

**Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, May 7, 2025, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room**

I. Call to Order and Welcome

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

II. Chairperson's Report (5 min.)

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Board Chair, Monica Logan, will share remarks.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

III. Awards and Recognition

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

A. CABE Student Leadership Awards

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Board Chair, Monica Logan, will present the annual CABE Student Leadership Awards to Hallie James and Robert Hazen, Granby Memorial Middle School students, and Sofia Brenson and Benjamin LaVigne, Granby Memorial High School students.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

IV. Public Comment (20 min.)

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Granby community engagement and attendance at Board of Education public meetings is welcomed and encouraged. As is our custom, the Board views Public Comment as an opportunity for members of the public to share their comments and concerns with the Board, and Board members will not be responding to comments or engaging in a dialog. As it deems appropriate, the Board may place such matters on the agenda for future meetings for discussion in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.

Procedurally, public remarks will be limited to 5 minutes and speakers will be asked to identify themselves by name and address. We expect comments to be respectful and civil in tone, and we do not permit name-calling, raised voices, personal attacks or vulgarity.

Lastly, we note that the Superintendent is responsible for student and personnel matters. No speaker will be permitted to use public comment to bring complaints against any teacher, student or staff member or to discuss student matters, which are confidential. Therefore, the use of student, teacher or staff names is not permitted. Any such complaints or concerns should be directed to the Superintendent and her team.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

V. Student Representative Reports (5 min.)

Goal:

Attachment:

Rationale: Ms. Katie O'Neill and Ms. Sofia Brenson, Student Representatives, will report on activities taking place at the high school.

Recommended Motion:

VI. Reports and Discussion (45 min.)

Goal:

Attachment:

Recommended Motion:

A. Schools in the Spotlight

Goal:

Attachment:

Rationale: Kristin Rice, Instructional Specialist at Granby Memorial Middle School, will share a brief history of the Crew Program and how it has been implemented at GMMS. Students from Mrs. Collins's Crew will demonstrate how a Crew Meeting is conducted.

Nick Gaeta, Technology Education Teacher at Granby Memorial High School, along with some of his Advanced Communications students will present their work to make the Morning Bears Broadcast an exciting new part of the GMHS culture.

Recommended Motion:

B. First Reading of Revised Policy 5141.5, Suicide Prevention

Goal:

Attachment:

Rationale: The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommends revised Policy 5141.5, Suicide Prevention, to the Board for a first reading.

Recommended Motion:

VII. Business Requiring Action (15 min.)

Goal:

Attachment:

Recommended Motion:

A. Director of Finance & Operations Report

Goal:

Attachment:

Rationale: Ms. Nickie Stevenson, Director of Operations & Finance, will present the Budget Expense Report for March 2025.

Recommended Motion:

B. Minutes

Goal:

Attachment:

Rationale: The Board will approve/amend the minutes of the April 2, 2025 Board of Education Meeting and the April 7, 2025 Special Board of Education Meeting.

Recommended Motion:

C. International Field Trip Approval

Goal:

Attachment:

Rationale: The Board will consider approval of International field trips for Granby Memorial High School students for the 2025-2026 school year.

Recommended Motion:

VIII. Committee Reports (20 min.)

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

A. Board Standing Committee Reports

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

B. Other Board-Related Reports

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

1. CREC/CABE

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

2. Granby Education Foundation

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

C. Calendar of Events

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

D. Board Member Announcements

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

E. Action Items

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

IX. Superintendent's Report (5 min.)

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Superintendent Burke will provide district updates.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

X. Adjournment

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}


{{RecommendedMotion}}



GMMS Schools in the Spotlight

**“We are Crew, not
passengers.”**

May 7, 2025



On a boat, passengers are catered to. Their main purpose is to arrive at the destination with as little effort as possible. They are involved in activities, but not wholly engaged in the journey. Crew, on the other hand, are responsible for the entire journey. They are engrossed in the activities of the ship. In fact, without their individual and collaborative effort, the passage cannot happen. Crew reach the same destination as their passengers, but their experience is significantly richer.

