

**Subject:** Fwd: Board Packet  
**From:** Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>  
**Date:** 8/28/2023, 8:08 AM  
**To:** Lisa Zielinski <zielinskil@mokena159.org>

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

**From:** Julie Oost <[oostj@mokena159.org](mailto:oostj@mokena159.org)>  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 25, 2023 at 2:00 PM  
**Subject:** Re: Board Packet  
**To:** Mark Cohen <[cohenm@mokena159.org](mailto:cohenm@mokena159.org)>  
**CC:** Eric Bush <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)>

Eric and Mark - I had drafted this email earlier and hadn't sent it, but seeing the lock down text seemed to nudge me to hit send. I am circling back to the issue of safety as it is an issue of great importance to me (as I'm sure it is to you). I found it a bit odd that School Board members could not attend the safety meeting, especially if such a meeting could inform the school's safety policies. 105 ILCS 128/25 provides, in part, that each school district, "through its school board or the board's designee, must conduct a minimum of one annual meeting ..." Upon completion, the school board or the board's designee must sign a one-page report and send a copy to each party that participated.

I assume that Mark is the board's designee, but considering this an "administrative meeting" should not disqualify Board Members from attending, especially if the statute gives the school board the ability to conduct the review. I am not advocating that the Board do the actual review, but as a new member, I am advocating that the Board be given the opportunity to attend and better understand the procedures in order to make better-informed policy decisions.

As a general matter (and as a new member learning the ropes), I favor opportunities to learn first hand when possible rather than daisy-chained through multiple people. I look for these opportunities if they are not disruptive to day-to-day business and would be a useful way to better perform my role (from the balcony) as a Board member.

Continuing on safety-related issues, I'd like to re-raise the issue of lock down drills. A couple months ago, I asked for details to better understand the drills and whether pre-k/k and 1st grade need to participate in lockdown the same way as "older" kids. 105 ILCS 128/20(c)(1)(E) allows some flexibility in that the content of the drill should be age appropriate. When time permits, I'd like to (re)discuss this issue to get your and the teachers' perspective on what level of the drill is appropriate for the youngest kids.

*Note: these are questions, not directives, from one Board Member, but I would like a response in the next month.*

Thank you,  
Julie

On Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 1:21 PM Mark Cohen <[cohenm@mokena159.org](mailto:cohenm@mokena159.org)> wrote:

Julie and Eric,

As is the case with other administrative meetings, they are closed. School board members do not attend. I will make sure the FOIA responses are attached to the Board questions later today.

Mark

On Tue, Aug 8, 2023 at 12:34 PM Julie Oost <[oostj@mokena159.org](mailto:oostj@mokena159.org)> wrote:

Good afternoon. Please confirm you've seen this email. I don't recall seeing a response.

Thank you,

Julie

On Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 10:18 PM Julie Oost <[oostj@mokena159.org](mailto:oostj@mokena159.org)> wrote:

Hello Gentlemen. Two quick things... first, can Board Members attend the safety meeting with the MPD next week? Second, I would like to see the whole FOiA responses with attachments please.

All the projects are looking great. I am looking forward to seeing the PFA rooms!

Thank you,

Julie Oost

On Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 3:12 PM Cathy Hite <[hitec@mokena159.org](mailto:hitec@mokena159.org)> wrote:

Dear Board Members,

The Board Packet for the August 9th Board Meeting is ready for your review in BoardBook. Please note, due to our Account Coordinator being on vacation this week, the Financials will not be available until Monday next week. As soon as I receive them from her, I will post in Boardbook and send you another email. Also, I reached out to District 843 for their July Governing Board Meeting minutes and they will not be completed until next week. I will post as soon as I receive them.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Dr. Cohen. Have a great weekend!



[Full Board Packet-8 9 23.pdf](#)

Sincerely,

**Cathy Hite**

**Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent**

Mokena School District 159

11244 Willowcrest Lane

Mokena, IL 60448

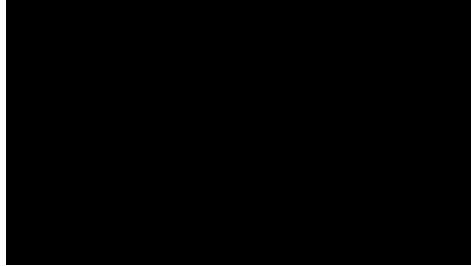
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Julie Oost  
Board Member  
Mokena School District 159



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



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Julie Oost  
Mokena School District 159

