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Exercise: MI Open Meetings Act



Do you “really” know the Open Meetings Act requirements in Michigan? Try this quick 10 question True and False test and find out!

Note: The Open Meetings Act in Michigan is an act to require meetings of public school academy Board of Directors be open to the public; to require notice and the keeping of minutes of meetings; to provide for enforcement; to provide for invalidation of governmental decision under certain circumstances; and to provide penalties.

Q1: True or False School board can meet for social reasons.

Q2: True or False People attending a board meeting must register.

Q3: True or False School board meetings are before the public and open
to the public but not with the public.

Q4: True or False Emergency sessions of the board are allowed without notice.

Q5: True or False A closed session is required for a student expulsion hearing.

Q6: True or False Action may be taken in a closed session.

Q7: True or False A roll call vote is necessary before going into a closed session.

Q8: True or False A Board of Directors does not need to state the reason for going a closed session.

Q9: True or False A school board must record closed session minutes.

Q10: True or False Boards should always vote to return from closed session to open Session.

Answers on next page.....

Answers:

- Q1: True Board of Directors “can” meet for social reasons (i.e. Christmas dinner) but absolutely no business items can be discussed or acted upon.
- Q2: False It is not an Open Meeting Act requirement that the public register.
- Q3: True School Board meetings are “not” meetings with the public. Often boards believe that the board meeting is with the public. Always remember, your meeting is a public meeting “before” the public.
- Q4: True Under very stringent requirements, emergency meetings can be called without notice. An emergency meeting may be called without notice if it becomes necessary to deal with a severe and imminent threat to the health, safety, or welfare of the public and 2/3 of the members decide delay would be detrimental to efforts to lessen or respond to the threat.
- Q5: False Whether or not you have a closed session, it the parent’s decision (not the Board’s decision)
- Q6: False Only discussion may take place in a closed session. All decisions must be before the public.
- Q7: False A roll call vote is required considering the purchase or lease of property,

consulting with an attorney on pending litigation, reviewing job applications when candidates request confidentiality, and considering material exempt from disclosure under another statute. Other legal closed session items need not have a 2/3 roll call vote.

- Q8: False The purpose of a closed session must be identified in the motion to go into closed session.
- Q9: True Minutes must be kept of all school board meetings, whether open or closed.
- Q10: False Boards do not need to vote to return from a closed session. Since no action can take place in a closed session; the board only needs to return back to the public meeting.

Your score: _____