

Special Meeting of the Region 15 Board of Education July 9, 2026

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

Special Meeting of the Board of Education

Thursday, July 9, 2026

6:30 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

PRESENT: Ms. Sharon Attick
Ms. Shannon Cavallo (absent)
Ms. Heather Dwyer
Mr. John Jenusaitis
Ms. Marion Manzo, Chairperson
Mr. Tom Marks (left at 7:35)
Mr. Jeff Olsen (absent)
Mrs. Heather Rodgers (absent)
Dr. Sally Romano
Mr. Steve Suriani

PRESENT: Mr. Joshua Smith, Superintendent of Schools
Dr. Carrie Chiappetta, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Joe Martino, Director of Finance (absent)

Ms. Manzo called the July 9, 2026, Special Meeting of the Board of Education to order at 6:34 p.m. and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

There were no comments made.

Mr. Suriani made a motion, Ms. Attick seconded "to amend the agenda to move the Executive Session regarding the confidential legal memorandum to follow the Building Committee appointment" and it passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting, "aye". Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.

The Board discussed the formation of the Building Committee in preparation for the elementary school building project. Ms. Manzo, the board chair, recommended the appointment of Jason Andrews, a Southbury resident and engineer who previously served on the Feasibility Study Committee, and Christine Carver, a Middlebury resident and retired superintendent with extensive school construction experience. The committee will also include

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

Comments from Citizens
Motion Made and Passed

Building Committee
Discussion

Board members Heather Rogers, John Jenusaitis, Heather Dwyer, Shannon Cavallo, Steve Suriani, and Marion Manzo, along with Superintendent Joshua Smith and Director of Finance and Operations Joe Martino.

Superintendent Smith reviewed the district's conflict of interest policy as it relates to Board member Ms. Cavallo. He explained that Ms. Cavallo will abstain from participating in the review and selection of the architectural and construction management firms due to a potential conflict of interest but may participate in subsequent Building Committee work where no conflict exists.

Board members discussed the committee's composition, noting the importance of construction and engineering expertise and the possibility of adding additional members as the project progresses. Questions were also raised regarding committee the committee composition containing a quorum of Board members, with the Superintendent indicating the district would confirm procedural requirements but that similar committees in other regional school districts have operated without issue.

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

"to approve the Building Committee as presented by the Board Chair" and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting "aye". Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.

Motion Made and Passed
Building Committee

Upon a motion by Mr. Jenusaitis, seconded by Ms. Attick
IT WAS VOTED

"to enter into executive session for the purpose to discuss a written, confidential attorney-client privileged memorandum as prepared by Board Council, and to invite Superintendent Smith into the meeting" and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Mr. Marks, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting "aye". Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.

Executive Session

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

Motion Made and Passed
Hearing Officer

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“to move the appointment of an impartial hearing officer to the policy and curriculum committee for review “and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jensaitis, Ms. Manzo, Dr. Romano, and Mr. Surinani voted “aye”. Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.

Upon a motion by Mr. Suriani, seconded by Dr. Romano
IT WAS VOTED

Motion Made and Passed
Athletic Director Interview

“to enter into executive session pursuant to Board Policy 4111 for the purpose of interviewing the Superintendent's recommendation for the position of Athletic Director, and to invite in Superintendent Smith, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Chiappetta, Director of Human Resources, Ms. Rebecca Fairbain, and the candidate” and it passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Mazno, Mr. Marks, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.

Upon a motion by Mr. Suriani, seconded by Dr. Romano
IT WAS VOTED

Motion Made and Passed
Athletic Director Appointment

“to approve the position of Athletic Director and authorize the hiring for the vacant Region 15 Athletic Director position in accordance with Board Policy 4111 and appoint Danielle McCauley for the position pursuant to the terms and conditions as outlined in the PAA Contract” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.

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

Adjourn

“to adjourn the July 9, 2026 special meeting of the Board of Education at 8:29 p.m.” and passed with Ms. Attick, Ms. Dwyer, Mr. Jenusaitis, Ms. Manzo, Dr. Romano and Mr. Suriani voting “aye”. Ms. Cavallo, Mr. Marks, Mr. Olsen and Mrs. Rodgers were absent.