

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, April 6, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Pomperaug High School Media Center

PRESENT:	Ms. Sharon Attick	Mr. Tom Marks
	Ms. Shannon Cavallo (remote)	Mr. Jeff Olsen
	Ms. Heather Dwyer	Mrs. Heather Rodgers
	Mr. John Jenusaitis	Dr. Sally Romano
	Ms. Marion Manzo, Chairperson	Mr. Steve Suriani

PRESENT: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Joe Martino, Director of Finance

Ms. Manzo called the April 6, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:38 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

Ms. McCauley introduced Daniel Candullo who won a double state championship in Wrestling and the Boys Swim Team who won the Class M State Championship.

Student Recognition

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

Approval of Minutes
March 18, 2026

“to approve the March 18, 2026 Budget Workshop 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 and Mr. Jenusaitis abstained.

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

Approval of Minutes – Public
Hearing
March 23, 2026

“to approve the March 23, 2026 Public Hearing 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 and Mr. Jenusaitis abstained.

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

Approval of Minutes
March 23, 2026

“to approve the March 23, 2026 regular 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 and Mr. Jenusaitis abstained.

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

Approval of Minutes
March 25, 2026

“to approve the March 25, 2026 Budget Workshop 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 abstained.

Ms. Manzo opened the floor for further discussion regarding the proposed budget, noting that a formal motion to approve the budget will occur later in the meeting. Ms. Manzo clarified that the budget motion will not proceed until finalized figures are presented. Mr. Martino and Superintendent Smith presented two scenarios.

Budget Discussion

Ms. Dwyer reported the committee met and discussed future structure of the committee. Dr. Chiappetta and the ELA Coaches presented on K-12 ELA Programming, leading to a broad and informative discussion on current practices and instruction in the district. The committee will meet again on May 11th.

Policy & Curriculum Committee

Ms. Attick reported the committee met on April 2nd. Topics of discussion included the upcoming referendum vote. The next meeting is May 7th at Central Office.

PTO Advisory

Superintendent Smith provided an update on the preparation for the potential state reimbursement application which is due June 30, 2026. The district plans to proceed with the application regardless of the May 6 referendum outcome to preserve all options. A timeline was outlined, including adoption of educational specifications at the May 26 meeting and submission of required materials in June. Clarification was provided that while a building committee must be affirmed in the application, specific members do not need to be identified at this time, aside from required roles. If the referendum does not pass, submitting the application will allow the district to maintain flexibility for future options.

GES/PES Building Project

Ms. Attick noted that the minutes from March 25th document that she is absent, but she was present at that meeting. She asked that they be changed to reflect her presence.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Manzo noted she was invited to attend the GES Book Fair on Thursday, April 7th at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. and welcomed any board member to join her.

Dr. Romano highlighted a recent chorus concert held by Long Meadow Elementary School. She noted strong participation from fourth-grade students and recognizing the efforts of the music teachers. The event was well attended, filling the auditorium.

Superintendent Smith presented a modified budget proposal reflecting a reduction of \$115,000 achieved by: removing the proposed addition of a social worker (1.0 FTE reallocation) and returning Gate Fees to their prior structure (no longer offsetting revenue). This revision will reduce the budget increase to \$4,861,696.00 which is a 5.18% increase (net budget to both towns).

Budget Discussion

Ms. Cavallo asked how removing the social worker position would impact student support services. Superintendent Smith noted services would be reallocated among existing staff, though not necessarily at the same level.

Dr. Romano expressed a desire for a broader review of mental health staffing and services before adding positions in future budgets.

Mr. Marks thanked the administration and board members for pushing out of their comfort zone in response to budgetary pressures.

Upon a motion by Mr. Marks, seconded by Mrs. Rodgers,
IT WAS VOTED
“to approve the 2026-2027 budget increase of \$4,861,696.00, which represents a 5.18% increase” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Cavallo voted “nay”.

Motion Made and Passed
Adopted 2026-2027 Budget

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Dr. Romano,
IT WAS VOTED
“to approve the final education specifications for the Solar Installation at the Long Meadow Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”.

Motion Made and Passed
Education specifications for
Solar Installation

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Mr. Suriani,

Adjourn

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – Monday, April 6, 2026

IT WAS VOTED

“to adjourn the April 6, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Education at 8:26 p.m.” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye.

Tom Marks
Secretary of the Board of Education

Jennifer Meglio, Board Clerk