**Activity: Observation Assignment of Local School Board Meeting**

**Background Information**

**ROLE OF BOARD OF EDUCATION IN ESTABLISHING POLICY**
The Board of Education, under the law, is charged with the responsibility of setting policy for the School District. In order to carry out that responsibility, the Board employs a Superintendent of Public Education as its Chief Executive Officer and as the Chief Administrative Officer of the San Diego Unified School District. In carrying out these responsibilities, the Superintendent is accountable to the Board of Education. This accountability requires that the Superintendent be kept advised of problems and that the Superintendent have the authority to control the utilization of the staff of the District.

Discussions held in closed session in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and other applicable law shall be confidential, and no Board Member or other participant shall disclose the contents thereof without the permission of a majority of the Board.

**EXPECTATIONS FOR AUDIENCE CONDUCT**
Demonstrations will not be allowed in the meeting room during Board of Education meetings. Placards, banners, signs, flags larger than 8" x 11" are not permitted in the Board of Education meeting room. Pagers and cell phones are expected to be turned off or put on the silent mode in the Board of Education meeting room.

Any disturbance or willful interruption of Board meetings shall not be permitted by the presiding officer. The presiding officer is authorized to order a meeting of the Board of Education adjourned, adjourned to clear the meeting room, or to remove disruptive individuals or groups at any time if the legislative decorum of the meeting is disrupted by members of the audience and the audience does not observe a request by the presiding officer for restoration of order. Government Code Section 54957.9

**The School Board Observation Report**
The report should be approximately two to three typed pages to discuss your observations and reactions to the school board meeting.

**Part I: Overview of the meeting**
Your overview should address
- A brief description of the people present at the meeting, both on the board and in the audience.
- An overview of the items on the agenda for that meeting.
- A brief description of any noteworthy occurrences during the open session of the meeting.

**Part II: Reaction and Reflection of the meeting**
School board meetings are often forums for intense discussion and debate. For this assignment we would like you to write a summary of ONE main topic or issue of contention from the agenda. For the topic you choose to write about, include the following discussion:
- Introduction: Brief summary of the issue and the parties involved.
- Summarize the discussion presented for each side of the issue.
- Conclusions: Discuss your opinion of the issues discussed and the points argued for each side. If the board made a decision, explain what that decision was, whether or not you agree with it, and the reasons supporting your point of view.