

Request to Reconfigure Portions of the Board Agenda (Powell)

Place those items for Action as separate agenda items under “New Business” rather than under “Summary of Committee Meetings” as is currently done.

Discussion:

Please understand I find no fault with the current method of posting those items; it seems to have worked in the past and would continue to do so in the future, but I do feel it limits the opportunity for the committee chair and the members of the oversight committee to explain and defend their reasoning behind their request for Board action on the item.

As an example: The April regular Board Meeting Agenda had no Agenda item noted as “New Business” or “Old Business” as one would ordinarily find in an agenda prepared under Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th Edition, pages 342-351, instead most action items were included under “Summary of Board Committee Meetings.”

The heading of “Summary of Board Committee Meetings” is indicative, as far as I can discern, of reports on the Committee meeting, not necessarily a call for action. The Committee chair, in giving the report, could easily say in his or her report, “There are action items later on in the agenda under New Business which we will propose and address.”

Items that appeared on the April Agenda that called for action were “Approval of Capital Projects List” (Operations), “Physics Trip” (Curriculum), and “Student Council” trip (Curriculum) and could have been included under New Business, since they are.

Why would I request this minor change in the agenda?

I believe there is a need for open and active discussion and explanation of any recommended action item if the Board, in its responsibility to do the public’s business in public as is legally permitted, is to its due diligence on items presented before it for consideration. Although the committee has carefully and thoughtfully considered its recommendation to the full body politic, there are always questions and concerns raised publically, as I believe there should be, by board members who are not members of the oversight committee, seeking more information or a fuller explanation than is given in committee minutes.

As an example; “Approval of Capital Projects List.”

This item, rather than listed under “Summary of Board Committee Meetings,” could have been listed under “New Business” as “Approval of Capital Projects List” (Operations – attachments xxxz).

The Board chair would call for a motion, the Committee chair would move the recommendation (“...*the committee chairman or other reporting member should make any motion(s) necessary to bring the committee’s recommendation before the assembly for consideration,*” Roberts, 10th Edition, page 344), usually a committee member seconds, the Board chair then asks “who would speak?” and the Committee chair could speak concerning the motion or designate someone else or multiple persons to speak in order to offer information in support to the Board, with the

understanding that each could be questioned by members of the full board in order to continue its due diligence. After all discussion is complete, or the question is called, the Chair would then call for a vote on the motion.

This may seem a laborious method of doing the public's business, but I believe doing the public's business should not be done in haste. I firmly believe doing business in this manner allows the Board to do its due diligence in a very open, complete, and deliberative manner and causes those involved in presenting items to not only to be prepared, but advance items in a timely manner.

Therefore, I respectfully request this minor, but significant alteration, in future board agendas.

Curtis G. Powell, Member

Board of Education, School District of Tomahawk