*The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Board of Education meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please click the following link: **April 1, 2026 - Regular Meeting Recording**.*

GRANBY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Granby, Connecticut
Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes
(subject to approval)

The Granby Board of Education's regular meeting was held on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 15-B N. Granby Road, and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

PRESENT: Board members: Monica Logan, Donna Nolan, Heather Lombardo, Ann Woods, David Peling, Ed. D, and Andrew Billig.

ALSO PRESENT: Superintendent Cheri Burke, Assistant Superintendent Jenn Parsons, and Director of Finance and Operations Nickie Stevenson.

Call to Order and Welcome:
Board Chair Monica Logan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson's Report:

- Chair Logan announced that Liz Barlow has resigned from the Board of Education. She thanked her for her service and noted that there is no information at this time on a replacement.
- The Town and Board of Education will be working with a third party, EastConn, to evaluate potential opportunities for improved collaboration between the Town and BOE and determine what is in the best interest of the schools. They are experts in this field, and the Board looks forward to working with them, along with the Town, on this project.
- The Board of Finance has asked the Board of Education to reduce its budget by $100,000, and more will be discussed concerning this reduction under Business Requiring Action.
- Going forward, the Public Comment portion of the meeting will be moved to the end of the meeting, right before the Superintendent Update.

David Peling addressed a comment made at the previous Board meeting by a community member that Open Choice students are not welcome into the Granby community. Dave expressed his unwavering support for the program and its students, stating that all students in the Open Choice program are welcomed, valued, and fully embraced by the Granby family. He also shared his appreciation for the diverse perspectives these students bring to Granby schools and affirmed that he will always be an advocate for Open Choice students.

Donna Nolan added that she echoed what David Peling stated and agreed that the Open Choice students and program provides tremendous benefits to both the schools and students of Granby. She shared that she has had personal experience with students staying with her family during the sports season and described it as a wonderful experience for everyone involved.

Student Representative Reports:

- Madison's Updates:
  - She wished Sophia good luck at Nationals for swimming.
  - Thanked everyone who came out to support the Empty Bowls fundraiser. They were able to raise $3,200.00 for Granby and Hartland food banks.
  - The National English Honor Society will have its first chapter induction on Monday, April 6th, at 5:00 pm. She is excited to be a part of this event.
  - Boys and Girls Baseball and Softball both had scrimmages.

Reports and Discussion:

- **Schools in the Spotlight** (*Click links below to view presentations*)
  Wells Road School - Pauline Greer - Principal
  Courtney Piotroski, Literacy Coach, presented along with three fourth-grade students: Ivy Norrick, Hudson Bedard, and Sammy Jensen. The students shared their examples of incorporating music and art into their reading lessons.

  Kelly Lane School - Kim Loveland - Principal
  Kim Loveland, along with her Pre K teachers, Mrs. Farnsworth and Mrs. Peterson, presented their Pre K Edition presentation.

- Granby BEAR Transition Academy and GAP Announcement
  Superintendent Burke shared an exciting update regarding the continued growth and success of the Granby B.E.A.R. (Bringing Emerging Adults Resources) Transition Academy. The B.E.A.R. program will relocate from the YMCA to a new site at South Congregational Church, 242 Salmon Brook Street, for the 2026–2027 school year.

Business Requiring Action:

- **Revised FY 27 Operating Budget:**
  - Superintendent Burke shared the Revised FY Operating Budget.
    Click **HERE** to view the Memo.

  - On a motion by Heather Lombardo, seconded by Andrew Billig, the Board of Education adopted the Revised FY27 Operating Budget, with one opposing vote by Donna Nolan.

Donna Nolan stated that she appreciates the movement in the numbers but is concerned that it is not enough. With enrollment declining, she remains concerned about the overall budget. She appreciates the work that has gone into the proposal; however, she feels there are additional areas where reductions could be made.

Ann Woods stated that she is concerned about the proposed reductions, noting that they will impact both parents and teachers. She acknowledged that there is a small group of residents who are concerned about the budget, but emphasized that she believes this is a responsible budget and that she was confident in the original proposal. She thanked everyone for their hard work in presenting the revised budget proposal.

