

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, June 8, 2026

7:30 P.M.

Pomperaug High School Media Center

PRESENT:	Ms. Sharon Attick	Mr. Tom Marks
	Ms. Shannon Cavallo	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. Carrie Chiapetta, Assistant Superintendent

Ms. Manzo called the June 8, 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 Liza Murphy shared updates on recent student achievements and school activities.

Student Representative

Ms. Manzo recognized student representative, Liza Murphy and Victoria Datlow for their service throughout the school year, thanking them for attending all the meetings and providing student reports.

Student Recognition

Mr. Nelson recognized members of the PHS Theatre Program who received Connecticut Halo Awards: Issy Werth for Student Direction (*The Greeks*), Addie Evans and Sarah Gilchrist for Best Choreography (*Freaky Friday*), and Xavier Chu for Leading Male Role in a Contemporary Play (*The Greeks*).

Ms. Danielle McCauley recognized student athletes who earned All-State honors: Noah Pane (baseball) and Rylan Brennan (volleyball). Ms. McCauley noted that additional spring sports All-State selections may be recognized at a future meeting as those awards are finalized.

Superintendent Smith introduced Region 15's 2026 -2027 Teacher of the Year, Ms. Sue Sundholm, an Interventionist at Gainfield Elementary

Staff Recognition

School. Ms. Sundholm was hired in 1976, returned in 1994 and has served the district in multiple roles. She will move on to the state-level selection process.

Superintendent Smith recognized the Paraeducator of the Year, Lisa Roshkind.

Superintendent Smith recognized the Region 15 retirees: LeAnn Cassidy; Dawn Krukowski; Luke Hodge; Barbara Nanassy; Kathleen Noonan; Christina O'Neill; Carol Reilly; Susan Waschak; Debra Caleca; Marian Cannici; Linda Estrella; Janice Salvatore; Raymod Storez.

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

IT WAS VOTED

“to approve the May 18, 2026 special meeting minutes” 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”.

Approval of Minutes
May 18, 2026

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

IT WAS VOTED

“to approve the May 26, 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 abstained.

May 26, 2026

The board held a preliminary discussion regarding establishing goals for 2026-2027. Board members desire clear measurable goals and have an interest in tracking progress. Some of the possible items they would like to track are student achievement and growth, state assessment results, data usage and consistency across the schools, cohort growth over time and accountability measures.

Board of Education Goals
Preliminary Discussion

Additional focus included: student outcomes (academic growth and proficiency); teacher outcomes (retention and workforce stability); facilities and infrastructure (maintaining safe and well- equipped schools) and strategic planning (addressing enrollment and demographic trends).

One board member would like to see “self-development and governance improvement” as a goal. Other suggestions included the development of a district dashboard to show performance and growth trends.

Ms. Dwyer reported the committee reviewed the disability policies and discussed balancing policy work and curriculum work. The committee began planning committee priorities for next year.

Policy & Curriculum

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Ms. Cavallo reported the committee is meeting Thursday, June 11 th at 6:00 p.m. at Central Office. Topics of discussion will include year-end close out financial reports and capital repair projects.	Finance Committee
Mr. Suriani reviewed investment performance and portfolio performance. Year to date there has been an increase of 7.6 % and 16.2% increases over the prior year.	Pension Committee
Ms. Attick reported the committee met on June 4 th and topics of discussion included: pay to play fees, gate fees and the financial impact on families.	PTO Advisory Committee
Ms. Manzo reviewed forming a building committee for the upcoming school construction projects. Ms. Manzo discussed the commitment of committee members (1-3 meetings per month). Several board members expressed interest in serving on the committee. Ms. Manzo communicated that additional community members with construction, engineering or related expertise have started sending their resumes. Board member discussed potential conflicts of interest, transparency requirements and use of resumes and board approval for committee membership. Ms. Manzo would consider using a process like neighboring districts where the board helps select the architect and the building committee manages the construction details.	Building Committee Update
Ms. Dwyer highlighted the success of the district's adaptive field day praising the special education teachers, paraprofessionals, physical education staff and the administrations and volunteers. She described the event as meaningful and inclusive for students in adaptive programs.	Board Member Comments
Upon a motion by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Suriani, IT WAS VOTED "to approve the 2026-2027 Tuition Rates" 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 2026-2027 Tuition Rates
Upon a motion by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Suriani, IT WAS VOTED "to approve the 2026-2027 Lunch Prices" 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 2026-2027 Lunch Prices
Upon a motion by Ms. Cavallo, seconded by Mr. Suriani, IT WAS VOTED "to approve the Technology Lease in the amount of \$350,000" 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 Technology Lease

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

“to approve the 2026-2027 Staff Rates for Use of Facilities” 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 2026-2027 Staff Rates for Facilities Use

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

“to approve the auditorium HVAC Unit at Pomperaug High School for \$788,000.00 from the repair bond funds” 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 HVAC Unit at PHS

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

“to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the PAEP Contract with possible action and to invite Superintendent Smith and Mr. Martino into the meeting” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”.

Motion Made and Passed Executive Session PAEP Contract

The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:51pm

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

“to move into executive session to discuss Superintendent Smith’s contract and to invite Attorney Jessica Smith into the meeting, with possible action” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”.

Motion Made and Passed Executive Session Superintendent’s Contract

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:21pm

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

“to approve the PAEP Contract dated July 1, 2026- June 30, 2029 as presented in executive session” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”.

Motion Made and Passed PAEP Contract 2026-2029

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

Motion Made and Passed Superintendent’s Contract

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“to authorize the board chair to enter into negotiations to extend a new three year contract to Superintendent Smith based on the terms and conditions discussed in executive session” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen, Mrs. Rodgers, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”.

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

Adjourn

“to adjourn the June 8, 2026 regular meeting of the board of education at 10:26 p.m.” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Cavallo, Mr. 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