



Activity #1: (Virtual) School Board Meeting

Grade Level: Middle/High School

Background: A school board is a body that oversees and manages a school district's affairs, personnel, and properties. As a governing body, they should hear from their representatives, the members of the school community. Every school has a different process, so prior to beginning the activity, it would be important to discuss with your students:

- Who is on the board?
- How did they get selected to be on the board?
- What are their main goals in meeting?
- How much power do they have over the school environment?
- Is there a student representative on the board? Should there be? How do you go about adding one?
- If your school board represents a district with many schools, how/why would that be a good or bad thing?

For more information check out the National School Board Association website at <https://www.nsba.org/>.

Action Item: If other schools in your district are a part of NPFH, join forces! Assemble a “representative group” or elect someone to speak at your board meeting on behalf of the school.

- Speak about what you learned from your climate assessment.
- Discuss what ideas you have in finding solutions to solve the schools' issues.

- Provide ways they can assist your school in the process of becoming a more inclusive school environment.
- Ask if they want to sign the pledge!

Follow Up: If the meeting is recorded, share the recording with your classes and have a discussion. If it was not, have someone read out the summary of the meeting and what was discussed.

Discussion Questions:

- Before learning about school boards – what did you think their purpose was? Did you ever interact with them?
- What did you learn by attending or watching the school board meeting?
- Is this something that a student should have a more permanent role in?
- Who do you think would be the best fit to be a member of the school board? What characteristics are you looking for when you want someone to represent you?
- What follow up questions do you have? What would you ask at the next board meeting?
- If this board represents many schools in your area, do you think they are doing a fair job allocating resources across the community?
- What could potentially make board members biased?
- In order to combat that potential bias (board members being an alumnus of a certain school, or their children attending a certain school), what rules should be in place?
- How does this reflect our larger representative democracy format?

ADL Based Resources:

- [Hair, Identity and Bias](#)
- [Representing the People: Diversity and Elections](#)
- [Speech Graphic Organizer](#)

Potential Adaptation: On a larger scale, try to join a local government meeting. *Check out this [video](#) from the NPFH Louisville Middle School in Colorado joining their City Council meeting.*