

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 – Regular Meeting

Monday, March 23, 2026

7:30 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. Glenn Rybacki, Bond Counsel, Pullman & Comley

Ms. Manzo called the March 23, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.	Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance
Miss Daltow and Miss Murphy shared updates on recent student achievements and school activities.	Student Representative
The Board reviewed additional information requested at the March 18 th budget workshop meeting, including the February financial reports and supporting budgeting material. The February financial report reflects an encumbrance of the Long Meadow roof project with reimbursement to follow. The 2024–2025-year end balance was reviewed, including transfers that are supporting current projects. Superintendent Smith focused on two contributing key indicators to the favorable year-end balance: higher than expected excess cost reimbursement and lower than anticipated out of district tuition expenses. Superintendent Smith commented that the current salary accounts show a surplus, however, the 2026-2027 proposed budget includes a reduction of approximately \$550,000 in these lines based on recent trends. Dr. Sciarretto and Superintendent Smith presented comparative data on social worker staffing in similar districts. Data included increasing student needs and the growth MiKinney-Vento (homelessness) cases from zero in 2019-2020 to nine currently. Board members asked clarifying questions and engaged in discussion.	Budget Discussion

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – Monday, March 23, 2026

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Dr. Romano
IT WAS VOTED

“to approve the March 4, 2026 Budget Workshop meeting minutes”
and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr.
Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms.
Attick abstained, and Mr. Jenusaitis was absent.

Miss Datlow and Miss Murphy reported on events and activities that
occurred across Region 15 schools.

Approval of Minutes
March 4, 2026

March 5, 2026

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

“to approve the March 5, 2026 Special Board of Education and
Board of Finance meeting minutes” and passed with Ms. Dwyer, Ms.
Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani
voting, “aye. Ms. Attick and Ms. Cavallo abstained, and Mr. Jenusaitis was
absent.

March 9, 2026

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

“to approve the March 9, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of
Education minutes” 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.

Superintendent Smith reported that Mr. Suriani is working on a
Project Newsletter that will be released soon. Superintendent Smith
reported that he, Mr. Martino and the Board Chair attended a
Southbury Board of Finance meeting where discussions included the
GES/PES Building Project. Additional community outreach is
scheduled in April at Heritage Village. Superintendent communicated
that work has begun on the education specifications; a draft outline
should be available in April. The bond application must be submitted
by June 30, 2026, with Board approval no later than early June 2026.

GES/PES Building Project

Mr. Marks commended the performing arts staff for organizing a
successful regional choral festival involving middle and high school
students.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Manzo thanked Dr. Romano for attending CABE Day on the Hill
with her. She shared positive feedback on the experience and noted
the value of collaboration and advocacy on the state level.

Mrs. Rodgers gave recognition to LMES PTO for a successful Reading
with a Cat fundraiser that promoted student reading engagement.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodger, seconded by Mr. Marks
IT WAS VOTED

Approval of Resolution

to approve a resolution entitled “RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$224,000,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO REPLACE POMPERAUG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND GAINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION; SUCH BORROWING AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY GRANTS RECEIVED (CURRENTLY ESTIMATED TO BE 64.2% OF ELIGIBLE COSTS)”

RESOLVED

1. That the Regional School District Number 15 of the State of Connecticut appropriate TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$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 the District issue bonds or notes in an amount not to exceed TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS (\$224,000,000) to finance the appropriation for the Project. The amount of bonds or notes authorized shall be reduced by the amount of grants or other available moneys received by the District and not separately appropriated to pay additional Project costs (currently estimated to be 64.2% of eligible costs). The bonds or notes shall be issued pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the District and its member towns, secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the District and its member towns. The law firm of Pullman & Comley, LLC is designated as bond counsel to approve the legality of the bonds and notes. The Chairperson and the Treasurer, or such officer or body to whom the Board of Education delegates the authority to make such determinations, are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes;

to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes; to provide for keeping a record of the bonds or notes; to designate a financial advisor to the District in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes; to sell the bonds or notes at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes.

3. That the District hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs for the Project may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the Project. The Chairperson and Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds, notes or temporary notes authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

4. That the Chairperson and Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds, notes or temporary notes to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds, notes or temporary notes.

5. That the Board of Education and other proper officers of the District designated by the Chairperson and Treasurer are authorized to apply for federal, state and any other available grants, including to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject grants for the Project; and to enter into any grant agreement necessary to obtain such grants. Any grant proceeds shall be used to pay Project costs or otherwise be applied to the payment of the principal and interest on bonds, notes or temporary notes.

6. That the Chairperson, the Treasurer, and other proper officers and officials of the District are authorized to take all other 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.

The foregoing resolution was adopted by 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.