Author Unknown



What is Crew?

Crew is two things:

1. It is a ***structure*** where a specific group of students meet weekly with a Crew leader to support and push each other in school and life.
2. It is a ***culture*** where to be "Crew" means to help each other and take responsibility for everyone's well-being around you. Think of a large rowboat with people rowing together.

The Three Parts of a Crew Meeting

1. An ***opening or greeting*** that sets the tone for the meeting. Crews use a “talking piece” to ensure all crew members have a voice.
2. A ***meeting activity*** that reflects the theme for the month and is engaging.
3. A ***closing*** that acknowledges the work we did and what’s to come.

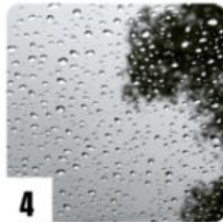


Examples of Openings and Greetings

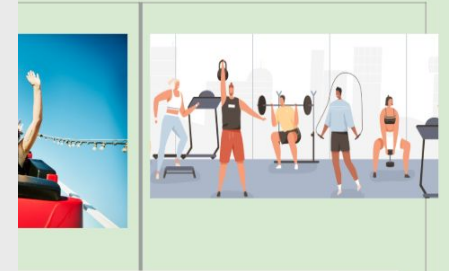


Opening Circle Prompt:

ON THE WEATHER SCALE, HOW ARE YOU FEELING RIGHT NOW?



Theme: **Perseverance**



What does **perseverance** mean to you?

Examples of Meeting Activities



Examples of Closings

Closing

Debrief wrap up/reflection

Advisory Di

- ★ What st
- ★ What c
- ★ How w
- ★ If you
- ★ differe
- ★ How c

*“Being a student is easy.
Learning requires
actual work.”*

Let's try a Crew Meeting together

1. Opening Circle
2. Meeting Activity
3. Closing



Opening
Circle
Prompt of
the Day

ON A SCALE OF CAT, HOW ARE
YOU FEELING TODAY?



Meeting Activity: Dance Telephone

- One person starts by creating and performing a short dance.
- Everyone faces the opposite direction and there is no talking.
- The next person in line turns to watch and tries to repeat the dance.
- The goal is to see how much the original dance changes as it's passed along.



Closing Reflection

- What was challenging about this activity?
- Why was teamwork so important for this activity?
- How can we use what we learned through this experience in situations outside the game?
- How does small miscommunications lead to big misunderstandings?
- How does this activity connect to our monthly Crew theme?



Voices from our Students

“I get to focus on getting to know other people and I get to make friends with more people. I am in Crew with people who weren’t my friends and now they are.”

“I wish we had it every day. It’s really fun. I consider them all my friends now.”

“It’s just fun.”



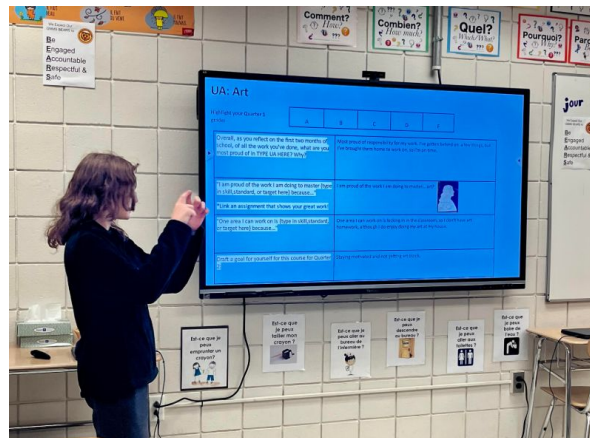
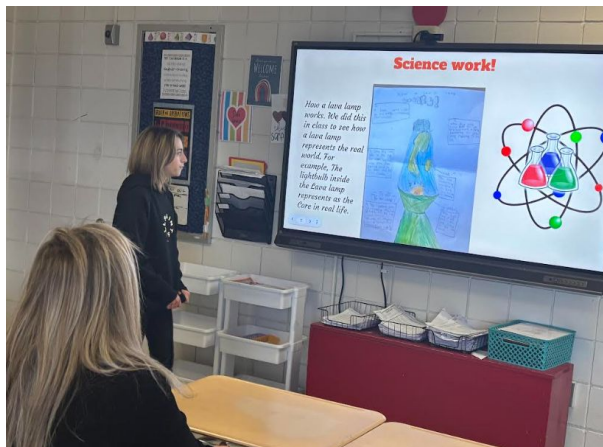
Voices from our Families

