

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

Tuesday, May 26, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Pomperaug High School Media Center

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

Mr. Tom Marks
Mr. Jeff Olsen
Mrs. Heather Rodgers
Dr. Sally Romano (absent)
Mr. Steve Suriani (arrived 7:45 p.m.)

PRESENT: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Joe Martino, Director of Finance
Ms. Carrie Chiapetta, Assistant Superintendent
Mr. Jeff Wyszynski, Tecton Architects (remote)

Ms. Manzo called the May 26, 2026 regular meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:32 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

Mr. Chris Walsh introduced Benjamin Lutz as the Rensselaer Award Recipient.

Student Recognition

Mr. Nelson introduced the recipients of the CAS Art Award:

Mr. Nelson introduced the students from PHS who were selected for the CMEA Regionals: Ava Abrilla, Anthony Buchsbaum, Anna Gilchrist, Leo Marks, Isabella Martino, Aaron McCann, Gabriel Pessoa, Nina Petrenko, Katherine Salsbury, Andrew Vongsouvanh and Gabriela Walsh. Leo Marks, Isabella Martino, Aaron McCann, Nina Petrenko and Katherine Salsbury also were All -State recipients.

Ms. Maynard introduced the students from Rochambeau and Memorial Middle Schools who participated in CMEA for middle schools: Tessa Eager, Clare Perreault, Vidharti Yarlagadda, Mickaela Kwenin, Katherine White, Cameron Abramo, Tyler Leonard, Kevin Petrenko, Logan Melinosky, Gabrielle Ajayi, Danielle Ajayi, Justin Mack, Quinn Goodrich, Christopher Zold, Nina Hamm, Julia Villadolid, Harper DiDomenico, Thalia Gotshell, Bridget Moffie, Ella Purdy, and Alaina Terry.

Ms. McCauley introduced the following PHS student athletes who received recognition:

CIAC Scholar Athlete Award recipients: Madelyn Mariani and Sohan Nelakudity

SWC Leadership Award: Sara Gilchrist, Rylen Brennan, Abigail Lutz, and Beckett Neuhausel. Mr. Rich Szymanski received the SWC Outstanding Coach Award.

Special Olympics/Unified Sports Athlete Essay Winner: Madison Lucuk.

Beau Doherty- Mike Savage Teammate Award: Brandan Beekey, Armand Komoni, Amelia Hogrefe, Body Oakes, Brady Fritz and Madison Lucuk.

Mrs. Rodgers made a motion for the Board to take a five-minute recess, Mr. Marks seconded, the motion passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

Motion to Recess

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

Approval of Minutes

“to approve the May 11, 2026, regular meeting minutes” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

Superintendent Smith and Mr. Wyszynski provided an update on the educational specifications for the proposed new construction projects at Gainfield and Pomperaug Elementary Schools.

PES/GES Update

The Board discussed that the current Ed Specs are intended to guide the project, while recognizing that design details and programming elements may continue to evolve during the design phase. Mr. Wyszynski explained that the design phase is expected to last approximately 18 months and will provide opportunities for additional input on building layout, playgrounds, site features, and program spaces. Mr. Wyszynski also confirmed that the educational specifications may be revised one final

time near the project closeout to reflect any changes made during the project.

Board members also discussed the anticipated workload and structure of the future Building Committee, including meeting frequency, timelines, and opportunities for Board and community involvement. Ms. Manzo reported gathering information from other districts regarding building committee composition, meetings and best practices. Superintendent Smith indicated that recommendations regarding the building committee structure and architect selection process are expected to be brought back to the Board at a future meeting.

Mr. Suriani discussed interest in reviewing comparative class size data among peer districts for future budget planning. He also discussed establishing Board or district goals prior to the summer to help guide the administration when planning.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Jenusaitis requested a future presentation regarding weighted votes.

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

Gainfield Elementary School
Project

“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 new construction project at Gainfield Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Gainfield Elementary School
Project

“RESOLVED, that the Pomperaug Regional School District #15, building committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the new construction project at Gainfield Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Gainfield Elementary School
Project

“RESOLVED, that the Pomperaug Regional School District # 15 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the new construction project at Gainfield Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Pomperaug Elementary School
Project

“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 new construction project at Pomperaug Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye”. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Pomperaug Elementary School
Project

“RESOLVED, that the Pomperaug Regional School District #15, building committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the new construction project at Pomperaug Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Pomperaug Elementary School
Project

“RESOLVED, that the Pomperaug Regional School District # 15 hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the new construction project at Pomperaug Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Educational Specifications

“RESOLVED, that the Pomperaug Regional School District # 15 authorizes the Board of Education to approve the final educational specification for the new construction project at Gainfield Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

“RESOLVED, that the Pomperaug Regional School District # 15 authorizes the Board of Education to approve the final educational specification for the new construction project at Pomperaug Elementary School” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

Ms. Manzo announced future Board of Education Meetings scheduled:

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education – Tuesday, May 26, 2026

- a. Monday, June 8, 2026 Policy & Curriculum Committee Meeting, Pomperaug High School Media Center, 6:00 p.m.
- b. 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

Executive Session

“to move into executive session for the purpose of Superintendent Smith’s end of year review and to invite Superintendent Smith into the meeting” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

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

Adjourn

“to adjourn the May 26, 2026, regular meeting of the Board of Education at 10:42 p.m.” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Suriani voting, “aye. Ms. Cavallo and Dr. Romano were absent.

Tom Marks
Secretary of the Board of Education

Jennifer Meglio, Board Clerk

