



THE SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

In this Forum, you will role play the school board meeting during which the issue of physical education classes is debated. As you play your assigned roles at this meeting, use appropriate information to support your position on this issue. For example, one of the two student presentations should emphasize the effects of physical education classes on overall health and fitness. In contrast, the district director of finance should present the economic aspects of the issue. Some of the roles will require integrating information from various aspects of the issue. For example, parents certainly want to have healthy children, but they also want them to have the best possible overall education.

Setting

The meeting occurs at the local school board meeting site. Board members and district administrator representatives are seated in front, facing the audience. There is a stage or space between the board seats and the audience for presenters to speak. Since physical education has become a very controversial issue, the building is packed with people from the community. The board has already received a written proposal from the Parents Coalition for Better Education to abolish physical education. The board has agreed to let one member of the committee make a public statement in favor of its proposal. The board will also solicit comments from members of the community.

A Suggested Procedure for the Forum

1. The school board meeting will begin promptly at the beginning of class. Each formal presentation is limited to three minutes, and each comment is limited to one minute.



2. A member from the Parents Coalition for Better Education makes a formal presentation.
3. The director of finance comments in favor of the proposal.
4. The superintendent comments in favor of the proposal.
5. A student who advocates eliminating PE makes a formal presentation against the proposal using the word *homeostasis*.
6. A student who advocates keeping PE speaks in favor of the proposal using the term *homeostasis*.
7. A concerned parent makes a presentation against the proposal.
8. A physical education teacher makes a presentation emphasizing lifelong physical fitness.
9. A high school biology teacher makes a presentation against the proposal that emphasizes the need for a well-balanced physiology.
10. Other comments follow from coaches, other parents, other members of the Parents Coalition for Better Education, or others in the audience. Most speak in favor of the proposal.
11. The board discusses the matter in front of the audience for about five minutes.
12. The board votes and declares its decision and rationale. The meeting is adjourned.

In your *Log*, summarize the events at the board meeting, the decision that the board made, and the reason for the decision.

