

GRANBY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Granby, Connecticut
Wednesday, December 17, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes

The Granby Board of Education's regular meeting was held on Wednesday, December 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 15-B N. Granby Road, via the Zoom Meeting Platform and live on the GCTV network.

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

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

Call to Order and Welcome:

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

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Logan reviewed the important context regarding when the Board of Education meetings occur and that the board convenes to listen to reports from the superintendent, approve budgets and contracts, and handle necessary business tasks to ensure Granby schools run effectively. Board meetings are not public hearings but rather business meetings that are held publicly. She briefly reviewed legal standards surrounding FOIA and the need to follow the posted agenda following public comment. Residents may contact and engage with board members via email or other means outside business meetings and may also make comments.

Chair Logan also discussed the successful recent Board Retreat and the data collection on the Strategic Plan survey that was completed by parents and community members, and which will be utilized to guide development of the new District Strategic Plan.

Awards and Recognition:

Mr. Brian Liss from the YMCA was recognized for his wonderful support of our BEAR Academy (Age 18-22 Transition Program) and other needs within the community. The group feels completely supported and appreciated by Brian and his staff.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment this evening in person or via Zoom.

Student Representative Reports:

The following was reported by Madison Schantz:

- Girls' basketball and hockey are off to a strong start to their seasons.

- Recently held a Red Cross blood drive.
- The student government held a food drive.
- Winter break is upon us, and then prep for midterms will begin.
- The stocking drive for toys will end on Friday, located in the GMHS office.

Reports and Discussion:

- **Indoor Air Quality Reporting Presentation:**

- Mr. Christopher Degray presented an Indoor Air Quality Report to the Board. He showed the revamped Granby BOE Facilities page on the website, including reports for the state-mandated Indoor Air Quality testing completed this fall, and saving the district at least \$177,000 by completing work in-house by him and his team (50-60 hours per school). Click [HERE](#) to view the information on the new page on the website. HVAC testing will be done soon by an outside firm as required and reported later to the board.
 - Q- Donna Nolan asked if this test is mandated yearly, which would be a large recurring expense.
 - A- Mr. Degray stated that it is mandated.

- **Proposed “Plus One” Budget Presentation:**

- Mrs. Cheri Burke presented the Proposed Plus One budget presentation to the Board. To view the information that was shared with the Board, click [HERE](#).
 - This budget is not a “plus one” budget, but her “proposed budget,” and it is highly likely that numbers will shift as retirement information comes in. In past years, this early iteration was typically higher than what would be later presented to the public. However, it is coming in at a 3.8% increase, lower than the “plus one” in previous years and closer to what will likely be the final number.
 - Q- Heather Lombardo asked approximately how many coaches are included in the summer coaches’ stipend.
 - A- Sup Burke stated that the number is estimated at this time, but hard to know for certain how many are needed or wish to volunteer.
 - Sup Burke shared a list of “Requested, not budgeted” positions that are not included in the budget but strongly recommended.

Donna Nolan moved that the board to take a brief recess to sort out microphone technology issues with ZOOM. Heather Lombardo seconded. The motion passed with no discussion. Chair Logan called the meeting back to order at 8:00 pm.

- Q- Monica Logan asked if there are community resources available for substance abuse counseling in the “Requested” list.
- A- Sup Burke stated that the YSB staff are already overloaded, and other options are being investigated.

- Q- Monica Logan asked how long the Small Cap fund has been capped at \$1 million.
- A- Sup Burke stated that it has been a long time, with few exceptions.
- Sup Burke described the revenue brought in by BOE programs such as the BEAR transition academy and other tuition programs, that goes into the town General Fund instead of to the BOE side. There has been a discussion with the BOF about changing the accounting in the interest of transparency, to allow tuition from the BEAR program and the GAP program to stay on the BOE side, and offset increases in the BOE operating budget for running the programs.
 - Monica Logan commented to emphasize that this proposed change in accounting is being discussed in collaboration with town employees and the Board of Finance.
 - Q- Heather Lombardo asked about the proposed addition of a reading specialist at the middle school. Is this the 3rd year of this program?
 - A- Sup Burke stated that this is the third year in which the position was proposed but it has not yet been funded.
 - Q- Andrew Billig- is there an interventionist at the high school supporting the middle school?
 - A- Jenn Parsons stated that we have been using COVID-era funding to pay a tutor, but we are proposing a certified staff member instead. At the high school, certified subject area staff act as interventionists
 - Q- Donna Nolan asked about the decrease in substitute teacher funding
 - A- Nickie Stevenson stated that budgeting is low, and we also have difficulty filling open substitute positions, and at times, teachers are compensated for substituting during their preparation periods.
 - Q- Ann Woods asked about the proposed spending on a digital hall pass program.
 - A- Sup Burke described a subscription-based system that can allow students to sign out digitally for bathroom passes, track their use, and keep data to manage student time out of class. She stated that she would personally prefer a person over a program. Dave Peling, Andrew Billig, and Donna Nolan all commented positively on the use of these systems in the schools in which they teach.
 - Dave Peling commented on the repeatedly postponed maintenance to the baseball/softball fields. There are issues with the fencing, grass, mud, dugouts, and lack of electricity and water, while other areas are being upgraded and prioritized. He asked board members to consider funding this work as it impacts many GMHS students.

Business Requiring Action:

- **November 2025 Budget Expense Report:**

- Ms. Nickie Stevenson presented the November 2025 Budget Expense Report. On a motion by Donna Nolan and seconded by Ann Woods, the November 2025 Budget Expense Report was approved.

- **December 3, 2025 Board of Education meeting minutes:**

- On a motion by Donna Nolan and seconded by Heather Lombardo, the December 3, 2025, meeting minutes were approved. Abstentions: Monica Logan and Donna Nolan.

Board Standing Committee Reports:

- Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication—This committee will meet on January 7, 2026, at the BOE Central Office conference room.
- Finance/Personnel/Facilities— This committee met tonight and discussed the November 2025 expense report and approved the last meeting's minutes. Mr. Guarco also joined the committee meeting to discuss items on the agenda.

Other Board-Related Reports:

- CREC/CABE - Chair Monica Logan attended a seminar regarding legislation and the advocacy role of a Board member. Board members are encouraged to testify if they can.
- Granby Education Foundation - No update to report.

Superintendent's Report:

- The Board had a wonderful board retreat recently.
- Met with school leaders and teachers to discuss strategic planning.
- Surveyed parents and students regarding strategic planning. Teachers will be surveyed following the holiday break
- Just celebrated a ribbon-cutting for the new bleachers at the high school today.
- Attended the Senior Center Men's and Women's breakfast and enjoyed the GMHS chorale sing-along.
- January 3rd is a budget procedure meeting in which the community can ask questions about how the budget process works in Granby (not for specific budgeting questions).
- January 20 is the Three-Board Meeting

Action Items: Board members will submit feedback, questions, additions, etc., regarding the proposed budget presentation to Superintendent Burke before the next Board meeting on January 7th.

Adjournment: On a motion by David Peling and seconded by Donna Nolan, the Board of Education adjourned with all in favor, no discussion, at 8:54 pm.

Submitted by:

Elizabeth Barlow

Secretary, Granby Board of Education

Recording by:

Michelle L. Crowley

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent