

Subject: Fwd: BOE Committees
From: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>
Date: 9/26/2023, 8:47 PM
To: Lisa Zielinski <zielinskil@mokena159.org>

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

From: Kelli MacMillan <macmillank@mokena159.org>
Date: Thu, Sep 21, 2023 at 1:49 PM
Subject: BOE Committees
To: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>

Hi Eric,

I wanted to follow up on your remark in our BOE yesterday regarding Julie and I submitting to the BOE our document that lays out the structure of our proposed committees and how we foresee them meeting OMA regulations, etc. I was a little taken back at that suggestion considering I've been asking for over a year for this exact thing as it relates to our existing Finance Committee. I have not been provided any such document or even verbal information. Furthermore, up until last week we didn't follow our own guidance on OMA obligations for that committee. I can that has since been corrected on our website, but as you cited the committee was started 6 years ago. Additionally, our BOE policy says that we have a BOE Policy Committee. It is inappropriate, at best, to suggest there is a burden on Julie to draft a case for the BOE to vote to adopt something we say we have.

Having said that, I agree with you - that is ideal. It is ideal we have a set of goals and objectives and rules and guidelines and expectations and processes for our BOE Committees. I request our Finance Committee Chair Lisa, provide the same documentation to the BOE that you requested from Julie and I last night. I have already requested that, in writing multiple times. We should not have different expectations from different BOE members. I hope you can see how these examples continue to roll out. There is a bigger problem here that continues..... and I hope to hear from you on those bigger concerns I've laid out.

For your reference, here is a snip from our BOE Policy on Committees - this policy was adopted by the BOE after I started inquiring about the Finance Committee just last year, presumably as a result of me inquiring as a parent. Notice the highlighted sections that dictate what standing committees we have in place.

Section 2 - Board of Education

2:150 Committees

The School Board may establish committees to assist with the Board's governance function and, in some situations, to comply with State law requirements. These committees are known as Board committees and report directly to the Board. Committee members may include both Board members and non-Board members depending on the committee's purpose. The Board President makes all Board committee appointments unless specifically stated otherwise. Board committee meetings shall comply with the Open Meetings Act. A Board committee may not take final action on behalf of the Board – it may only make recommendations to the Board.

Special Board Committees

A special committee may be created for specific purposes or to investigate special issues. A special committee is automatically dissolved after presenting its final report to the Board or at the Board's discretion.

Standing Board Committees

A standing committee is created for an indefinite term although its members will fluctuate. Standing committees are:

1. **Board Policy Committee.** This committee researches policy issues, and provides information and recommendations to the Board.
2. **Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee.** This committee assists in the development of student behavior policy and procedure, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. Its members are parents/guardians and teachers, and may include persons whose expertise or experience is needed. The committee reviews such issues as administering medication in the schools, reciprocal reporting between the School District and local law enforcement agencies regarding criminal offenses committed by students, student discipline, disruptive classroom behavior, school bus safety procedures, and the dissemination of student conduct information.
3. **Behavioral Interventions Committee.** This committee develops and monitors procedures for using behavioral interventions in accordance with Board policy 7:230, *Misconduct by Students with Disabilities*, and provides information and recommendations to the Board. At the Board President's discretion, the Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee shall perform the duties assigned to the Behavioral Interventions Committee.
4. **Finance Committee.** This committee shall meet on a regular basis to oversee District compliance with the annual budget process and address, in a detailed manner, other issues that have significant impact to District finances. This Committee shall assist in the process of preparing the annual budget for adoption by the Board.

Here are my questions for you:

1. Why don't we have a Board Policy Committee? We have a policy and we do not need to vote on this. We simply need to do what our policy says. When and how will we do that?
2. Is the BOE Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee the same as the "Parent Advisory" that Dr. Cohen is running? I will pose this question to Dr. Cohen also. Please note: Parent-Teacher Advisory is a requirement by law and that is the reason I believe it is on our policy.
3. Do we have a Behavioral Interventions Committee? If so, we should discuss how we are meeting

the OMA requirements of that committee as well. All members of the BOE should be advised on how and what is happening with this.

4. I defer to my questions at the beginning of my email. I'd love our Finance Committee Chair to provide all BOE members the structure, goals, processes in place now. I have not heard any recommendations that came to the BOE out of the Finance Committee. It would be appropriate to get a report or document showing what work they did and what conclusions or recommendations were reached that can benefit all members of the BOE.

I look forward to hearing back from you and working together to take the necessary steps to get this in order. This is BOE work, not additional work for our administration. I am confident I can speak for Julie and myself by saying we can help accomplish a lot with this. Can we pose it to the rest of the BOE to see who else can help and how?

<https://www.iasb.com/conference-training-and-events/training/online-learning/archived-webinars/clearing-up-committee-confusion/>

Kelli MacMillan