



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

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

June 8, 2015

Pomperaug High School, Southbury, Connecticut

PRESENT: Mr. Paul Babarik
Ms. Janet Butkus
Ms. Jennifer Connelly
Mr. John R. Cookson
Ms. Sharon Guck
Ms. Marion Manzo
Ms. Patricia S. Perry, Chairperson
Mr. Richard Spierto
Mr. Steven Suriani

Also Present: Ms. Regina Lemerich Botsford, Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Kelly Domogala, Student Representative
Mr. Liam Kuck, Student Representative

1. Ms. Perry called the meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
2. Ms. Domogala expressed her appreciation for having the opportunity to serve as a Student Representative. Ms. Domogala announced the following PHS activities:
 - The Senior Trip to Six Flags occurred on June 2.
 - The Yearbook Banquet was held on June 3. Copies of the yearbook are available for purchase.
 - The PHS Scholarship Awards took place on June 3.
 - Induction ceremonies were held for the National Honor Society, Tri-M, and Spanish and French Honor Societies. and the Science Honor Society.
 - Final Exams take place from the 12th through the 17th of June.
 - Graduation takes place on June 18 at 6:30 p.m., followed by GradNight
 - Colleges that graduating Seniors will be attending were announced.

Mr. Kuck announced the following PHS events:

- Claire Domogala's and SeoYoung Oh's art work has been

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Student Representatives

selected to be on display at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich. Ms. Domogala and Ms. Oh are AP Art students.

- PHS Digital Arts Academy students participated in the Connecticut Student Expo this past weekend. PHS award winners were reviewed.
- The Mock Car Crash was held on May 29; this event is held every four years.
- The Prom was held on the 31st of May.
- The PHS Theatre Company participated in the Halo Awards, and received the Fearless Award and Best Orchestra Pit Award.
- A sports review was presented.

Mr. Kuck expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as Student Representative.

Mr. Kuck introduced Ms. Erin Dorsey and Mr. Nick Lucatino as the incoming Student Representatives.

In response to Ms. Butkus, Mr. Kuck noted the ways students are apprised of safe driving skills.

In response to Ms. Connelly, Mr. McLiverty indicated that he would look into sponsoring the mock car crash more frequently than every four years.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Ms. Perry expressed her appreciation to Ms. Domogala and Mr. Kuck for serving as Student Representatives and offered congratulations to them on their graduation from Pomperaug High School.

3. Ms. Botsford introduced and recognized the following CAPSS/WCSA Student Award recipients:

MMS Ms. Gabriella Gagas and Mr. Andrew Kirrane
 RMS Mr. Seth Alley and Ms. Kaitlyn Burstiner
 PHS Ms. Joanna Rizza and Mr. Luke Theriault

Ms. Botsford reported that there is a regular review cycle for program and curriculum at least every five years. This year, Middle School and Language Arts were reviewed.

Ms. Lyman presented the following report: 2014-15 Curriculum and Program Review: Language Arts and Middle School.

- Bring together stakeholders to review best practices

Presentations
 CAPSS/WCSA Student
 Award Recognition
 Program

2014-15 Curriculum and
 Program Review:
 Language Arts and
 Middle School.

Middle School Study -

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Improve program alignment between RMS and MMS ➤ Ensure programs are developmentally appropriate for the middle school child and meet the needs of the whole child ➤ Ensure coherence for our work across the district - bridging the elementary level and the academic rigor of high school. ➤ Ensure multiple opportunities are provided to allow for new experiences and self-discovery 	<p>Purpose</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Master Schedule • Extra-Curricular Programs • Teaming • Curriculum • Instruction • World Language • Psychological and Social Development • Guidance Counseling Programs 	<p>Areas for Review</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designed questions to be explored in study • Collaborated with Dr. Tony Rigazio-Digilio, Educational Leadership consultant from CCSU • Gathered data from various sources • Created committee of parents, teachers, administrators • Held committee meetings to provide information related to areas under study • Conducted surveys of students, parents, staff • Conducted focused visits to other middle schools • Gathered data on instructional practices • Reviewed findings • Created recommendations 	<p>The Process</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene a middle school scheduling and program committee in 2015-16 to develop and recommend a schedule and staffing model • Explore ways to increase student participation in extra-curricular activities • Develop a master schedule that accommodates regular team and department meetings • Identify ways to effectively accelerate the learning of struggling students • Continue to increase personalized learning opportunities for students • Infuse 21st century learning pathways and content into the academic program • Develop a WL model that will increase the proficiency of ninth grade students • Create professional inquiry groups for teachers to study and 	<p>Recommendations</p>

