

Subject: Re: Questions including February 21, 2024 Board Agenda

From: Erin [REDACTED]

Date: 2/20/2024, 7:06 AM

To: Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org>

CC: schoolboard@mokena159.org

Good morning, Dr. Cohen-

Thank you for your answers. :)

*re: Public Comments: while it will be less organized of an order with the groups peppered in, I am glad that they will still have an opportunity at the board meeting.

*Perhaps more investigating or discussion within the Board or with IT needs to take place to answer this one?: "Why does 'Public Participation at Board Meetings' on the school district's website ([Public Participation at Board Meetings | Mokena School District 159 \(mokena159.org\)](https://www.mokena159.org/PublicParticipationatBoardMeetings)) include some guidelines that are not adopted/published in Section 2.200 and 2:230"

(I understand highlighting and not including every guideline but also not adding additional ones not approved by the Board as policy).

*Thank you for clarifying about policies. While I have read so many attachments of so many agendas over the years and tend to attend or watch Board meetings online I have not noticed proposed reviews or revisions- I must have missed them.

*re: Policy 2:140 That's great that the Board has been included in this communication! Can you please confirm that my questions and the district's reply(s) will be included in the board meeting as the policy states:

"...The Superintendent or designee shall:

1. Ensure that the home page for the District's website contains an active electronic link to the email address(es) for the School Board, and
2. During the Board's regular meetings, report for the Board's consideration all questions or communications submitted through the active electronic link along with the status of the District's response in the Board meeting packet..."

*It does not state that if the Board is CC'd in a reply that this policy of reporting, updating the status and including in the Board meeting packet at the board's regular meetings is no longer applicable, or am I missing that?

Thank you,
Erin

On Mon, Feb 19, 2024 at 10:48 PM Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org> wrote:

Dear Erin,

- Public comment is still an agenda item for all Board meetings. All of the groups which had time reserved on the agenda in the past will continue to have the opportunity to address the Board during public comment. The Board agenda has been adjusted to reflect what is considered best practice by the Illinois Association of School Boards.
- The Board of Education is the group that sets and revises policy. Board action is the only way a policy can be changed.

- Regarding Policy 2:140, all Board members received your question when you sent your email. They are also being copied on this reply.

Thank you,

Mark

On Sun, Feb 18, 2024 at 7:25 AM Erin [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning,

The February 21, 2024 board agenda appears to no longer have MTA/MCSA, MEF/PTA nor Board of Education under "Communication."

*Where are they welcome to speak during the meeting?

*Who decided this?

I thought it was clear from surveys, and other ways that families, teachers and staff communicated that transparency and communication were areas identified as needing improvement within the district not less opportunities to do so... According to Policy 2:220 Items submitted by Board Members "shall be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting" and "District Residents may suggest inclusions for the agenda" but I do not see where agenda items can be removed and not just moved?

*Why does 'Public Participation at Board Meetings' on the school district's website ([Public Participation at Board Meetings | Mokena School District 159 \(mokena159.org\)](https://www.mokena159.org/public-participation-at-board-meetings)) include some guidelines that are not adopted/published in Section 2.200 and 2:230 'Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board'?

*Also, who revises or approves revisions to the board policies? According to various policies in Section 2, it is the Board. Has that been the case in recent years?

*Can I assume that policy 2:140 will be followed, with Dr Cohen or designee sharing/answering my questions at the Board Meeting Wednesday? Is that the same section of the agenda for FOIA?

Sincerely,

Erin Minh

District Resident, District Parent, etc

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Dr. Mark A. Cohen
Superintendent
Mokena School District 159
(708) 342-4900



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