“Crew has been an incredible opportunity for my child to have that small class community to start his day every Thursday. Crew provides a safe space for him to connect with an adult, build relationships, and receive support with his studies, social, and emotional development.”

“Both of my kids have loved having Crew as part of their schedule. For my sixth grader in particular, having that class first during the first week or so of school really helped her understand her schedule and ease into the "newness" of middle school.”

Voices from our Families

“I think the student-led conferences were a very valuable experience that Crew offered the students. I was incredibly impressed (and at times emotional) listening to her speak to her own strengths and goals as a student and human being. I could see how proud she was to share her "glows" - both grades and assignments. She even felt comfortable sharing parts of school that are difficult and not enjoyable for her.”



Voices from our Staff

“CREW is a place where students can find connections in unexpected ways! Staff and students get to share more about who they are outside of the academic day.”

“As a teacher, it has been great to make a bond with students that goes a little deeper than grades and curriculum.”



Thank you!

Can we answer any questions?



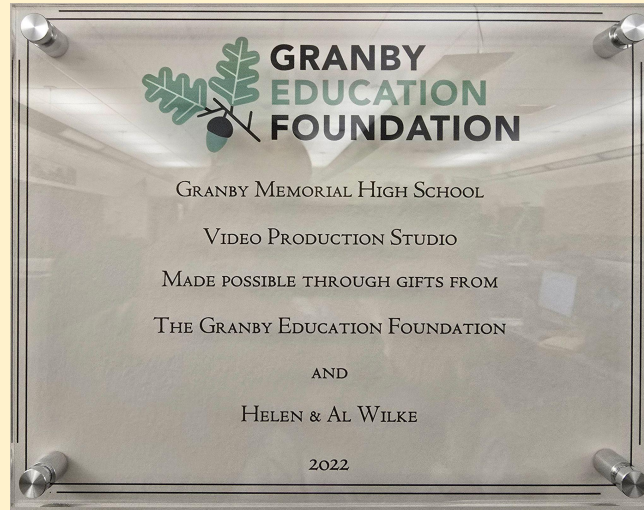


GMHS
Broadcasting



GMHS Bears Broadcast

Granby BOE Spotlight 5/7/25



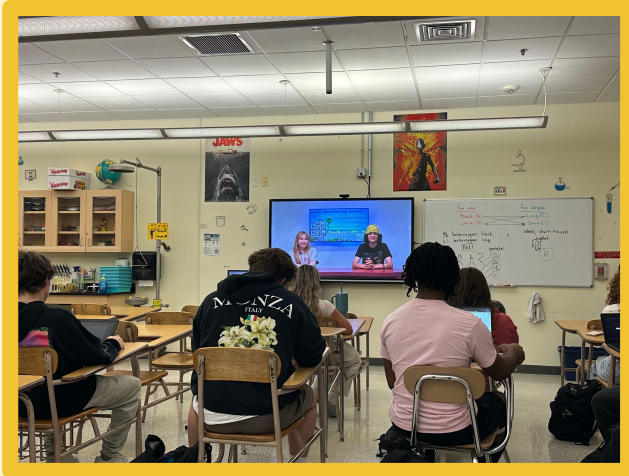
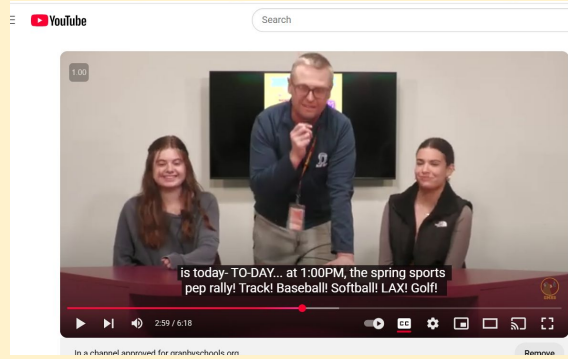
Background:

- Wilke Donation
- GEF Grant



THANK YOU GEF AND BOE!



