*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: November 4, 2026*

*[ Subject to Approval ]*
**Regular Board of Education Meeting - Minutes**
**November 4, 2026, at 7:00 PM**
Granby Town Hall, 15 N. Granby Rd., Granby, CT 06035
**Join Zoom Meeting:**
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85401738434?pwd=FayOZb7oGemYFkjuNsU0qzSpFVsVY7.1

**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**
Board Chair, Heather Lombardo, called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Present Board Members:** Heather Lombardo, Dave Peling, Ann Woods, John Limeburner, Joel Danke, and Andrew Billig.
**Virtual:** Jessica Diglio-Tsaptsinos.
**Also Present:** Superintendent Cheri Burke, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Parsons, Director of Finance and Operations, Nicole Stevenson and Director of Facilities, Safety & Security, Christopher DeGray.
**Student Representatives:** Madison Schantz **Excused:** Teagan Hall.

**AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**
Mr. Christopher DeGray presented Kelly Lane Primary School's Head Custodian, Kevin Tulloch, with the Facilities Employee of the Year award. Mr. DeGray highlighted Mr. Tulloch's years of commitment, efficiency, unwavering dedication to the work at hand and fiscal responsibility, as well as personal perseverance as some of the reasons for being selected as the Facilities Employee of the Year.

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS**
Ms. Madison Schantz provided the following highlights in her student report:

- Halloween activities at the High School were led by the Student Government, which included costume contests and guiding the Small-World trick-or-treaters through the designated hallways for trick-or-treating.
- The Student Government completed elections for freshmen and a full freshman cabinet is being established.
- 42 New members were inducted into the National Honor Society.
- The National English Honor Society members will be hosting an interactive table at the upcoming book fair.
- Puffs, the high school production, is scheduled for November 13, 14 and 15.
- The Met field trip for the Language Department is being held on November 12.
- The Field Hockey team is first in the state and sports teams are doing well in their season.

**BOARD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION AND ACTION**
**Superintendent's Report**
Superintendent, Cheri Burke, highlighted the following in her Superintendent's report:

- Attended the National Honor Society induction ceremony, to celebrate student leaders, their commitment, and academic excellence. They inducted 42 students.
- A Professional Development Day, held on November 3, 2026, was dedicated to vertical teams alignment, where staff from grades Pre-K through 12 in similar disciplines meet to collaborate.
- The NEASC consultant, Kristen Smitty, provided a one-hour, virtual orientation per school on the Professional Development day. The NEASC consultant provided an overview of the requirements of membership and timeline expectations. NEASC Accreditation across the district is a multi-year process and Granby was one of eight districts in the state selected to undergo the process.
- NEASC will be sending surveys to staff, district parents, and to middle and high school students to provide insight into climate and to provide feedback. NEASC will formulate and host the survey and will then share results with Granby Public Schools.
- Veteran's Day activities are planned across the four schools for November 11, 2026, in recognition of our community veterans and the opportunity is provided to educate students.

**FINANCE AND OPERATIONS**
**Granby Memorial Middle School - 5 Year HVAC State Mandate Update/ Results Report**

Fuss & O'Neill Senior Mechanical Engineer, Josh Boudreau, along with Director of Facilities, Chris DeGray provided a report of the Granby Memorial Middle School 5-year HVAC assessment; which is a state-mandated assessment of the heating, ventilation and air conditioning. The State mandate requires 20% of district school facilities to undergo detailed HVAC evaluation. The Ventilation Summary presentation can be viewed **HERE**. Notable remarks from the presentation include:

- There are non-functional units, which are producing 0% of outdoor air, which are anticipated to need replacement.
- Most of the equipment dates to 1992, making it 34 years old, and exceeding the standard 20-year operational lifespans. The units are also difficult to service due to their components and outdated functionalities.
- Routine indoor air quality testing confirms the school air is safe as there is no mold or toxic hazards.
- Fuss & O'Neill outlined a 6-year phased approach - which includes following ASHRAE maintenance protocol and comprehensive modernization of the units. The December 8, 2026 referendum will include a question about approving the HVAC replacements.

**Facilities Safety & Security Update**

Director of Facilities, Safety & Security, Chris DeGray, presented on the many facility, safety and security projects and upgrades that were handled over the summer. His presentation can be viewed **HERE**. Notable highlights from his presentation included:

- In-house completion of the annual 1,200-page district IAQ checklist saves $120,000 to $176,000 annually compared to third-party quotes
- Upgrades to the exterior of Wells Road Intermediate School were shared. The building was being affected by improper roof drainage and causing damage to the exterior of the building. Tiles were replaced by maintenance staff, the exterior of the building was power washed and the roof fascia was extended to prevent future exterior issues. This process also provided a cost-savings to the district as opposed to outsourcing the entire project.
- The propane tank upgrades at both, Wells Road and Kelly Lane, were noted.
- An overview of the Wells Road gym floor replacement, which included an in-house demo of the floor and produced cost-savings for the district, was provided.
- Significant upgrades to the safety and security infrastructure, which includes Lockdown buttons, labeling of all outdoor doors, and providing clear, universal wording for safety teams and police was shared.
- Future priorities were also shared. The HVAC replacement for Granby Memorial Middle School will go to public vote at the December 8, 2026 referendum.
- The High School Auditorium/Theater space is also in need of notable upgrades.

