



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

Monday, November 9, 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. Erin Dorsey, Student Representative
Mr. Nicholas Lucatino, Student Representative

1. Ms. Perry called the November 9, 2015 meeting of the Board of Education to order at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance

2. Ms. Dorsey reviewed the following PHS activities:

Student Representatives

- A review of Spirit Week was presented.
- Tickets are on sale for the fall play, "Lockdown" by Julia Edwards. Performances are scheduled for November 13 through 15 and November 20 through 22.
- Habitat for Humanity is hosting a November 10 Ultimate Frisbee fund-raiser; proceeds benefit the local Habitat for Humanity chapter.

Mr. Lucatino announced the following PHS events:

- Homecoming was held on November 6.
- A fall Sports review was presented.
- There is a GradNite fund-raising event scheduled for November 17 at DePalma's Pizza.
- The PHS Vision Council met for the second time.
- A review of the November 25 Creating an Inclusive Community event was presented.

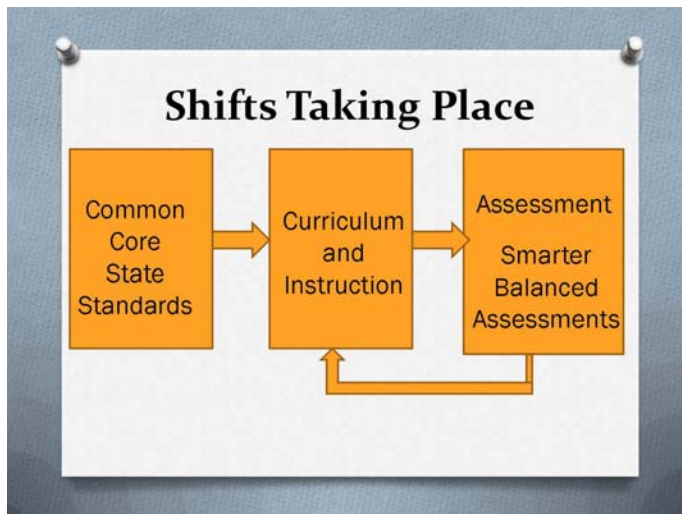
3. Mr. Gusenburg, Interim Assistant Superintendent, presented the following: Overview: Region 15 Smarter Balanced District Report 2015.

Presentation
Overview: Region 15
Smarter Balanced District
Report 2015

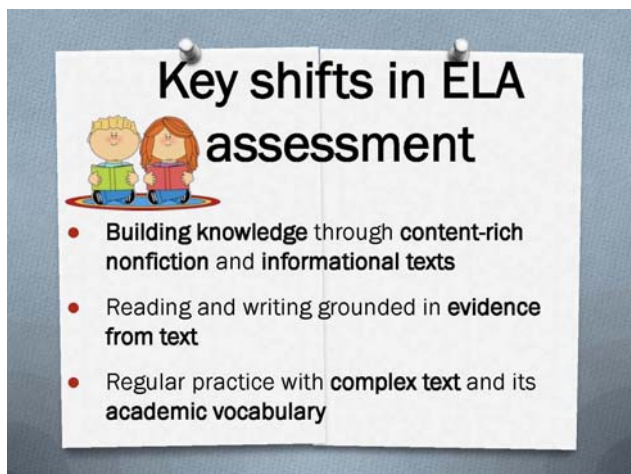
What is SBAC?