<p>implement research based instructional practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise current structure for delivering guidance services to individual students and groups • Focus on Teaming Structure - Teacher Professional Learning • Focus on Instruction - Student Centered Practices for Critical Thinking • Focus on Program - Convene Schedule Study Committee to Examine Program Offerings (beyond core academics) and recommend schedule and staffing model 	<p>Priorities 2015-16</p>
<p>Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct Curriculum Audit • Review Student Performance Results • Instructional Practices Review <p>Completed by committee of teacher leaders, reading consultants, classroom teachers, and administrators</p>	<p>Language Arts Review</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curriculum needs to articulate clear progression of expectations from grade to grade • Identified State standards not completely addressed 	<p>Curriculum Audit Findings</p>
<p>Actions Taken to Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed clear articulation maps which define performance expectations across the grades K-12 • Former CMT and CAPT assessments showed strong performance across the grades • Local measures show students on track to meet end of year expectations 	<p>Performance Results Finding</p>
<p>Actions Taken to Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised assessments to reduce impact on instruction and improve teacher knowledge of student learning needs • Clear expectations for instructional practices are needed within curriculum document • Teaching point of the lesson must be clear and woven throughout instruction • Increase student ownership of learning 	<p>Instructional Practice Findings</p>
<p>Actions Taken to Date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Created website which defines instructional expectations and provides detailed descriptions and professional resources for each component of the instructional program 	
<p>Curriculum and Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise units to address needs identified in audit and meet 	<p>Final Recommendations: Next Three Years</p>

<p>expectations of curriculum maps to ensure alignment across grades</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote use of formative assessments and develop bank of strategies to use during instruction • Revisit writing portfolio in high school <p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examine new Teachers College Reading Units as companion to Writing Units currently in use • Add to collection of teacher professional resources • Add to classroom instructional libraries to meet demands of curriculum 	<p>Final Recommendations: Next Two Years</p>
<p>Professional Learning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Action Plans to include training by Reading Consultants in identified instructional practices (conferring, working with small groups, etc.) • Increase understanding to use assessment data to inform instruction • Increase understanding of text level differences • Integration of technology 	<p>Final Recommendations: Next Year and On-Going</p>
<p>In response to Mr. Cookson questioning the impact on professional development, Ms. Lyman stated that Administrators are planning for the 2015 -16 professional development days, noting that Principals are establishing professional learning plans in conjunction with their goals. Ms. Lyman stated that Administrators will be purposeful in planning for professional development and more time will not be needed.</p>	<p>Questions</p>
<p>In response to Mr. Babarik’s question regarding guidance counseling programs for middle schools, Ms. Lyman explained that would be reviewed and that additional staff would not necessarily be required to support the plan.</p>	
<p>4. Upon a motion by Mr. Cookson, seconded by Ms. Connelly, IT WAS VOTED “to approve the May 11, 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented.” and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”</p>	<p>Motion Made and Passed Approval of Minutes May 11, 2015</p>
<p>5. Mr. Babarik reviewed the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting. Agenda items reviewed included: end-of-the-year report, unanticipated costs for 2015-16 school year, daily budget</p>	<p>Finance and Facilities Committee</p>

<p>management, and tuition rates and authorization to accept tuition students. Mr. Babarik expressed his appreciation to Mr. McLiverty for managing the budget.</p>	
<p>Mr. Babarik reviewed the Pension Committee meeting. The second quarter results were reviewed at the meeting.</p>	<p>Pension Committee</p>
<p>Mr. Babarik reported on the Finance and Facilities Committee meeting regarding the PHS Turf Field and Track and the bid award and funding multi- year lease arrangement for the projects, which includes computers.</p>	<p>Turf Field and Track</p>
<p>In response to Ms. Butkus, Mr. Babarik responded noting that the rate is fixed at 1.8 percent.</p>	
<p>6. Mr. Suriani reported on the May 11 Policy and Curriculum Committee meeting. Agenda items included the middle school study and review of math textbook.</p>	<p>Policy and Curriculum Committee</p>
<p>7. Mr. Cookson expressed his appreciation to Ms. Laura Van Horn, MES teacher and coordinator of the Middlebury Mentors. Grade Five MES students participate in the program and visited the Middlebury Senior Center.</p>	<p>Board Members' Comments</p>
<p>Ms. Manzo expressed her appreciation to Ms. Lyman for organizing the Parent Workshops.</p>	
<p>8. Ms. Botsford reported that the Board received the June 8 Personnel Report.</p>	<p>Superintendent's Report</p>
<p>Ms. Botsford announced the following student and staff accomplishments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 22 middle and high school students participated in National History Day. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassie Reilly, Jayde Zainc, Jackie Tavoletti received a first place award for their project, "Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet: Leader in Deaf Education." • Paige Moffat, Sommer Miller, Lindsey McDonald, Griffin Wolf, David Roper, Emmett Reilly, and William Miller all received first or second place for their work. • Sharon Wlodarczyk, National History Day Advisor, was named Connecticut State History Day Teacher of the Year. • <u>US News</u> published their high school rankings and PHS was rated 25th in Connecticut (top 13 percent); and 902 in the 	

United States (top 4 percent.)