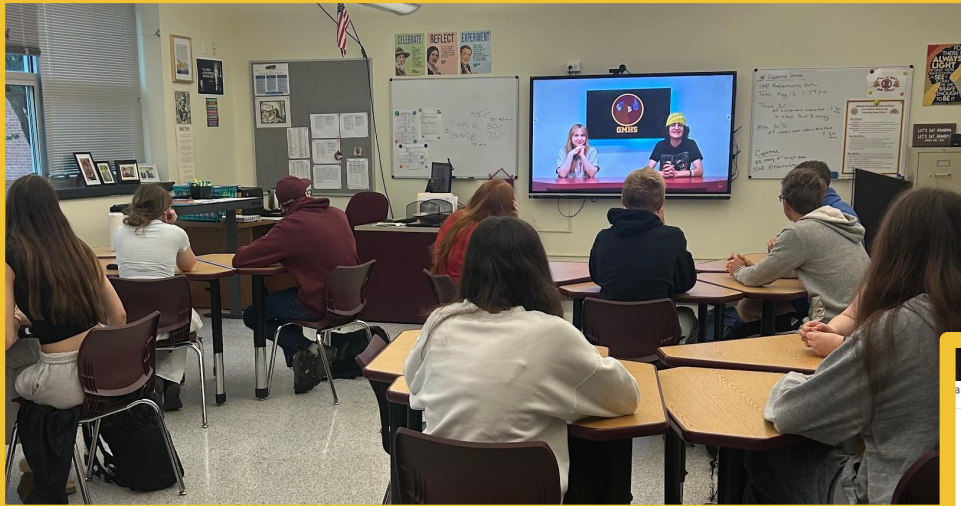


Impact on GMHS Culture

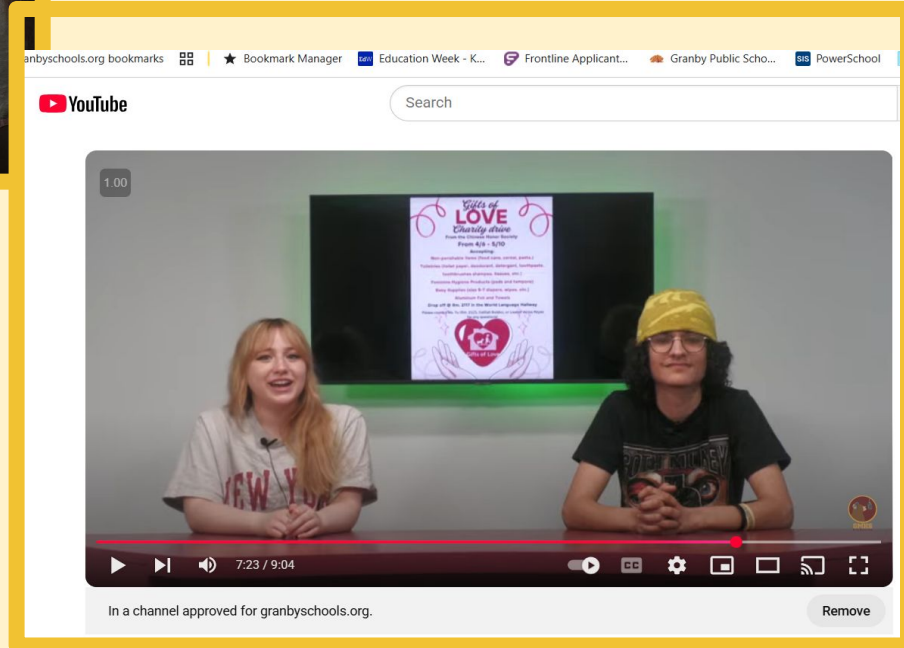


GMHS
Broadcasting

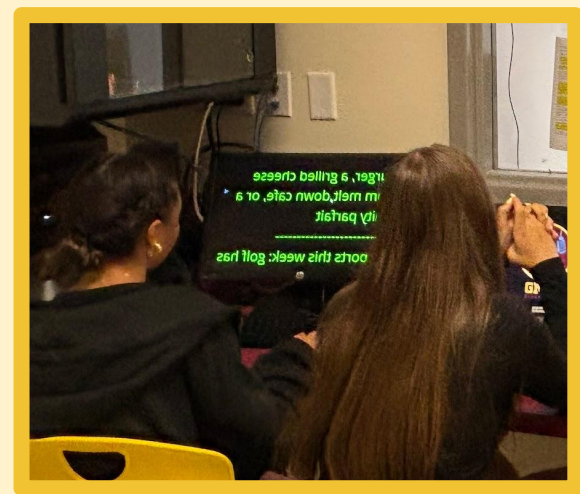




Impact on Broadcasters



Production Process





GMHS
Broadcasting

Questions?



Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

The Board of Education recognizes that suicide is a complex issue and that, while the school may recognize a potentially suicidal youth, it cannot make a clinical assessment of risk and provide in-depth counseling. Instead, the Board directs school staff to refer students who may be at risk of attempting suicide to an appropriate service for professional assessment, counseling and treatment services outside of the school.

The Board of Education recognizes the need for youth suicide prevention procedures and will establish student assistance program(s) to identify risk factors for youth suicide, procedures to intervene with such youth, referral services and training for teachers, other school professionals and students to provide assistance in these programs.

Risk factors for youth suicide will be based on the statewide strategic suicide prevention plan developed by the Connecticut Suicide Advisory Board, which includes, but is not limited to youth who are:

1. bereaved by suicide,
2. disabled or have chronic health conditions, such as mental health or substance use disorders,
3. involved in the juvenile justice system,
4. experiencing homelessness or placed in an out-of-home setting, such as foster care, or
5. lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or questioning.

To that end, the Board directs the Superintendent to implement an assessment recommended by the Connecticut State Department of Education for determining suicide risk. The assessment shall be used to determine the suicide risk of students who:

- a. exhibit mental health distress,
- b. have been identified as at risk of suicide, or
- c. are considered to be at an increased risk of suicide based on particular risk factors.

Any school employee who may have knowledge of a suicide threat, attempt or ideation must take the proper steps to immediately report this information to the building Principal or his/her designee who will, in turn, notify the appropriate school officials, the Crisis Intervention Team, the student's family and appropriate resource services outside and within the school system.

