



Phase 3: Proposal Development

PRIMARY VOTE SPB ACTIVITY

CLASSROOM FACILITATION GUIDE

This activity will be facilitated by teachers who have been identified by the SPB Sponsor to facilitate the primary vote in their classrooms.

OBJECTIVE: Students across the campus will be able to use reasoning and analysis to evaluate proposals, judge their relative value, and decide which projects will move forward in the proposal development process.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS:

- Short descriptions of each idea in the primary vote: This might be included on the primary vote ballot and/or a brief presentation.
- Primary vote ballot: An example is included at the end of this document.
- Whiteboard or Flipchart Paper
- Markers

TIMELINE: It is recommended to use this activity after the Steering Committee has completed steps 1 & 2 (Review and Prioritize Ideas) in the Proposal Development Guide. SPB Sponsors will need to distribute this activity to teachers prior to the Vote Day.

APPROXIMATE LESSON LENGTH: 1 class period.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Introduction (10 min)

- **Review** the vocabulary words with your class:
 - Pros: the positive aspects of something
 - Cons: the negative aspects of something
 - Feasible: possible to do easily or conveniently
 - Bias: to feel or show inclination or prejudice for or against someone or something
- Review the short descriptions of each idea included in the primary vote.
- Remind students of the parameters for eligible and feasible SPB project proposals. These typically include:
 - Feasible within your school's budget

- Most needed at your school
- Beneficial to a large group of students
- Referenced by more than one student
- Beneficial to a small group of students who are in high need and currently underserved
- Sustainable over time

2. Deliberative Discussion (20 min)

- **Ask** students which proposal they are inclined to vote for based on their “first instinct” and why.
 - What idea(s) do you think the Steering Committee should develop into a project proposal?
 - Why do they favor one idea over another?
 - Do they have a vested interest in the proposal they prefer?
- If students answered “yes” to the last question, begin the discussion of “bias” and point out where students may be inclined to choose based on their feelings or interest in something rather than the merits of the proposal. We want students to be aware that their feelings do have an impact on how they perceive an idea in order to be aware of potential bias, but not that it’s necessarily wrong to favor one proposal over another.
- **Ask** students to brainstorm pros and cons for each of the ideas. Write these down on the board.
 - Depending on the number of ideas, you might have students break into small groups and assign each group a set of ideas to discuss the pros and cons more efficiently. After small groups have completed their discussions, each group will briefly describe the ideas and share the pros and cons they brainstorm on each idea.
 - This step will both disseminate the proposals to the class as well as offer insights into students’ thought processes if there are too many ideas to discuss in plenary.

3. Conduct Primary Vote (10 min)

- Next, we will be voting on these proposals to decide which one will be developed into project proposals by the steering committee. The process of deliberation helps us to evaluate the proposals when you go to vote so you can make more informed decisions.
 - **Explain** how to fill out the primary ballot and ask students to cast their vote(s).
 - Once the students complete the primary ballot, **collect** them to be returned to the steering committee (if using paper ballots) and **thank** them for their participation.



Example SPB Primary Vote Ballot

Pick your top three favorite projects. Put a number one next to your top favorite, a number two next to your second favorite, and a number three next to your third favorite.

PROJECTS	RANKING
More filtered water fountains	
Outdoor play equipment to use during lunch and PE	
More books for the library and repair damaged books in the library	
Locker room improvements	
Campus landscaping, gardening, and trees for shade	
More murals and outdoor artwork on school buildings	
Bathroom improvements	
More and improved outdoor seating (benches and tables)	
Buy an updated vending machine to stock food ourselves	
Better sports jerseys for various sports teams	
Better music between bells (no Kids Bop)	
Better classroom desks/chairs (one classroom at a time)	
More and better art supplies	
School AV system for video announcements	
More trash cans throughout campus	
A school therapy dog for students to visit with and use to destress	

More musical instruments for students to use at no cost	
Better first aid kits for every classroom	
Zen/anti-stress room for student use during the day	
Microwaves in the cafeteria for students to heat food from home	
Locks for students to use to lock up bikes and skateboards	