- Niche.com ranked GES as No. 9 in the New Haven metropolitan area and PES as No. 11.
- Mr. Brian Jehning was selected as the Region’s 2015-16 Teacher of the Year.
- Jane Martellino, PES Library Media Specialist, won an award from the Connecticut Educators Computer Association for her use of green screens to publish student news.
- Congratulations were extended to the Halo Award winners.
- 78 PHS students participated in the Digital Academy competition. All student projects received either a first or second award. Mr. Kuck demonstrated his project, “Always Aware.”

9. Upon a motion by Mr. Cookson, seconded by Mr. Babarik, IT WAS VOTED

“to approve the following 2015-16 regular education tuition rates:

Pre-K	\$3,600
Kindergarten through Grade 8	\$14,679
Grades 9-12	\$14,142.”

DISCUSSION: In response to Ms. Butkus, Mr. McLiverty noted that the pre-K rate is approximately \$800 less than the current rate. Ms. Butkus requested that the rates be rounded to eliminate the cents.

VOTE: and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”

Motion Made and Passed Approval of 2015-16 Regular Education Tuition Rates

10. Upon a motion by Mr. Spierto , seconded by Mr. Cookson, IT WAS VOTED

“to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to accept tuition students in accordance with Policy No. 5118 Tuition.”

and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”

Motion Made and Passed Authorization to Accept Tuition Students

11. Upon a motion by Ms. Manzo, seconded by Ms. Guck, IT WAS VOTED

“to approve the update to Policy No. 4156/5150 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as presented.”

and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”

Motion Made and Passed Approval of Policy No. 4156/5150 Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 Update

<p>12.. Upon a motion by Ms. Manzo, seconded by Ms. Connelly, IT WAS VOTED “to approve the update to Policy No. 5155 Non-Discrimination of Students as presented.” and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”</p>	<p>Motion Made and Passed Approval of Policy No. 5155 Non-Discrimination of Students Update</p>
<p>13.. Upon a motion by Ms. Connelly, seconded by Ms. Guck, IT WAS VOTED “to approve the update to Policy No. 6173 Homebound Instruction as presented.” and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”</p>	<p>Motion Made and Passed Approval of Policy No. 6173 Homebound Instruction Update</p>
<p>14.. Upon a motion by Mr. Suriani, seconded by Ms. Manzo, IT WAS VOTED “to adopt Policy No. 6178 Parental Access to Instructional Materials as presented.” and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”</p>	<p>Motion Made and Passed Adoption of Policy No. 6178 Parental Access to Instructional Materials</p>
<p>15. Upon a motion by Mr. Suriani , seconded by Ms. Connelly, IT WAS VOTED “to approve the textbook, <u>Bridges in Mathematics.</u>”</p>	<p>Motion Made Approval of Textbook</p>
<p>Upon a motion by Mr. Babarik, seconded by Mr. Spierto, IT WAS VOTED “to table the motion for Approval of the Textbook, <u>Bridges in Mathematics.</u>” DISCUSSION: Mr. Babarik tabled the motion in order for the Finance and Facilities Committee to review the costs regarding the textbooks. Ms. Connelly voiced her objections to the proposed tabling of the motion to approve the textbook, noting that there are always costs associated with textbooks, and this may be precedent setting. Mr. Babarik commented on the original costs, rising special education costs, and shipping costs. Ms. Connelly noted that Policy and Curriculum Committee makes the recommendation for textbooks.</p>	<p>Motion Made and Did Not Pass To Table Approval of Textbook</p>
<p>In response to Mr. Cookson, Ms. Lyman reviewed the process used for recommending the textbook, the textbook adoption process,</p>	

and the identification of the textbook for recommendation, which includes embedded professional development and manipulatives. Ms. Lyman reviewed the funding of the associated costs for the textbook. Shipping costs are standard and have been reduced from 10 to 7 percent. The first edition is no longer available.

Mr. Suriani commented on the process of funding the textbooks. Books are needed for every kindergarten through grade three classroom in four elementary schools totaling 56 classrooms. Mr. Suriani also noted that as part of the vetting process a Region teacher visited another district that uses the book.

Ms. Lyman noted that the cost is over multiple years with little to no follow-up costs for printed textbooks. On-line access is included in the cost. This is not a hard-cover textbook.

Ms. Guck noted that this is the second presentation of the textbook, which was first presented at the May Board meeting. Ms. Connelly expressed her concerns regarding setting precedent and concerns if the textbook is not approved in a timely manner.

VOTE FOR TABLING: and did not pass with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, and Mr. Spierto, voting "Aye," and Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, and Mr. Suriani voting "Nay."