BOARD MEMBER	WEIGHT OF VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Attick	1.23	X			
Ms. Cavallo	.66	X			
Ms. Dwyer	1.23	X			
Mr. Jenusaitis	.66				X
Ms. Manzo	1.23	X			
Mr. Marks	1.23	X			
Mr. Olsen	.66	X			
Mrs. Rodgers	1.23	X			
Dr. Romano	.66	X			
Mr. Suriani	1.23	X			

Referendum Presentation

Mrs. Rodgers, presented and made a motion for the approval of the following resolution which was seconded by Dr. Romano,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Education recommends to the towns comprising Regional School District Number 15 that the aforesaid bond and temporary note authorization be approved by referendum vote; and that said referendum be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026 that notice of said referendum be given by publication and posting between five and fifteen days before said date, and that said notices of the referendum in the Towns of Middlebury and Southbury be substantially in the following form:

WARNING
 REFERENDUM VOTE
 Regional School District Number 15
 Towns of Middlebury and Southbury
 May 6, 2026

A referendum vote of the electors and citizens qualified to vote in town meetings of the Town of Middlebury or Southbury, Connecticut will be held in the Town of Middlebury and Southbury at the following polling places:

Shepardson Community Center
 1172 Whittemore Road
 Middlebury, CT

Southbury Firehouse
 461 Main Street South
 Southbury, CT

on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, between the hours of 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. pursuant to Section 10-56 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, upon resolutions adopted by the Regional Board of Education which will be placed on the ballot labels as the following question:

“SHALL REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NUMBER 15 APPROPRIATE \$224,000,000 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS TO REPLACE POMPERAUG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND GAINFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS AND NOTES IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION; SUCH BORROWING AUTHORIZATION SHALL BE REDUCED BY GRANTS RECEIVED (CURRENTLY ESTIMATED TO BE 64.2% OF ELIGIBLE COSTS)?”

Voters approving a resolution shall vote “Yes” and those opposing said resolution shall vote “No”. Absentee ballots will be available from the Town Clerk’s office.

The foregoing resolution was adopted following Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Mr. Jenusaitis was absent.

BOARD MEMBER	WEIGHT OF VOTE	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
Ms. Attick	1.23	X			
Ms. Cavallo	.66	X			
Ms. Dwyer	1.23	X			
Mr. Jenusaitis	.66				X
Ms. Manzo	1.23	X			
Mr. Marks	1.23	X			
Mr. Olsen	.66	X			
Mrs. Rodgers	1.23	X			
Dr. Romano	.66	X			
Mr. Suriani	1.23	X			

Upon a motion by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Marks, IT WAS VOTED “to approve policy #1312 Public Complaints” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs.

Approval Policy #1312 Public Complaints

Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Mr. Jenusaitis was absent.

Upon a motion by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Suriani,
IT WAS VOTED

“to approve policy #3292 *Investment Funds*” 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.

Approval Policy #3292

Upon a motion by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Surinani,
IT WAS VOTED

“to approve policy #4000.1/4200.1/5145.44 *Sexual Harassment*” 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 as absent.

Approval Policy
#4000.1/4200.1/5145.44 Sexual
Harassment

Upon a motion by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Surinani,
IT WAS VOTED

“to approve policy #5113.13 *Work-Study Student Employment, 5120 High School Graduation Requirements, 5132 Dress and Grooming, 5142 Student Safety, & 5145.14 On Campus Recruitment*” 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 as absent.

Approval Policy #5113.13 Work-
Study Student Employment, 5120
High School Graduation
Requirements, 5132 Dress and
Grooming, 5142 Student Safety,
& 5145.14 On Campus
Recruitment

Upon a motion by Ms. Dwyer, seconded by Mr. Surinani,
IT WAS VOTED

“to approve policy# 6161.12/1312.3 *Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy, 6161.13/1312.4 Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy, 6161.14/1312.5 Library Display and Program Policy* 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 as absent.

Approval Policy #
6161.12/1312.3 *Library Material
Review and Reconsideration
Policy, 6161.13/1312.4 Library
Collection Development and
Maintenance Policy,
6161.14/1312.5 Library Display
and Program Policy*

Upon a motion by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Surinani,
IT WAS VOTED

“**RESOLVED**, that the **Pomperaug Regional School District #15** authorizes the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the **Solar Installation** at the Long Meadow Elementary School” 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 as absent.

Approval to apply for Solar
Grant Installation at LMES

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

“**RESOLVED**, that the **Pomperaug Regional School District #15** building committee is hereby established as the building committee with

Approval of establishing
building committee for Solar
Installation at LMES

regard to the **Solar Installation** at the Long Meadow Elementary School” 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 as absent.

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

“**RESOLVED**, that the **Pomperaug Regional School District #15** hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for Solar Installation at the Long Meadow Elementary School” 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 as absent.

Approval to authorize schematic drawings and specifications for Solar Installation at LMES

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

“to set Pomperaug High School’s Graduation date for June 20, 2026, per state statute 10-161 ‘*Establishment of Graduation Date*’ that provides 180 days of school” 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.

Approval of PHS Graduation Date

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

“to approve the 2026-2027 Miscellaneous Salary Rate Schedule” 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.

Approval of 2026-2027 Miscellaneous Salary Rates

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

“to approve the transfer entry for the Solar at Long Meadow Elementary School in the amount of \$422,981.00” 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.

Approval of transfer entry for Solar at LMES

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

“to adjourn the March 23, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:41 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.

Adjourn

Tom Marks
Secretary of the Board of Education

Jennifer Meglio, Board Clerk

