

**JOHN STARK REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**COMMUNITY/BOARD INTERACTIONS POLICY**

**Board as Community**

The Board is comprised of elected representatives and acts on behalf of the community. In order to make informed decisions, Board members engage with the public in a variety of community activities and are available through a variety of venues to individual community members. Communications channels include letters, e-mails, meetings, and phone calls.

**Communication to Individual Board Members**

If individual Board members receive communication from a member of the public, the member may respond, as long as it is clear that the individual Board member does not speak for the Board. The individual Board member may request that the communication or the substance of the communication be placed on an agenda for discussion and possible action by the full Board.

**Communication to the Full Board**

If the full Board receives a letter or e-mail from a member of the public, it will be forwarded to the superintendent for inclusion on an agenda as a communication item. The Board will decide if discussion or action is required when the item comes up on the agenda.

**Citizen Speak**

The Board will reserve a space on its agenda for Citizen Speak. During this portion of the meeting, residents may address the Board on an agenda topic. A Board member or member of administration can respond briefly to a citizen to clarify a point or to provide information; however prolonged dialogue or debate is not appropriate. The Board Chair will be responsible for assuring that citizens, Board members and administration do not engage in prolong discussion during this part of the meeting.

Occasionally citizens may request to interrupt the business of the Board with a question or comment. It is the responsibility of the Board Chair to address the request.

**Persons Scheduled to Appear Before the Board**

In preparing the agenda, the superintendent and Board Chair will consider requests to appear in person before the Board. Generally this is on a subject that requires Board action. Persons who so request should contact the superintendent at least ten days prior to a meeting and provide a written communication to the full Board that can be included in the agenda materials. The Board may take immediate action or postpone its decision for further deliberation and/or receipt of further information that was not immediately available.

**Citizens as Board Committee Members**

Occasionally the Board will charge an ad hoc committee to work on its behalf. The committee may include citizen members. The make-up, charge, and work product of the committee will be determined by the Board before the committee meets for the first time. The Board also may appoint citizens to standing committees.