VOTE ON ORIGINAL MOTION: and passed with Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, and Mr. Suriani voting "Aye," Mr. Babarik voting "Nay," and Ms. Butkus and Mr. Spierto abstaining.

Motion Passed
Approval of Textbook

16. Upon a motion by Mr. Babarik, seconded by Mr. Cookson, IT WAS VOTED

"to authorize Shaw Sports Turf to install the replacement PHS turf field and new track."

and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting "Aye."

Motion Made and Passed
PHS Turf Field Award

17. Upon a motion by Mr. Cookson , seconded by Mr. Babarik, IT WAS VOTED

"to approve the multi-year lease with TD Bank North that Regional Board of Education, Region School District 15, of the State of Connecticut, authorizes a lease/purchase financing to finance various improvements to Pomperaug High School's track facilities and the acquisition of technology equipment and to submit in the record

Motion Made and Passed
Approval of Multi-Year Lease

the explanatory resolution as developed by Counsel in the minutes and record:

WHEREAS, the Regional School District Number 15 of the State of Connecticut (the "District") contemplates entering into a lease-purchase agreement with T.D. Equipment Finance, Inc. as lessor to finance the costs of (1) construction and installation of track facilities improvements at Pomperaug High School, and (2) acquisition of computers and other technology equipment, including but not limited to hardware and software (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board of Education of the District has determined that a true and very real need exists for the implementation of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board of Education has taken the necessary steps, including any legal bidding requirements, under applicable law to arrange for the construction, installation and acquisition of the Project; and

WHEREAS, it is contemplated that interest on such lease-purchase financing shall be exempt from Federal income taxation; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Board of Education hereby determines that the terms of such lease-purchase financing are in the best interests of District; and

WHEREAS, the District and no payments will be due under such lease-purchase financing in the current fiscal year, and the District has included within its capital reserve fund and its operating budget for the 2015/16 fiscal year amounts sufficient for the payment of all amounts due under such lease-purchase financing; and

WHEREAS, The Regional Board of Education has the powers, among others, (1) to provide for the due execution of contracts of the District, (2) to lease real and personal property for the District, and (3) to enter into contracts for any services and to purchase or contract to purchase any supplies, materials, equipment and other commodities required by the District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE REGIONAL BOARD OF EDUCATION:

1. That the District undertake a lease-purchase financing with T.D. Equipment Finance, Inc. as lessor in a principal amount not to exceed \$1,354,000, and with an amortization period not to exceed 72 months, to finance the costs of the Project, the first payment to be made in the 2015/16 fiscal year. The Project may include acquisition and installation costs, equipment, legal fees, net interest on

borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the acquisition and financing.

2. That the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer are authorized to approve, execute and deliver on behalf of the District any lease-purchase agreement and any certificates or documents related to the acquisition or the financing and are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, prepayment terms, form and other details of the lease-purchase agreement; and to perform all other acts and execute all other documents which are necessary or appropriate to enter into the lease-purchase agreement, including without limitation any agreement with regards to the escrow of the proceeds of the lease-purchase agreement.

3. That the Regional Board of Education, acting on behalf of the District, hereby declares the District's official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that costs of the Project may be funded initially from available funds of the Board of Education, and that the District reasonably expects to reimburse any such initial funding sources from the proceeds of the lease-purchase financing for the Project in an aggregate principal amount anticipated not to exceed \$1,354,000. The Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer deem necessary or advisable and to bind the District pursuant to such representations and covenants as the Chairman of the Board of Education and the Treasurer deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the lease-purchase agreement authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

4. That the Regional Board of Education, the Chairman of the Board of Education, the Treasurer, the Director of Finance, Operations, Facilities and Transportation, and other proper officers and officials of the District are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the Project and to enter into the lease-purchase agreement."

and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, Ms. Manzo, Ms. Perry, Mr. Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting "Aye."

<p>18. Ms. Perry announced the following meeting dates:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wednesday, June 10, Finance and Facilities Committee Central Office 5:30 p.m.2. Monday, June 15, Special Board of Education Meeting for the Evaluation of the Superintendent (proposed for Executive Session) with possible action to follow in public session Central Office 7:00 p.m.3. Monday, September 21, Policy and Curriculum Committee Pomperaug High School Media Center Conference Room 6:00 p.m.4. Monday, September 21, Board of Education Meeting Pomperaug High School All-Purpose Room No. 103 7:30 p.m.	<p>Announcement of Future Meetings</p>
<p>19. Upon a motion by Mr. Cookson , seconded by Ms. Connelly, IT WAS VOTED "to adjourn the evening's meeting at 8:56 p.m." and passed unanimously with Mr. Babarik, Ms. Butkus, Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Respectfully submitted,</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Jennifer Connelly Secretary</p> <p>Gretchen I. Usawicz, Board Clerk</p>	<p>Motion Made and Passed Adjournment</p>