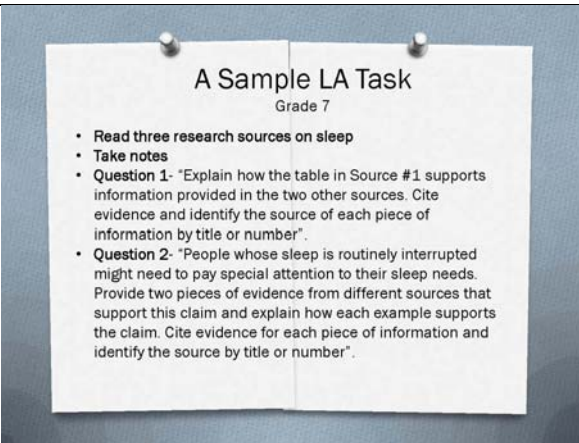


Shifts Taking Place

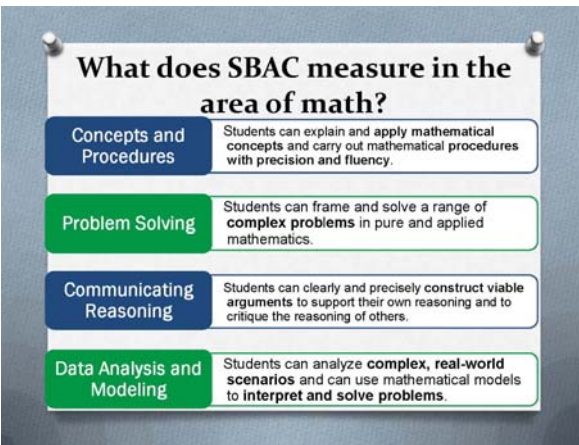


Key Shifts in ELA
Assessment

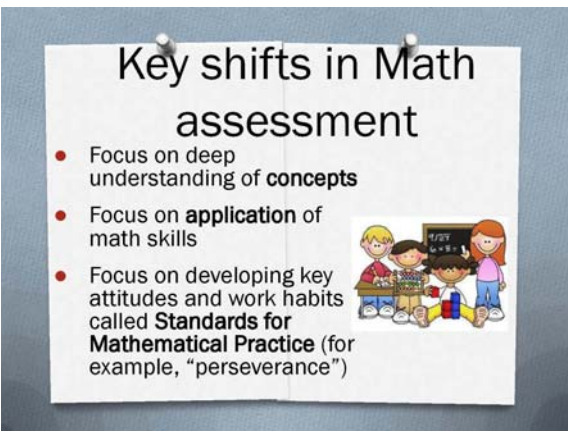




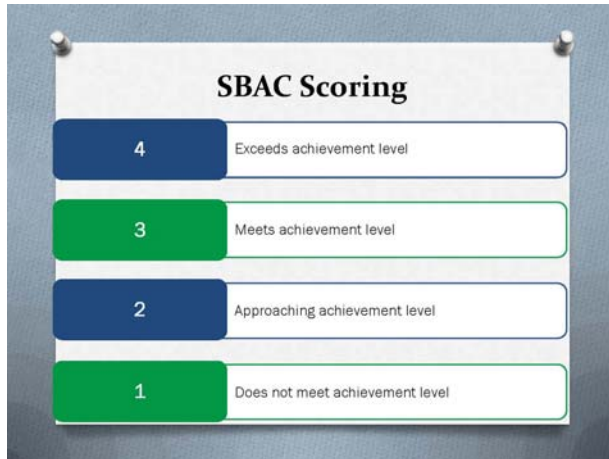
A Sample Language Arts Task



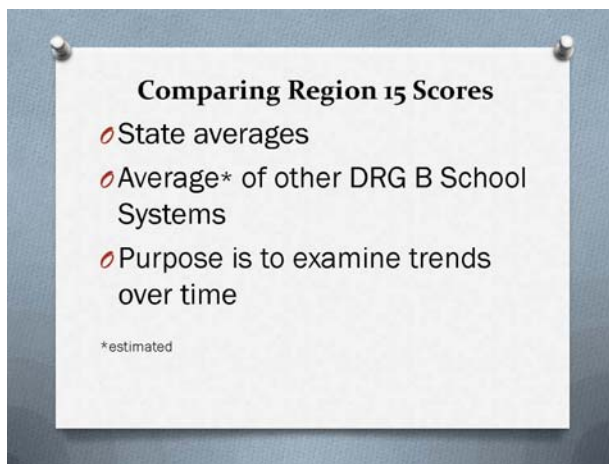
What Does SBAC Measure in the Area of Math?



