

POMPERAUG REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 15

The mission of Region 15, a collaborative community committed to excellence, is to educate every student to be productive, ethical, and engaged in a global society through proven and innovative learning experiences supported by its strong community whose decision-making is based on the best interest of all students.

Mission Statement, Adopted 9 December 2002; Updated 2009

Board of Education – PUBLIC HEARING

Monday, March 23, 2026

6:30 P.M.

Pomperaug High School Media Center

PRESENT: Ms. Sharon Attick
Ms. Shannon Cavallo
Ms. Heather Dwyer
Mr. John Jenusaitis (absent)
Ms. Marion Manzo, Chairperson

Mr. Tom Marks
Mr. Jeff Olsen
Mrs. Heather Rodgers
Dr. Sally Romano
Mr. Steve Suriani

PRESENT: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Joe Martino, Director of Finance
Mr. Jeff Wyszynski, Tecton Architects
Mr. Glenn Rybacki, Bond Counsel, Pullman & Comley

<p>Ms. Manzo called the March 23, 2026 Public Hearing to order at 6:33 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.</p>	<p>Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance</p>
<p>Ms. Manzo provided a brief overview of the multi-year process leading to the proposal. Gainfield and Pomperaug Elementary Schools were previously excluded from an earlier repair bond due to the scope and anticipated cost of needed improvements. Ms. Manzo referenced that following approval of that repair bond, the Board of Education established a Feasibility Study Committee composed of community members, town officials, Region 15 administrators and Board of Education members to evaluate options for the schools.</p> <p>Ms. Manzo continued to explain, the committee reviewed building conditions, community input and multiple options including renovation verses new construction, state reimbursement opportunities and configuration of one new school combined on a new site, with alternative options if suitable property could not be found.</p>	

Ms. Manzo concluded, that after conducting its own review and exploring potential sites, the Board determined that no viable property was available for one consolidated school. Based on further analysis and consultation with Tecton Architects, the Board identified construction of two new schools on the existing sites as the most feasible option. Ms. Manzo commented that the purpose of this public hearing is a way to provide the public with an opportunity to offer comments and ask questions. Mr. Jeff Wyszynski, Tecton Architects and Mr. Glenn Rybacki , Bond Counsel were present to answer questions.

Ms. Manzo referenced the Public Hearing Notice and opened the floor.

1. That \$224,000,000 for costs of the planning, design, acquisition, construction, furnishing and equipping of two new elementary schools to replace Pomperaug Elementary School and Gainfield Elementary School (the "Project"). The appropriation may be spent for planning, design, acquisition, installation, demolition and construction costs, equipment, furnishings, materials, athletic fields, playgrounds, traffic, parking, sidewalks, lighting, utilities, site improvements, surveys, architects' fees, engineering fees, remediation, project management and contract administration costs, insurance and bonding costs, grant application and administration costs, moving and relocation costs, contingencies, consultants, training, testing, legal, administrative, financing and other costs, including the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Project. The District Board of Education shall appoint a building committee that will be established as the building committee for the Project. The District Board of Education, in consultation with the building committee, shall determine the final scope and particulars of the Project, and may reduce or modify the scope of the Project, and the appropriation may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

2. That \$224,000,000 bonds and temporary notes of the District be authorized to finance the appropriation. The amount of the bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the District for the project and applied to defray project costs (currently estimated to be 64.2% of eligible costs).

3. That the Chairperson, the Treasurer, and other proper officers and officials of the District are authorized to take all actions which are necessary or desirable to complete the Project and to issue bonds and notes, and obtain other funding to finance the aforesaid appropriation, including but not limited to applying for and accepting grants and other funds that may be available for the Project."

Ms. Jessica Ardise, a Southbury resident asked for confirmation that one school on a different property is not an option and that what is being proposed are two new schools are the existing property of Gainfield and Pomperaug Elementary Schools.

PUBLIC COMMENT/PUBLIC HEARING

Mr. Salvadore, a Middlebury and Ms. Solanch a Southbury resident spoke in support of building two new elementary schools but would also like to see a second turf field added to the Capital Plan in the near future.

Mr. Michael Kaplan, a Southbury resident asked what life would be like for students during the construction of the tow new schools? Superintendent Smith responded the demolition of both schools would happen in the summer when school is not in session.

Mr. Derrick Flynn, a Southbury resident, spoke in support of building two new elementary schools, but would also like to see a second turf field added to the high school in future Capital Plan renovations.

Mr. Tom Burns, a Southbury resident would like to see a second turf field with lights added to the Capital Plan in the near future.

Mr. Niall O’Neill a Middlebury resident spoke in support of adding a second turf field to the Capital Plan.

Upon a motion by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mrs. Rodgers,
IT WAS VOTED

“to adjourn the March 23, 2026 Public Hearing at 7:03 p.m.” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Mr. Jenusaitis was absent.

Adjournment

Ms. Manzo announced future meeting dates:

Announcement of Future Meetings

- a. Wednesday, March 25, 2026 Budget Workshop with Boards of Finance from Middlebury and Southbury, 6:30 p.m.
- b. Wednesday, March 25, 2026, Public Hearing for the 2026-2027 Region 15 Proposed Superintendent’s Budget, 7:30 p.m.
- c. Monday, April 6, 2026 Policy & Curriculum Committee Meeting, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 6:00 p.m.
- d. Monday, April 6, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 7:30 p.m. (Adopt 2026-2027 School Budget)

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Suriani,
IT WAS VOTED

“to adjourn the March 9, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:38 p.m.” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Mr. Marks, Ms. Manzo, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Mr. Olsen was absent.

Adjourn

Tom Marks
Secretary of the Board of Education

Jennifer Meglio, Board Clerk