**Capital Funds Reallocation**

Nicole Stevenson, Director of Finance and Operations requested approval to reallocate existing small capital funds to ensure the bus fleet lease obligation is satisfied and the fleet transfer can be completed without outstanding lease payments upon the transfer of the bus titles. Ms. Stevenson noted, this is one of three requests that is required prior to the funds transfer, as approval from the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen will be needed. Ms. Stevenson's request can be viewed **HERE.**

**Motion:** Ann Woods moved to approve the reallocation of $12,026.23 from the remaining balance of the Wells Road project, to fund the final bus fleet lease payment. Dave Peling seconded the motion. All were in favor of the small capital fund reallocation transfer.

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Curriculum Subcommittee Update**

The Chair of the Curriculum Subcommittee, Dave Peling, highlighted some of the work the Curriculum Subcommittee was tasked with at the meeting.

- Approval of new and revamped Art programs at the High School, to best align with state graduation requirements and to offer expanded opportunities for art across multiple years, was shared.
- A new AP course was introduced.
- A new Physical Science course was introduced.

**October 7, 2026 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting Minutes**

**Motion:** Andrew Billig moved to approve the October 7, 2026 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting Minutes. John Limeburner seconded the motion. All were in favor

**Secondary School Reports:**

**Granby Memorial High School - Update**

Principal of Granby Memorial High School, Mike Dunn, provided a school report, highlighting changes to goals in alignment with the Strategic Plan. His presentation can be found **HERE**. Some highlights from the presentation are as follows:

- In alignment with the Strategic Plan, Principal Dunn has aligned with the plan to "Connect," through a Student Advisory Council, which is an open-invitation council that has held two well-attended student feedback sessions. Connection efforts will be expanded through advisory groups, spirit weeks, pep rallies and student-led initiatives.
- The staff has worked on embedding the district's five foundational statements from the newly adopted Strategic Plan about learning into daily classroom instruction.
- New schoolwide retake and late-work policies are being explored, in an effort to give students structured opportunities to apply feedback and revise their work
- In alignment with achievement and the Strategic Plan, specific SAT skill gaps are being worked on, particularly in probability and data analysis in math areas.
- In the area of achievement, Tier 2 interventions and learning centers in both English and Math, are being developed and opportunities for individual growth are being sought.

**Granby Memorial Middle School - Update**

Principal, Ashly Darnell, provided the Granby Memorial Middle School school report and identified areas where goals for the upcoming school year could be aligned to the new Strategic Plan. A full presentation can be found **HERE.** Some of the key points Ms. Darnell made were:

- Notable successes, which included the *No Place for Hate* initiative, Learning Labs and the Crew Advisory grant-funded library, which provides games and activities to enhance student learning, communication and experiences.
- Two student leaders from each grade will be selected to participate in Crew Advisory, which aims to strengthen student voice and leadership. The Crew Advisory program aims to increase the proportion of students reporting positive peer kindness from 63%, reported last year, to over 80%.
- With 54% participation in the provided, 18 student clubs, the school aims to increase participation in school-provided clubs and programs.
- A quarterly teacher newsletter, which was created to reduce the percentage of parents feeling under-informed, based on survey results, hopes to bring that disconnect down to 10%, as opposed to the 30% that reported feeling under-informed.
- The school is also working to increase family interaction with the new ParentSquare platform, hoping to bring interactions from 42% up to 80%. This goal is clarified to distinguish between those receiving notifications, which is nearly 100% of parents and those interacting via app-based options.
- Established clear instructional "look-fors" during professional development to guide teacher-peer visits and share effective learning practices for collaboration.
- Expanded master scheduling options to provide targeted support, including structured literacy, co-taught classes, learning labs, study skills, and workshop classes.
- Deployed the Smart Pass digital system to monitor out-of-class time, resulting in a noticeable drop in missed instructional time.
- Established a benchmark for students to achieve at least 70% of their individual growth target on ELA and Math Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA). Students review their baseline assessment performance during learning labs to track individual progress and set personal growth goals.
- A second ELA intervention teacher is testing short "boost groups" and pullout sessions for targeted skill support.
- Evaluating the addition of a middle school behavioral program to match programs at the elementary and high school levels.

**BOARD LIAISON REPORTS**

**Granby Education Foundation**

Mr. Andrew Billig provided the following updates on behalf of the Granby Education Foundation:

- GEF held their annual kickoff meeting.
- A funds recycling policy was established with the Board of Ed Business Office for repurpose funds.
- Annual appeal is being mailed November 9, 2026.
- GEF is aiming to do one event per month, starting with the trick-or-treat event they hosted and participating in the book fair November 7.
- Actively recruiting new members to their board.

**PTO/SEPTO**

Mr. Andrew Billig provided the following information on behalf of SEPTO:

- SEPTO is hosting a "Calm and Consistent Parent" behavioral workshop presented by two BCBA's on Thursday, November 12, 2026.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment at this meeting.

**BOARD GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP**

**Chairperson's Report**

Heather Lombardo, Chairperson of the Board of Education, admired the students inducted to the National Honor Society and was excited to attend the induction ceremony.

**IBAC (Intra Board Advisory Committee)**

Ms. Lombardo shared that CLA work is ongoing. CLA is the firm that has come in to audit the town and board of education offices for efficiencies and shared services.

**PBCPC (Public Building and Capital Project Committee)**

Mr. Dave Peling shared that there's a meeting next week where the committee will review the proposals from the engineering firms for the athletic fields. He reminded everyone about the upcoming open house on November 14 and the December referendum.

**POLICIES, CONTRACTS AND BOARD ACTION**

**Approval of Minutes - Regular Board of Education Meeting - October 21, 2026**

**Motion:** John Limeburner moved to approve the October 21, 2026 Board of Education Minutes. Ann Woods seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion:** At 9:22PM Dave Peling moved to adjourn the Board of Education meeting. Jessica Diglio-Tsapasinos seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Submitted By:

*Jennifer Arnold*

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