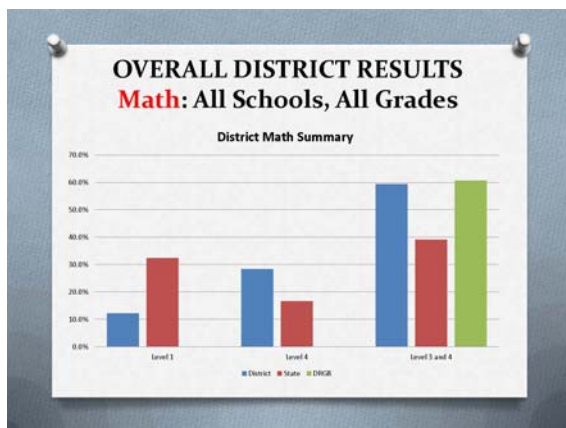
Key Shifts in Math Assessment



SBAC Scoring



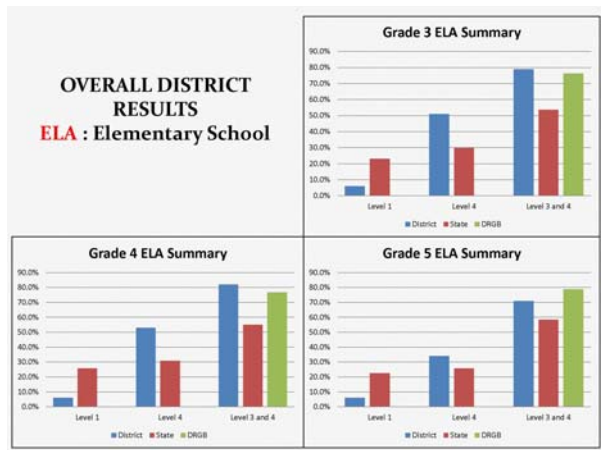
Comparing Region 15 Scores



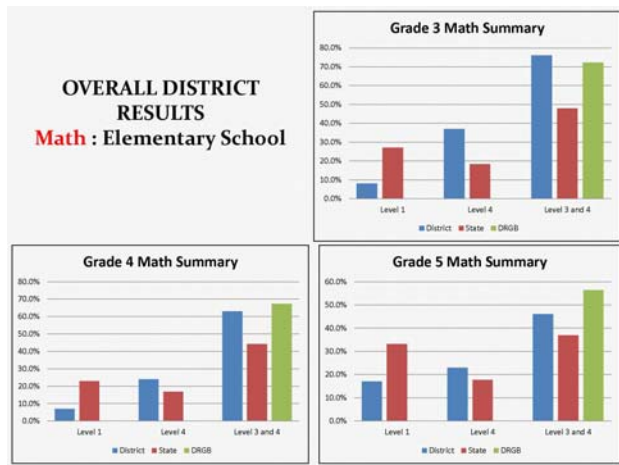
Overall District Results Math

In response to Ms. Guck, Mr. Gusenburg noted that Level 2 data was not included.