David Peling stated that there are structural issues that need to be addressed and that the three boards should work together to develop both a five-year and a ten-year plan for the growth of Granby. He emphasized the importance of promoting Granby and attracting businesses to the town. Regrettably, we have to additionally cut the budget, but he is in support of the revised budget.

Andrew Billig wanted to clarify that the 3.5% is not the actual increased expense going to the individual taxpayer. He thanked everyone for their time and hard work. He also expressed concern about changing a secretary position to a 10-month role, noting that summer support is critical for high school students. His concern is who is going to take on all of the responsibilities and additional work without additional compensation. He stated that he is in support of the revised budget.

Heather Lombardo stated that we are just starting to see the growth and progress from the COVID years. She doesn't want to see that progress plateau. If we are just looking at the math, then we are doing a disservice to our students and school system. She was in support of the 3.8% budget, and she is in support of the 3.5% budget.

Monica Logan is entirely grateful to the staff for making reductions. As a parent, she is concerned that we are in a rut of finding reductions and taking things away. Granby has a revenue problem and lacks the infrastructure to support large organizations to bring in substantial revenue. The Board of Education in the past three years has doubled the amount of revenue to the Town of Granby - we bring in almost 3 million dollars by thinking creatively and developing programs. That is not the job of the Board of Education; it's to educate kids. We are thinking outside the box to benefit Granby. We need to work collaboratively with the Town to build resources and shared infrastructure. We need to work together. The budget breaks down to about $18/mo. per taxpayer. She is in support of this revised budget.

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- **March 16, 2026, Board of Education Budget Workshop meeting minutes:**
  - On a motion by Heather Lombardo, seconded by Donna Nolan, the March 16, 2026, Board of Education Budget Workshop meeting minutes were approved.

- **March 18, 2026 - Board of Education Regular meeting minutes:**
  - On a motion by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Donna Nolan, the March 18, 2026, Board of Education Regular meeting minutes were approved.

Board Standing Committee Reports:

- Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication:
  This committee met tonight and discussed Syllabi for Senior English courses, CABE Restorative Practice Policy, and Assistant Superintendent Jen Parsons gave her monthly report. Click **HERE** to view the report.
- Finance/Personnel/Facilities: There is no meeting this month.

Other Board-Related Reports:

- CREC/CABE - No Updates.
- Granby Education Foundation - A liaison is needed from the Board.

Public Comment:
Please note that the following are brief summaries of each individual's statement. To hear the full public comments and view the meeting in its entirety, please refer to the link above.

1. Valerie Raggio - 88 Simsbury Road - She is in support of the budget and the Board of Education. She thanked everyone for all of the hard work that has gone into the budget proposals and presentations. She also expressed her support for the Open Choice program and students. Supporting the budget supports our teachers. She praised the teachers for their dedication and efforts in working with all students.

2. Kristal Fiorentino - Loomis Street - She stated that she initially felt angry but reflected and realized that nothing gets resolved without compassion. Her main concern with the budget is transparency, and she expressed frustration over discrepancies, such as stipends and the amounts listed as savings by doing things in-house - she feels it's misleading. She requested that the Board: 1) stop attacking people with a difference of opinion, 2) take feedback seriously, and 3) be much more transparent in their budget process.

Superintendent's Report:

- No School on Friday, April 3rd, for the holiday. All schools and offices will be closed.
- Monday, April 6th, is the Public Budget Hearing at GMHS at 7:00 PM.
- The week of April 13-17th is Spring Vacation for students and teachers.
- Wednesday, May 6th, will be our next Regular Board of Education meeting.

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Action Items:

- There are no action items at this time.

Adjournment:

On a motion by David Peling, seconded by Donna Nolan, the Board of Education adjourned, with all in favor, no discussion, at 9:15 pm.

Recording by:
Michelle L. Crowley
Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
and Assistant Superintendent