

**Subject:** Fwd: Question for the Board Tonight 4/17/24  
**From:** Eric Bush <bushe@mokena159.org>  
**Date:** 4/29/2024, 6:51 AM  
**To:** School Board <schoolboard@mokena159.org>

Board - Below is a response I sent to [REDACTED] after Dr. Cohen's second reply.

Regards,

Eric

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

**From:** Eric Bush <[bushe@mokena159.org](mailto:bushe@mokena159.org)>  
**Date:** Sat, Apr 27, 2024 at 11:51 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Question for the Board Tonight 4/17/24  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Board should follow proper Chain of Command as questions should first be addressed to the Superintendent prior to the Board. Dr. Cohen has provided a couple of responses already. With that said, what remaining questions do you have that are unanswered so we can provide closure for you?

Regarding fee discounts for multiple children, I did ask that question in our prep for the April meeting. Dr. Cohen did provide statistics for the Board regarding families with multiple children. No action could be taken at the April meeting as it wasn't on the agenda. The Board has the data from Dr. Cohen. I can't take unilateral action on this matter or any matter as we function as one Board. I can follow up with the Board to determine if there is a majority interested in pursuing discounts for families with multiple children as I know this is an important topic for you.

Regarding music fees, there are changes in process regarding tasks completed by the District vs. Music Boosters. Unfortunately, there has been significant turnover with Music Boosters leadership along with the resignation of the long tenured music director at MJHS which has added additional complexity this year.. I know Dr. Cohen, Dr. Rolinitis and the new music director are working to ensure a smooth transition with any changes between the District and Music Booster functions. You are correct that the Board approves fees. However, fees are recommended by the Administration and Staff as they are considered day-to-day activities. I will talk to Dr. Cohen to ensure you are notified if there are any changes with fees for the music programs.

Thank you for your involvement and passion in District 159.

Regards,

Eric Bush

On Fri, Apr 26, 2024 at 8:23 AM  
wrote:



Mark and board members,

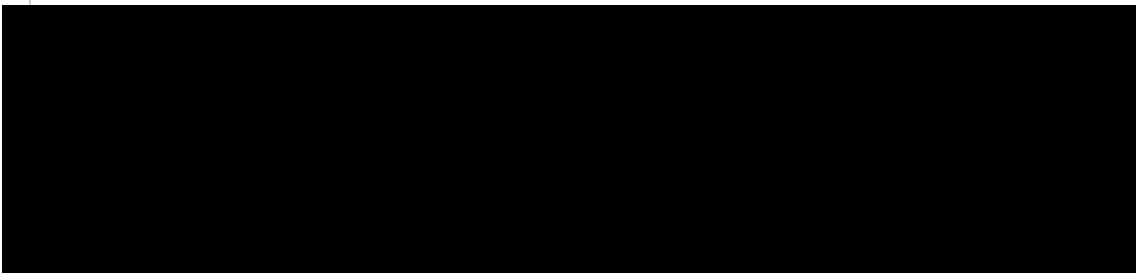
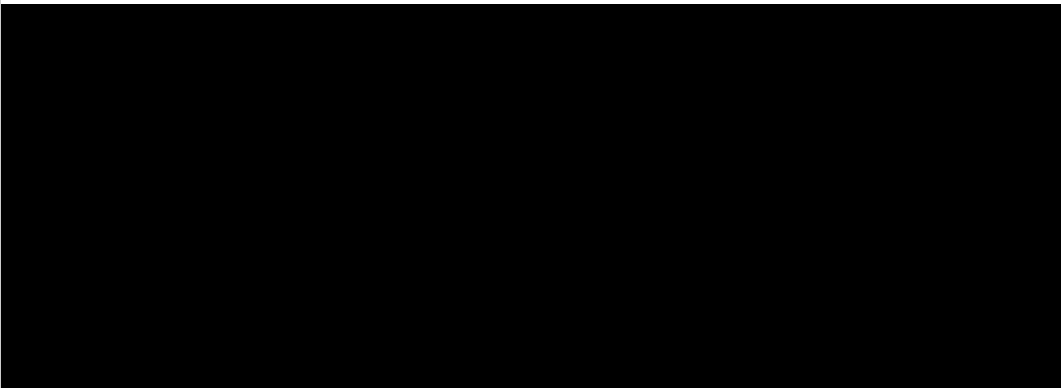
What are the answers to below question?