In addition, information regarding the 988 crisis line should be made widely available in schools and district offices. Text should note to call 988 if you are in emotional distress and/or you are having suicidal ideations. It should also include that by calling 988, you will be provided with support and connected to resources if needed.

Information concerning a student's suicide attempt, threat, or risk will be shared with others to the degree necessary to protect that student and others.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221(e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Policy Adopted: 6/20/90
Policy Revised:

GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Granby, CT

Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

A. Prevention

1. The K-12 Health curriculum will incorporate appropriate suicide prevention lessons.
2. The District, through its administration, will identify mental health clinics and other community resources that have expertise in the problem of youth suicide for the purpose of developing education and referral sources for the school district.
3. The District will develop in-service programs for teachers, administrators, and counseling personnel for the purpose of enhancing their ability to recognize those students who may be vulnerable to, or at risk, for suicide. Training will include, but may not be limited to, information about factors that increase a student's risk for suicide; recognition of the behavioral signs that may indicate that a student is suicidal; information on community resources available for students that may need assistance; information regarding school procedures for handling a suicidal student.
4. The District will make counseling resources available for students at risk of suicide. The Board of Education will also make counseling resources available to students subsequent to a suicide attempt by one of their peers.
5. The District may establish a youth assistance program for the purpose of developing educational programs for students about the risk factors related to suicide and the community resources available for students who may need counseling.

