1,600 students for the last 8 years.
- MES Playground construction is coming along, although it is behind schedule due to some rainy weather. Dr. Cohen shared photos of the progress to the Board.
- On October 30<sup>th</sup>, the Illinois State Board of Education will release the 2023 IL School Report Card. Dr. Cohen will be reporting the data during the November Board meeting.
- Gifted/Enrichment Programming. Dr. Cohen outlined the expected timeline for completion of



## Policy Committee Inbox



Eric Bush Nov 14, 2023

to School ▾



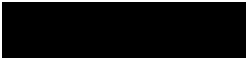
Board - Based on feedback I have received, I believe the following structure for the Policy committee would pass.

- Committee would consist of two board members and Dr. Cohen.
- Committee would make recommendations to the Board for policy changes (1st read one month followed by a vote the next month).
- Committee would divide policies by topic to identify the appropriate administrator to assist in the review process.
  - Finance/Transportation/HR - Dr. Shaw
  - Instruction - Dr. Johnson
  - Discipline - Principals
  - General - Dr. Cohen
- Committee would determine the policy review schedule/timing.

Just my thoughts. We can go in whatever direction is the will of the board. Also, Kelli would like to table the Enrichment committee vote until December. Finally, if the Board policy committee passes, Kelli will not request for a Safety committee.

Regards,

Eric

Julie Oost  
Board Member  
Mokena School District 159  


On Wed, Feb 21, 2024 at 7:01 AM Julie Oost <[oostj@mokena159.org](mailto:oostj@mokena159.org)> wrote:

Eric, please review your email and step in to clear up the Board Policy Committee. You sent an email just before the November meeting saying you had a couple tweaks to get this passed. Here are the minutes and if you really need it, I can send the recording of the meeting. Let's please avoid arguing about this at the meeting - it is totally avoidable. My memo does nothing more than implement the agreed-upon committee then adds suggested next steps and templates. No one has pointed out any deficiencies. I am working to help the team and move this forward. We don't need to argue about every little thing simply because my name is on it because that is really what this looks like.

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ustom Minutes for November 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM - Regular Meeting

## November 15, 2023 at 7:00 PM - Regular Meeting Version 1

November 15 2023.docx

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No Presets

**VII. H. RFP for MES Parking Lot expansion & MIS Play Area**  
**Recommended Motion:**  
Mrs. Tunney moved to approve issuing the RFP's for the MES Parking Lot Expansion and MIS Hard Surface Play Area projects as presented; motion was seconded by Mrs. Zielinski.  
**On Roll Call**  
Ayes: Mrs. Zielinski, Mr. Andresen, Mrs. Briscoe, Mr. Bush, Mrs. MacMillan, Mrs. Oost, Mrs. Tunney  
Nays: None Abstain: None  
**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**

Julie Oost  
Board Member  
Mokena School District 159  
[REDACTED]

On Tue, Feb 20, 2024 at 10:24 PM Eric Bush <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)> wrote:

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.
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.

Regards,

Eric