**Appendix A: Research Method Details**

This study featured an experimental design. It involved embedding stimuli into an online survey. The stimuli were short video clips of actual school board meetings. This study was conducted with an official exemption from the Brown University Institutional Review Board (IRB). Consistent with the IRB protocol, this study led with an official consent agreement that was approved as a part of the exemption. Participants were only allowed to take part in the study upon providing explicit consent. This project did not engage in any kind of deception. Participants were told that they would be shown a short clip of an actual school board meeting and were asked a series of questions following. Participants were not misled or misinformed in any way.

Participants were compensated for their participation. Specifically, they were given $0.25 for completing a survey that took up to 10 minutes to complete. Participants completed the survey in an average of 7.2 minutes. This resulted in an average pay rate of $2.10 per hour. The pay contribution and rate were higher than the typical compensation level for an Amazon Turk study.

**Appendix B: Descriptive Statistics for the Survey Sample**

**Table B.1.** Survey respondent descriptive statistics

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Variable | % |
| Race/ethnicity |  |
| White | 50 |
| Black | 13 |
| Latinx | 9 |
| Asian American | 22 |
|  |  |
| Gender |  |
| Female | 51 |
| Male | 49 |
|  |  |
| Annual household income |  |
| High income (>$200,000) | 2 |
| Middle income ($75,000 – $200,000) | 27 |
| Low-middle income ($50,000 – $74,999) | 22 |
| Low income (<$50,000) | 48 |
|  |  |
| Personal characteristics |  |
| Parent | 43 |
| Parent of a school-aged child | 28 |
| School employee | 6 |
| Member of a civic group | 3 |
|  |  |
| Prior school board meeting attendance |  |
| Never attended a school board meeting | 38 |
| Have not attended a meeting in last two years | 41 |
| Attended a meeting in the last year | 20 |
|  |  |
| Perception of most important issue facing public schools |  |
| Lack of school funding | 30 |
| Low teacher salaries | 20 |
| Lack of quality instruction | 21 |
| Lack of school safety | 10 |
| Lack of school choice | 9 |
| Low test scores | 7 |
|  |  |
| Perceptions of and involvement with school/school board |  |
| Trust local officials (“a lot” or “a great deal”) | 34 |
| Satisfied with own school board (“satisfied” or “extremely satisfied”) | 37 |
| Discursive school board (“good job” or “very good job”) | 39 |
| School board involves community | 34 |
| Not active in schools | 25 |