Comment



Overall District Results
Elementary English
Language Arts



Overall District Results
Elementary Math

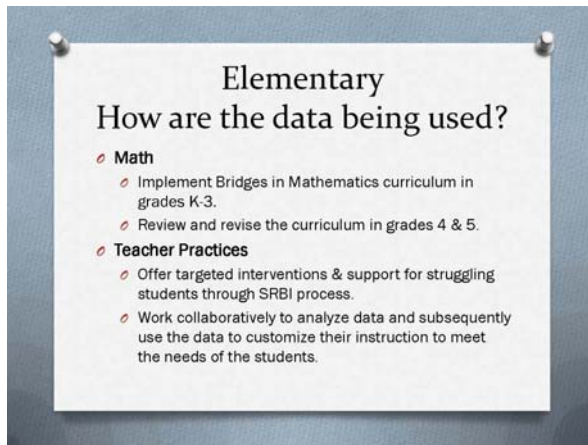
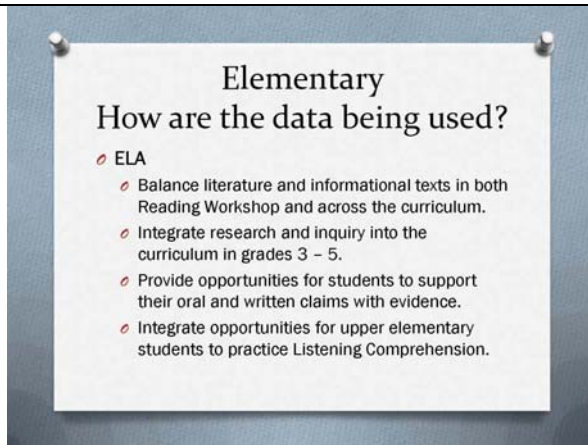
In response to Ms. Manzo questioning the lower statewide Grade Five percentage, Mr. Gusenburg noted that in Grade Three approximately 75 percent of the students are in Level 3 and 4 together. In Grade Five, 45 percent of the students are in Level 3 and 4.

Comments

In response to Ms. Perry questioning the DRGs, Mr. Gusenburg noted that the towns in the DRG were not changed, and Region 15 scores were not included in the scores. Ms. Guck noted that the State does not provide DRG numbers. Mr. Gusenburg stated that Mr. Sage compiled the averages for DRG B.

Mr. Christopher Wermuth, LMES Principal, presented the following slides and presented a review on how the data are used at the elementary level.

Elementary Schools



In response to Mr. Suriani questioning the level of detail from SBAC, Mr. Wermuth reviewed how they analyze the data from the student assessments. The SBAC provides a broad overview through claims, and then the Administration reviews data in school classroom assessments.

In response to Mr. Babarik regarding Level 1, Mr. Wermuth stated that all of the schools review who the students are below benchmark, how much below the students are, how intense does intervention need to be, and how to close the gap.

In response to Mr. Suriani, Mr. Wermuth noted that the Region 15 curriculum is aligned with the Common Core and the SBAC assesses the Common Core standards. Mr. Wermuth reviewed the practices used for students in need of intervention.

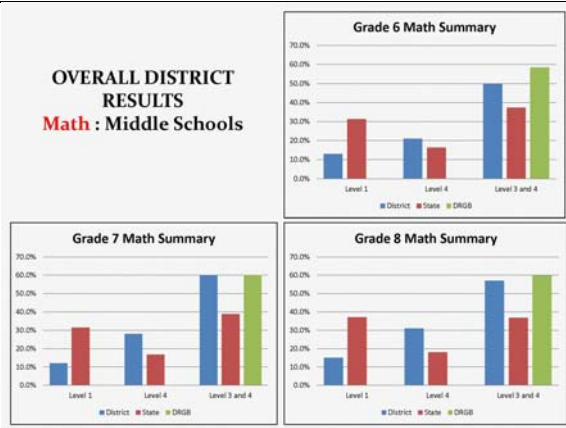
In response to Ms. Manzo asking how closely does the Region's assessments match the SBAC assessments, Mr. Wermuth noted that a few more years of SBAC data is needed.

Mr. Gusenburg reviewed the following results for results in the middle schools as follows:

Elementary
How are the data being used?
English Language Arts

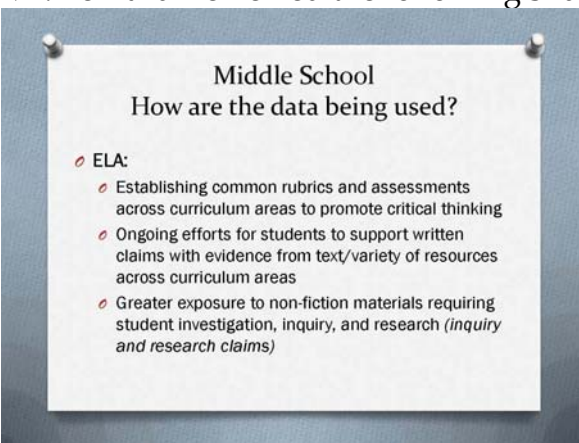
Elementary
How are the data being used?
Math

