

**Subject:** Re: Questions including February 21, 2024 Board Agenda

**From:** Mark Cohen <cohenm@mokena159.org>

**Date:** 2/19/2024, 10:48 PM

**To:** Erin [REDACTED]

**CC:** SchoolBoard@mokena159.org

Dear Erin,

- Public comment is still an agenda item for all Board meetings. All of the groups which had time reserved on the agenda in the past will continue to have the opportunity to address the Board during public comment. The Board agenda has been adjusted to reflect what is considered best practice by the Illinois Association of School Boards.
- The Board of Education is the group that sets and revises policy. Board action is the only way a policy can be changed.
- Regarding Policy 2:140, all Board members received your question when you sent your email. They are also being copied on this reply.

Thank you,

Mark

On Sun, Feb 18, 2024 at 7:25 AM Erin [REDACTED] wrote:

Good morning,

The February 21, 2024 board agenda appears to no longer have MTA/MCSA, MEF/PTA nor Board of Education under "Communication."

\*Where are they welcome to speak during the meeting?

\*Who decided this?

I thought it was clear from surveys, and other ways that families, teachers and staff communicated that transparency and communication were areas identified as needing improvement within the district not less opportunities to do so... According to Policy 2:220 Items submitted by Board Members "shall be placed on the agenda for an upcoming meeting" and "District Residents may suggest inclusions for the agenda" but I do not see where agenda items can be removed and not just moved?

\*Why does 'Public Participation at Board Meetings' on the school district's website ([Public Participation at Board Meetings](https://www.mokena159.org/PublicParticipationatBoardMeetings) | [Mokena School District 159 \(mokena159.org\)](https://www.mokena159.org)) include some guidelines that are not adopted/published in Section 2.200 and 2:230 'Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board'?

\*Also, who revises or approves revisions to the board policies? According to various policies in Section 2, it is the Board. Has that been the case in recent years?

\*Can I assume that policy 2:140 will be followed, with Dr Cohen or designee sharing/answering my questions at the Board Meeting Wednesday? Is that the same section of the agenda for FOIA?

Sincerely,  
Erin Minh

| District Resident, District Parent, etc

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