

Subject: Public Comment

From: Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>

Date: 2/15/2024, 9:46 PM

To: School Board <schoolboard@mokena159.org>

Board - Dr. Cohen noted in last week's weekly update comments made by Dr. Natalie Williams during the pre-workshop call addressing the addition of groups/organizations on the Board agenda under Public Comment. Unfortunately, the workshop ran over and we didn't get a chance to discuss. Based on Dr. William's comments, Dr. Cohen and I removed the additional groups from Public Comment on the agenda. We asked Dr. Williams to provide her thoughts so we could share with the Board. Below are her thoughts.

For best practices, these groups are also from the public, therefore, you all may allow them their 3-5 min of time (according to your agreements & protocols, regarding public comment). It's best that you all DO NOT respond, especially if it is on the agenda under public comment and it is NOT Board related business. This will allow you all to be consistent with all constituents that speak during public comment, with no expectations that the board will respond during public comment. In addition, you all may note, write, and have visuals to let the public know that you will not respond to anyone or group giving information during public comment.

I also wanted to add that, because you all are non-partisan, and you all do not want represent favor for any person or group, it is a best practice that you all do not allow groups to be added to your agenda(s), therefore allowing them to speak during public comment is ok, but NOT giving time to a specific person/group on your agenda. This helps you all legally as well, keeping the public body or any person in your district from wanting to FOIA your emails/messages (etc.), accusing you all of playing favoritism, etc.

As it currently stands, the additional groups aren't on the February agenda. If the Board's Will is to add the groups back, we will add them back to the agenda. The agenda will be published late Friday afternoon. Please let us know if you think the groups should be added back to the agenda so that we can determine the Board's Will on this matter.

Regards,

Eric