Questions



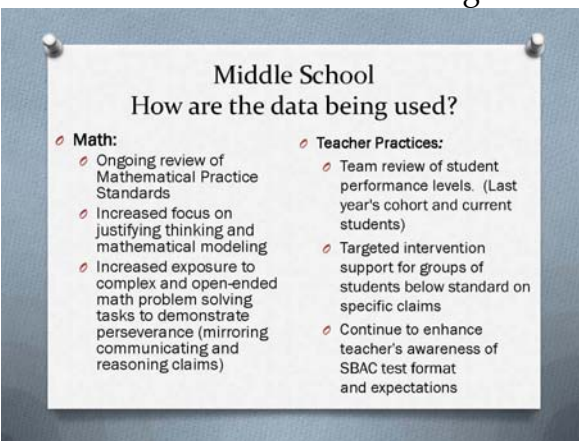
Overall District Results
Math Middle Schools

Mr. Bernardi reviewed the following slides for middle school:



Middle School
How are the data being used?
English Language Arts

Dr. Sieller reviewed the following slides regarding math:



How are the data being used?
Math

In response to Mr. Suriani, Dr. Sieller and Mr. Bernardi reviewed how the SBAC was received by students and teachers.

Comments

In response to Mr. Cookson's question regarding parents' acceptance of the curriculum, Dr. Sieller reviewed the status. Mr. Bernardi reviewed parents' comments regarding the depth of curriculum.

Ms. Butkus commented on the percentage of students not meeting achievement level in math for Grade Six. Mr. Gusenburg noted the specific programs in place, the major shifts taking place in math, and the time needed for instructional methodology changes.

Mr. Babarik commented on meeting the needs of the students who are below level and the need to focus on addressing the needs.

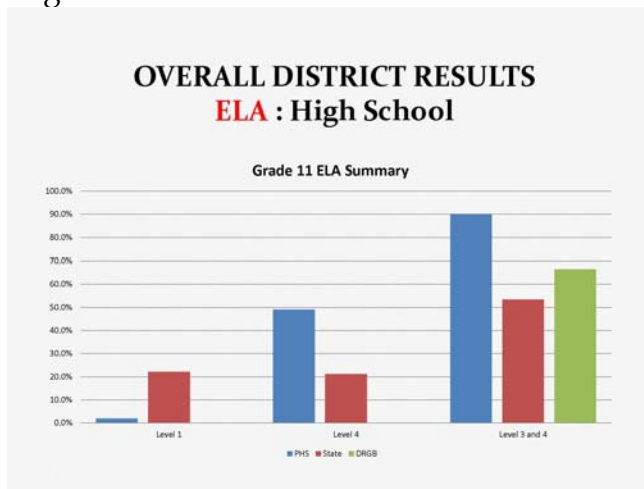
Mr. Gusenburg commented on the newness of the test and the recognition to have more consistency in the instructional math program.

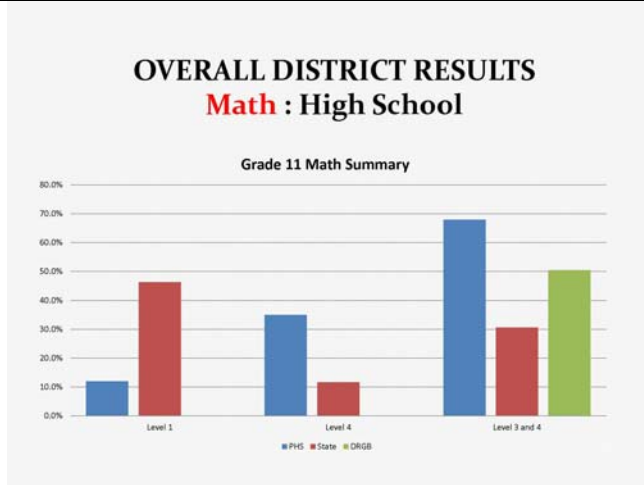
Ms. Guck commented on the newness of the test, noting that comparisons cannot be made to what has happened in the past.

