

Tawas Area Schools
Special Board of Education Meeting
April 28, 2025

The special meeting of the Tawas Area Board of Education was called to order by President Ulman at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, April 28, 2025 in the boardroom at the administration office.

Mrs. Ulman led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

Present: Miller, Jenkins, Edmonds, Butzin, Bruning, Ulman
Absent: None
Tardy: Malewska

Administrators Present: Danek

PUBLIC COMMENTS – INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

The board began their work session with Mr. Bead Banasik, legal counsel at MASB, who gave a presentation on the Open Meetings Act: Closed Meetings. Mr. Banasik discussed the top five closed meeting violations and then talked about the requirements that must be met to permit a meeting in a closed session. He also discussed who decides who can attend a closed session and covered legitimate purposes for closed sessions. Mr. Banasik also talked about closed meeting minutes and confidentiality requirements.

Mr. Banasik said that the motion to go into closed session must be very specific and identify the purpose of the closed session. He also stated that the best practice is to do all closed session motions by a roll call vote.

While speaking about student discipline hearings, Mr. Banasik said that there should be 2 motions made by the board. The first motion should establish guilt, “there has been a preponderance of evidence to show that Student A brought a knife to school.” The 2nd motion should include the consequential decision that the board has determined to be appropriate. He said that the minutes for a student discipline closed session should show due process; that administration presented the case and the student and their family had the opportunity to ask questions and speak to the discipline.

Once the board has deliberated and is ready to go back into open session, this can be done by motion or the President can adjourn the closed session and reconvene in open session.

Mr. Banasik finished his presentation at 6:11 p.m. At this time, the board took a brief recess before going into a workshop regarding the board governance manual.

At 6:20 p.m. the Board began a workshop to review the board governance manual. The board went through the proposed manual page by page and suggested edits that they deemed necessary. The board also discussed finding a training for developing a vision and goals.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Butzin, support by Jenkins to adjourn at 7:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.