B. Intervention

If any member of the teaching, counseling, or administrative staff is confronted by a student who makes a statement of suicidal thinking or, for any other reason suspects that an attempt at suicide is possible, the following procedures must be implemented:

1. The principal of the building or the principal's designee must be advised immediately. If the principal is absent from the building and if there are no designees available, then the Superintendent must be notified.

Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

Intervention (Continued)

2. The principal or designee will notify the school nurse and the school counselor, school psychologist, or school social worker who will immediately meet with the student.
3. The student will be brought to the school nurse's office or the school office. Under no circumstances is the student to be left alone.
4. The student's parents/guardians will be notified.
5. The student's parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for emergency intervention and counseling.
6. The parents/guardians will be asked to pick the student up from school. The student will not be allowed to go home alone.
7. The principal or his designee will be responsible for following up with the student's parents/guardians to ensure that a referral has been made.
8. The student will be monitored by school counseling personnel or social worker on a daily basis to assess if the threat of suicide continues. School personnel will maintain contact with the outside agency that is treating the student to support the treatment program.
9. If school staff has reason to believe that the student continues to have suicidal thoughts, and no referral has been made by the student's parents/guardians, the parents will be informed that their failure may constitute emotional neglect and a referral will be made to the Department of Children and Youth Services.
10. In the event any employee becomes aware that a student has attempted suicide, the principal and school nurse are to be notified immediately.
11. If the principal and school nurse determine that the student's medical or emotional condition requires hospitalization as a result of the suicide attempt, the parents/guardians will be contacted and the student will be transported immediately to an area hospital for medical treatment.
12. The student and his parents/guardians will be referred to a local physician or community agency for ongoing counseling.

Students

Suicide Prevention/Intervention

C. Postvention

1. There will be designated staff at each building who have been trained in postvention strategies and counseling techniques.
2. Policies governing crisis management procedures will be distributed to all staff.
3. Grief and loss support teams will be available.
4. Linkages with community resources will be established.

Regulation approved: 6/20/90
Regulation revised:

GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Granby, CT

GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BUSINESS OFFICE

15-B North Granby Road
Granby, CT 06035
(860) 844-5253

stevenson@granbyschools.org

To: Cheri P. Burke, Superintendent of Schools
From: Nickie Stevenson, Director of Finance & Operations
Re: March 2025 Budget Expense Report
Date: April 9, 2025

Please find attached the March 2025 budget expense report for this fiscal year encompassing transactions through 3/31/2025.

Personnel and Program Accounts

Personnel and program account expenditures continue to remain stable and are anticipated to be covered within the appropriated budget. As previously mentioned, financial closing schedules/timelines have been provided to all budget owners to allow for an in-depth analysis of each account to identify any unanticipated needs and/or potential savings. With yearend approaching, there will be an increase in shifting of funds to accommodate yearend purchases and initiatives, as well as alleviate any line-item negative balances.

Special Education

Special education expenses are also remaining stable as we approach yearend. As changes occur with student movement, program modifications, staff adjustments, etc. encumbrances are adjusted to reflect anticipated expenditures at that time. As always, we will continue to closely monitor any shifts due to specific student needs which will ultimately have a financial impact on the overall budget.

Quality and Diversity Fund (Q&D)

The Q&D fund continues to remain consistent. We fully expect to end the year with a positive balance.