Revised contract and why it was revised when terms were agreed to already?

No action was taken or discussed on a fee discount for multiple children. How come?

Percussion fee status?

Board, your job is to answer questions, and this has been a week?



Mark,

We watched and thank you.

The \$75 Fee is punitive and redundant and is also more than the club Fee. We own our own equipment, and the district owns the school ones, so this fee for Select Students is a barrier as it is cost prohibitive and inequitable to be a percussionist in district 159.

Where is the revised Contract?

No action was taken or discussed on a fee discount for multiple children. How come?

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**From:** Mark Cohen <[cohenm@mokena159.org](mailto:cohenm@mokena159.org)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 18, 2024 9:55 AM

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Re: Question for the Board Tonight 4/17/24

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[REDACTED]

I don't know if you watched the meeting last night but some of these questions were answered then. Here is a recap:

The scope of the electrical work was bumped up due to the fact that there were additional issues discovered that needed to be addressed.

The contracts are available in Boardbook now that they are Board approved.

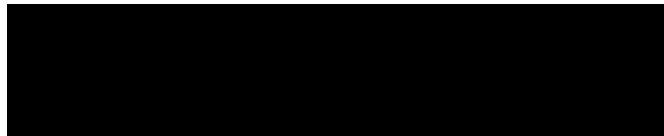
No action was taken or discussed on a fee discount for multiple children.

The \$50 activity fee goes to offset the overhead of the extra curricular music program including teacher pay. The Percussion fee offsets district costs for maintenance/repair/replacement of the equipment.

The custodial contract was approved.

Mark Cohen

On Wed, Apr 17, 2024 at 1:52 PM



wrote:

Hi Mark and Board members,

Here is a list of Questions I have for tonight.

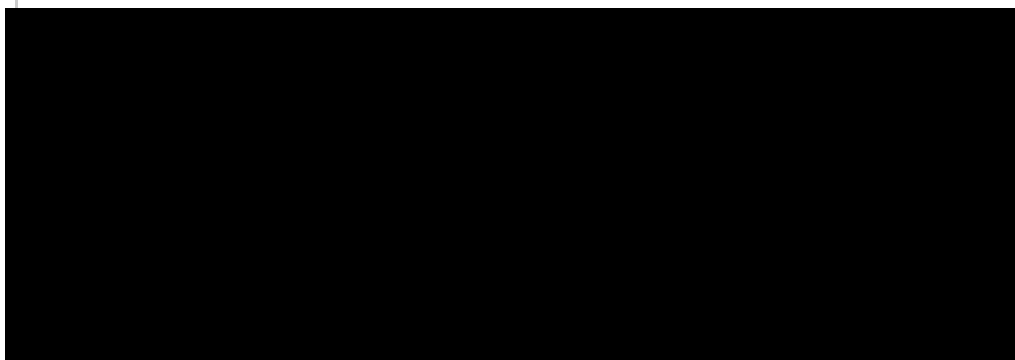
Electrical work was estimated to be \$50k in January, and I see bids came in \$100k + over. Why the extra 100K plus over what was expected ?

Where can I find the new contract for administration salaries as voted on in the agenda tonight?

School registration fee discounts for multiple children, what is the status?

Also, the \$50 Band fee and \$75 Percussion fee. These are not necessary, and I would like to know where this money is going as it seems to be out of touch.

Lastly, the Custodian renewal, I get a security warning on this when trying to open. Where are we on this?



--

Dr. Mark A. Cohen

Superintendent

Mokena School District 159

(708) 342-4900



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