



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Pomperaug Regional School District 15
Dr. Frank H. Sippy, Superintendent of Schools
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Middlebury & Southbury Residents Invited to Help Set Region 15 Budget Priorities *January 26th, 7-9pm*

January 4, 2012, Middlebury/Southbury, CT—Region 15 invites local citizens to participate in a community budget workshop on Thursday, January 26th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. to help create budget priorities.

The goal of the roundtable discussion is to engage residents, the business community, parents, and student leaders as to what programs and supports they consider priorities for the 2012-13 school year. This feedback will provide critical information to administrators and the Board of Education who intend to develop a funding plan supported by the community's values and preferences.

The workshop will commence in the Pomperaug High School All-Purpose Room at 7:00 p.m. and, from there, groups will break out into three or four classrooms, depending upon the number of participants.

“We are trying something different this year and we hope a cross-section of the citizenry, parents, town leaders, clergy, and business professionals will be engaged in the discussion,” said Dr. Frank Sippy, Region 15 Superintendent of Schools. “We are optimistic for a productive dialogue about which funding priorities the community values most.”

Dr. Sippy detailed how a funding plan balances the three spheres of influence: What programs and supports parents wish to see, What programs and supports educators recommend, and What the community values and will support financially.

The night will be guided by Memorial Middle School teachers, LeAnn Cassidy and Karl Buckley, and a facilitator will be based in each classroom to encourage group participation.

At the end of the evening, the groups will post their work on the walls of the All Purpose Room, forming a gallery of community feedback statements. The participants can use this time to mingle and peruse others' preferences and priorities. In the days following the event, a summary of the feedback will be shared with the Region 15 Board of Education and the roundtable participants.

To ensure adequate seating, interested participants are encouraged to pre-register by email (kkirk@region15.org) or by telephone (203-530-7158).

“Setting priorities is the heart of any successful budget and fiscal development is not performed in a vacuum,” said Sippy. “We encourage the community to lend their voices to the process and we hope for a strong turnout on January 26th.”

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