BOE Reimbursements to the Town

Reimbursement revenue to the Town is anticipated to decrease by \$36,160. This is primarily due to the final excess cost reimbursement, which is inclusive of the additional \$40 Million by the State of Connecticut for FY 2025 expenses. After the March filing of special education expenditures by all school districts, the reimbursement percentage of 62.07% actually decreased to 59.98% however, with the additional investment by the State, this school year Granby's final anticipated entitlement for FY 2025 is \$579,471. Therefore, the Town can expect to receive a final payment of \$72,265 in June. Additionally, one tuition student in the BEAR program withdrew which decreased revenue by approximately \$10,000. However, the decrease in the excess cost reimbursement from the February report is for the most part offset by an increase in Special Education Revenue in the amount of \$99,851, due to additional and increased services to students with which the Town is reimbursed for.

PROGRAM ACCOUNTS
Granby Board of Education FY 2025
March 2025 Budget Expense Report

Row #	Description	Budget	Adjusted Budget	YTD Expended	Encumbered	Balance	Combined % Expended and Encumbered
01	Communications	\$90,245	\$90,245	\$58,777	\$21,294	\$10,174	88.7%
02	Conference & Travel	\$58,094	\$56,681	\$26,072	\$7,483	\$23,126	59.2%
03	Dues and Fees	\$38,738	\$38,738	\$33,965	\$847	\$3,926	89.9%
04	Equipment	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$1,046	\$0	\$7,454	12.3%
05	Legal Services/Insurance	\$140,460	\$150,094	\$144,159	\$5,936	\$0	100.0%
06	Library/Media	\$57,368	\$53,682	\$46,164	\$7,518	\$0	100.0%
07	Purchased Services	\$1,114,702	\$1,104,664	\$812,713	\$226,458	\$65,493	94.1%
08	Repairs & Maintenance	\$539,517	\$539,517	\$417,823	\$82,624	\$39,070	92.8%
09	Software	\$443,364	\$448,313	\$367,055	\$41,661	\$39,597	91.2%
10	Special Education	\$4,394,816	\$4,369,538	\$2,478,216	\$1,246,509	\$644,813	85.2%
11	Student Activities/Athletics	\$398,001	\$394,619	\$198,059	\$97,254	\$99,305	74.8%
12	Supplies	\$548,582	\$517,954	\$381,226	\$88,261	\$48,468	90.6%
13	Textbooks	\$119,698	\$167,816	\$47,728	\$104,306	\$15,783	90.6%
14	Transportation	\$1,168,747	\$1,180,220	\$710,859	\$467,078	\$2,283	99.8%
15	Tuition	\$10,967	\$11,317	\$11,317	\$0	\$0	100.0%
16	Utilities	\$851,590	\$851,590	\$559,149	\$245,003	\$47,437	94.4%
17	Unallocated Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	Program	\$9,983,388	\$9,983,488	\$6,294,328	\$2,642,231	\$1,046,929	89.5%

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTS
Granby Board of Education FY 2025
March 2025 Budget Expense Report

Row #	Description	Budget	Adjusted Budget	YTD Expended	Encumbered	Balance	Combined % Expended and Encumbered
18	Administration	\$1,651,319	\$1,662,464	\$1,214,423	\$448,041	\$0	100.0%
19	Central Office	\$557,043	\$569,829	\$403,100	\$166,730	\$0	100.0%
20	Certified Staff	\$11,638,907	\$11,624,387	\$7,243,837	\$4,288,279	\$92,270	99.2%
21	Custodial and Maintenance	\$1,481,279	\$1,499,606	\$1,088,212	\$411,006	\$388	100.0%
22	School Secretaries	\$715,648	\$713,648	\$503,064	\$210,089	\$495	99.9%
23	Special Education	\$4,452,429	\$4,392,429	\$2,812,389	\$1,381,423	\$198,616	95.5%
24	Student Activities/Athletics	\$545,575	\$545,475	\$292,899	\$211,390	\$41,186	92.4%
25	Teaching Assistants	\$327,901	\$387,901	\$268,088	\$116,229	\$3,584	99.1%
26	Technology Support Services	\$357,910	\$334,172	\$192,159	\$109,041	\$32,972	90.1%
27	Tutors	\$41,720	\$39,720	\$17,044	\$9,064	\$13,613	65.7%
28	Employee Benefits	\$6,365,402	\$6,365,402	\$4,814,587	\$1,489,531	\$61,284	99.0%
29	Unallocated Appropriation	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	Personnel	\$28,135,133	\$28,135,033	\$18,849,802	\$8,840,822	\$444,409	98.4%
	100 General Fund	\$38,118,521	\$38,118,521	\$25,144,130	\$11,483,054	\$1,491,338	96.1%

