

Subject: Fwd: Follow up questions - administrative practices
From: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>
Date: 9/26/2023, 8:12 AM
To: Lisa Zielinski <zielinskil@mokena159.org>

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

From: **Kelli MacMillan** <macmillank@mokena159.org>
Date: Tue, Sep 26, 2023 at 6:35 AM
Subject: Follow up questions - administrative practices
To: Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org>
CC: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>

Thanks Dr Cohen,

It's important you understand my questions are related to the work you're doing in your role, not one of your employees. I am not asserting wrongdoing by an employee. You are the only BOE "employee" so I'm sorry if that wasn't clear. I am questioning your administrative management practices and responsibilities.

1. Who approves field trips?
2. What information do you require in the approval process?
3. Who reviews / approves insurance coverage by suppliers if the trip isn't covered by the district?
4. Who is reviewing the permission slips / message to the parents as it relates to field trips before they go out?
5. Can you please answer the above questions as they relate to:
 - a. Music trip to Disney Spring 2022
 - b. Choir trip to see Hamilton November 2023

Thanks for your help,
Kelli MacMillan

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 25, 2023, at 2:36 PM, Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org> wrote:

Dear Board Members,

I received these questions from Kelli this morning:

Good morning Dr. Cohen,

I have a few questions on your update from Friday:

Follow Up to your answers to Julie's questions:

1. *What was the expense the district paid Guardian \$689 for in SY21-22?*
2. *How was Mrs. Bussean compensated for her serving as a "Tour Guide" on one of the Mokena trips?*
3. *How was the cost lowered by her serving as a "tour guide"?*
4. *Did Mrs. Bussean disclose details of the arrangement to you at that time?*

1. The expense was for travel to and from the airport for a music trip to Disney in the spring of 2022. The District paid for the transportation when our own buses could not accommodate the request. It was a 2 a.m. pickup and drivers did not volunteer.

2-4. I only know what was told to me after I asked her last week. She explained to me she has never been paid by this group. The District did not pay the bill for the band trip, other than the transportation, so I have no insight into the details of any reduced rate.

I can find no reason for any of Mrs. Bussean's outside work to be a matter of District concern at this point. If there is an assertion of wrongdoing on Mrs. Bussean's part I will need evidence of such before I proceed. I cannot continue a line of questioning with a District employee without having probable cause to think that misconduct has occurred.

Mark

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



Attachments:

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140 KB