Ms. Manzo commented on steps taken to implement the Bridges math program and the results of the SBAC.

Mr. Lungarini reviewed the following slides regarding Pomperaug High School:

High School





High School How are the data being used?

- o 2014-2015 Instructional Focus
 - o Evaluate and redesign school-wide 21st century learning rubrics
 - o Align rubrics with CCSS and PHS learning expectations
 - o Engage in individualized student-teacher conferences to drive learning growth
 - o Create learners who are problem solvers
- o SBAC Results
 - o ELA - PHS was the top performing high school in CT (91.4% at Levels 3 and 4)
 - o Math - PHS was the fourth highest performing high school in CT (69.0% at Levels 3 and 4)

High School How are the data being used?

- o 2015-2016 Instructional Focus
 - o Continue to blend content rich curriculum with 21st century learning skills to develop problem solvers
 - o Create innovative opportunities for student centered learning which fosters the authentic application of knowledge, understanding and skill
 - o Provide opportunities for individual student reflection and goal setting to drive ownership and perseverance in learning

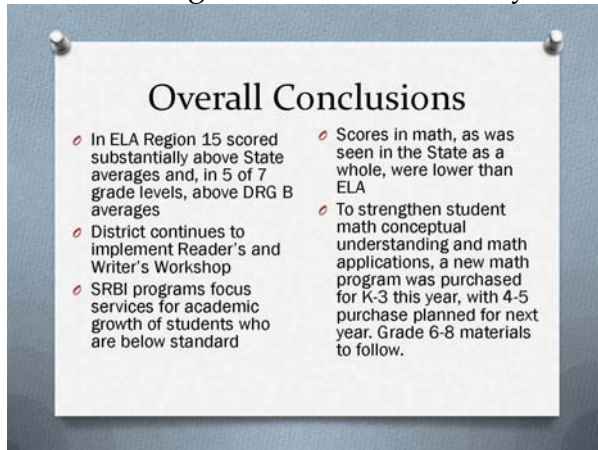
Ms. Manzo commented on the positive results of the SBAC.

Comments

Ms. Guck commented on vertical articulation of curriculum, noting that everyone is speaking the same language in terms of curriculum development and testing.

In response to Mr. Suriani questioning the aligning of SAT to Common Core, Mr. Lungarini noted that SATs have been aligned to the Common Core. The new SAT is being issued by College Board in March, 2016. Mr. Lungarini reviewed the new SAT details.

The following slide was reviewed by Mr. Gusenburg:



Mr. Gusenburg commented on the language arts program, the changes to teaching math, and professional development.

Ms. Perry expressed her appreciation for the report.

4. Upon a motion by Mr. Cookson, seconded by Ms. Connelly, IT WAS VOTED

“to approve the October 26, 2015 special meeting minutes as presented.”

DISCUSSION: Board members engaged in a discussion regarding whether or not have the PHS schedule included with the special meeting minutes for October 26, 2015.

Upon a motion by Ms. Butkus, seconded by Mr. Spierto, IT WAS VOTED

“to table the approval of the October 26, 2015 special meeting minutes.”

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.”

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

“to approve the October 26, 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.

