

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, May 11, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Pomperaug High School Media Center

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

Mr. Tom Marks (arrived 7:46 p.m.)
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
Ms. Carrie Chiapetta, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Paul Jones, PHS Principal
Ms. Jennifer Murphy, MMS Principal
Mr. Michael Bernardi, RMS Principal
Mr. Jeff Wyszynski, Tecton Architects

Ms. Manzo called the May 11, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:31 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Miss Daltow shared updates on recent student achievements and school activities.

Student Representative

Ms. Manzo introduced the recipients of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) student awards: Andrew Fromowitz (PHS), Emelia Luis (PHS), Gabriella Drago (RMS), Cameron Abramo (RMS), CJ Zold (MMS), Aleez Chabla (MMS).

Student Recognition

Superintendent Smith introduced the students who received the Litchfield County Superintendent Awards and the Western Connecticut Superintendent Awards: Curran Hegde (PHS), Molly Woodford (PHS), Luke Albino (PHS), Daniela Ardino (PHS), Katelyn Jin (RMS), Jayden Patel (RMS), Madeline Colasanto (RMS), Katherine White (RMS), Joseph Merritt (MMS), Julia Villadolid (MMS), James Schnell (MMS), Lucia Funderburk (MMS).

Ms. Murphy and Mr. Bernardi introduced the CAS Middle Level Schools – Scholar Leader recipients: Katherine Parkhurst (MMS), Alex Batista (MMS), Shaan Patel (RMS), Mickaela Kwenin (RMS).

Mr. Bernardi introduced Farrah Evelyn Lamoureux (RMS) who was the recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Essay challenge.

Mrs. Rodgers made a motion to take a 9-minute recess, Ms. Cavallo seconded the motion, IT WAS VOTED 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 to Recess

Upon a motion by Mrs. Rodgers, seconded by Ms. Cavallo, IT WAS VOTED “to approve the April 27, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education minutes” and passed with Ms. Cavallo, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Ms. Attick abstained.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Wyszynski (Tecton Architects) provided a presentation explaining the Educational Specifications for the PES/GES Building projects. (Attachment 1). Mr. Wyszynski explained the Ed Specs serve as a comprehensive guidebook and framework for the projects, focusing on educational programming, room functions, space relationships, and project requirements rather than architectural design. Mr. Wyszynski explained the documents are intentionally detailed and comprehensive to ensure that all potential project elements are identified for reimbursement eligibility purposes. He advised the Board that an inclusion of an item does not require that it ultimately be included in the final project, but rather provides flexibility for future decisions by the Building Committee. He explained that there are two opportunities to adjust the specifications: now, before submission, and one final time before the completion of the project.

PES/GES Update

Board members discussed the proposed school construction timeline and the formation of the Building Committee. Mr. Wyszynski explained that the project schedule includes multiple phases, including schematic design, design development, construction documents with community engagement and stakeholder input occurring throughout the process.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – Monday, May 11, 2026

Board members discussed the anticipated responsibilities of being on the Building Committee, including meeting frequency and long-term commitment. It was noted that meetings may occur monthly or more frequently during active design phases and could continue through the project closeout. Discussion also included the role of working groups, community engagement opportunities, milestone tracking, reimbursement requirements, change order procedures, and coordination with the state grant application process.

Board members raised questions regarding the composition of the Building Committee. Ms. Manzo clarified that there were only two requirements: 1) the Board Chair, and; 2) at least one member who has experience in the construction industry. Board members expressed an interest in receiving a “milestone” based project timeline and clearer expectations regarding committee responsibilities and workload and time of meetings.

Ms. Manzo announced plans to schedule a Zoom meeting prior to the May 26th regular Board of Education meeting to allow Board members to ask questions regarding the Educational Specifications before a potential vote on approval at the May 26th Board of Education meeting.

Mr. Martino provided an update regarding the bids for the LMES Roofing Project. Bids were received on May 6th with the low bid totaling approximately \$1.4 million. He noted that the project remains within budget debt service encumbrance levels and that approximately 50% of eligible costs are anticipated reimbursement by the state.

LMES Roof Replacement Results

Ms. Dwyer reported that the committee met on May 11th and the math coaches and Math Department Chair presented district instruction, assessment data and instructional practices were presented.

Policy & Curriculum

Ms. Attick reported the committee met on May 7th. The committee expressed gratitude for district support of the referendum. There was also a discussion about fields and gate fees.

PTO Advisory

Ms. Manzo gave expressed extensive appreciation to the community, Board members, staff, PTO, administration and project supports following the successful school budget and school construction referendum vote. She gave recognition to community engagement, advocacy efforts, referendum preparation work, and collaboration that contributed to the outcome.

Board Chair Comments

Mrs. Rodgers echoed Ms. Manzo gratitude and commented on the “false information” that was being distributed on the Referendum Day.

Board Member Comments

Ms. Dwyer thanked Ms. Manzo for leading the Board.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – Monday, May 11, 2026

Mr. Marks wished the students taking the SBAC tests this week good luck.

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

Motion Made and Passed

“to approve the final plans and cost estimates for the Solar installation at 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”.

Ms. Manzo announced future Board of Education Meetings scheduled:

Announcement of Future Meetings

- a. Tuesday, May 26, 2026 Finance Committee Meeting, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 6:30 p.m.
- b. Tuesday, May 26, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 7:30 p.m.
- c. Monday, June 8, 2026 Policy & Curriculum Committee Meeting, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 6:00 p.m.
- d. Monday, June 8, 2026 Regular Board of Education Meeting, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 7:30 p.m.

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

Adjourn

“to adjourn the May 11, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Education at 9:38 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