Motion Made
Approval of Special
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2015

Motion Made to Table
Approval of Special
Meeting Minutes
October 26, 2015

Motion Made and Passed
Approval of Minutes

<p>Spierto, and Mr. Suriani voting “Aye.”</p>	
<p>5. Mr. Suriani announced the November 23 Policy and Curriculum Committee meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the PHS Media Center Conference Room.</p> <p>Mr. Suriani reviewed the following item from the September 28 Policy and Curriculum Committee meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report on the work of the Middle School Study Committee was presented by the Middle School Principals and Assistant Principals. • In 2014-15, a consultant worked with the Middle School Study Committee, which included teachers, administrators, and parents, to conduct a thorough review of the middle school program. • The Committee’s work was presented to Policy and Curriculum Committee in the Spring of 2015. • In September 2015, the Planning and Scheduling Sub-Committee, consisting of the Interim Assistant Superintendent, Principals, Assistant Principals, Director of Athletics and the Director of Fine Arts, was formed to study the various and issues and develop specific plans and place before the larger committee a report to be presented in February 2016. • The sub-committee discussed daily scheduling constraints. • Policy and Curriculum Committee discussed how past decisions affects scheduling and the program, budget implications, and the timing of implementation of the program. • Recommendations will not be available for the 2016-17 budget cycle. Recommendations will be made to the Policy and Curriculum Committee in the Spring of 2016. • The Policy and Curriculum Committee also heard from the Administrators working on developmental guidance. A timeline was presented and reviewed. Possible outcomes may be available in June 2016. 	<p>Policy and Curriculum Committee</p>
<p>6. Ms. Connelly reported on the November 5, 2015 PTO Advisory Council Meeting. Agenda items included a presentation from a SMART representative, and the Superintendent’s letter regarding weather advisories.</p>	<p>PTO Advisory Council</p>
<p>7. Ms. Perry congratulated Ms. Connelly, Mr. Cookson, Ms. Guck, and Mr. Suriani, who were re-elected to serve another term on the Board of Education. Ms. Perry congratulated and welcomed</p>	<p>Board of Education Election Results</p>

<p>Ms. Brenda M. Carter, as the newly elected Board of Education member.</p> <p>8. Ms. Botsford expressed her appreciation to Mr. Gusenburg and Administrators for the evening’s presentation regarding student achievement.</p> <p>Ms. Botsford reported that the Board received the November 9, 2015 Personnel Report.</p> <p>Ms. Botsford reviewed the following elementary parent meetings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges Math: February 2, 2016 (snow date February 4, 2016) at LMES , 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. • 21st Century Skills (6 C’s) March 15, 2016 at LMES; 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. • There will also be a 21st Century Skills session scheduled for middle school and high school parents. <p>Ms. Botsford reported that on November 11, 2015 Veteran’s Day will be celebrated at the schools. Each school’s presentation will have an assembly at which veterans will be participating. Ms. Botsford expressed appreciation to the VFW, the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus for their assistance in the Veteran’s Day celebration.</p> <p>Ms. Botsford presented a MMS school vignette on Critical Thinking, which demonstrated students developing an “air racer” from technical drawings, testing the racers, and compiling the results of the test.</p> <p>Ms. Butkus expressed her appreciation on the school vignette presentations.</p>	<p>Superintendent’s Report</p>
<p>9. Ms. Alexandra Gittines, Southbury, expressed her appreciation to the Board of Education, for supporting the Veteran’s Day celebrations.</p>	<p>Comments from Citizens</p>
<p>10. Ms. Perry announced the following upcoming</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Finance and Facilities Committee Central Office 6:00 p.m. 2. Wednesday, November 11, 2015, Board of Education Special Meeting/Workshop Discussion of Board Goals and Norms Developing the 	<p>Future Meeting Dates</p>

Effectiveness of Senior Leadership Team

Central Office

7:00 p.m.

3. Monday, November 23, 2015, Policy and Curriculum

Committee

Pomperaug High School Media Center Conference Room

6:00 p.m.

4. Monday, November 23, 2015, Board of Education Meeting

Pomperaug High School All-Purpose Room No. 103

7:30 p.m.

Ms. Perry noted that the December 7, 2015 Board of Education meeting may need adjustments to the schedule.

11. Upon a motion by Mr. Cookson, seconded by Ms. Guck,

IT WAS VOTED

“to adjourn the evening’s meeting at 9:06 p.m.”

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.”

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Connelly
Secretary

Gretchen I. Usawicz, Board Clerk