SPECIAL EDUCATION ACCOUNT DETAIL
Granby Board of Education FY 2025
March 2025 Budget Expense Report

Row #	Description	Budget	Adjusted Budget	YTD Expended	Encumbered	Balance	Combined % Expended and Encumbered
01	Administrative/Certified	\$2,281,664	\$2,266,364	\$1,367,407	\$742,803	\$156,154	93.1%
02	Secretaries	\$102,667	\$106,818	\$75,791	\$31,026	\$0	100.0%
03	Support Services	\$497,291	\$497,291	\$331,465	\$150,064	\$15,762	96.8%
04	Teaching Assistants	\$1,528,934	\$1,464,783	\$992,459	\$450,861	\$21,464	98.5%
05	Tutors	\$41,873	\$57,173	\$45,266	\$6,670	\$5,237	90.8%
	TOTAL PERSONNEL	\$4,452,429	\$4,392,429	\$2,812,389	\$1,381,423	\$198,616	95.5%
06	Communications	\$100	\$100	\$72	\$0	\$28	72.5%
07	Conference & Travel	\$14,125	\$14,125	\$4,584	\$520	\$9,020	36.1%
08	Dues and Fees	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$450	\$153	\$1,647	26.8%
09	Legal Services	\$27,500	\$27,500	\$17,030	\$10,471	\$0	100.0%
10	Purchased Services	\$153,375	\$300,871	\$149,882	\$124,051	\$26,938	91.0%
11	Software	\$9,310	\$9,310	\$7,144	\$104	\$2,062	77.9%
12	Supplies	\$37,550	\$37,550	\$17,846	\$1,969	\$17,735	52.8%
13	Transportation	\$1,388,936	\$1,216,162	\$529,828	\$415,599	\$270,734	77.7%
14	Tuition	\$2,761,670	\$2,761,670	\$1,751,379	\$693,642	\$316,648	88.5%
	TOTAL PROGRAM	\$4,394,816	\$4,369,538	\$2,478,216	\$1,246,509	\$644,813	
	OVERALL TOTAL	\$8,847,244	\$8,761,967	\$5,290,605	\$2,627,932	\$843,429	90.4%

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
Granby Board of Education FY 2025
March 2025 Budget Expense Report

REVENUE TO TOWN SUMMARY
REIMBURSEMENTS FOR BOE EXPENDITURES

Description	Budget	Anticipated	Received To Date	Difference (Received minus Anticipated)
Regular Education Tuition*	\$678,674	\$757,844	\$747,827	-\$10,017
Special Education Tuition*	\$605,191	\$871,215	\$25,763	-\$845,452
B.E.A.R. Transition Academy Tuition*	\$0	\$77,033	\$86,968	\$9,935
Excess Cost Grant	\$1,167,286	\$579,471	\$507,206	-\$72,265
Pay for Participation	\$42,000	\$42,000	\$30,409	-\$11,591
Totals	\$2,493,151	\$2,327,563	\$1,398,174	-\$929,390

*From Other Towns

QUALITY AND DIVERSITY FUND (Q&D)

Description	Budget	YTD	Difference (YTD vs. Budget)
Opening Balance	\$95,335	-	-
Expenses	\$1,069,766	\$612,794	\$456,972
Revenue	\$1,028,144	\$620,017	-\$408,127
Ending Balance	\$53,713	\$102,558	\$48,845

Regular Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 7:00 p.m.
Town Hall Meeting Room

Present Board Members: Liz Barlow, Monica Logan, Heather Lombardo, David Peling, Karen Richmond-Godard, Ali Zafar, and Katie O’Neill (Student Representative)

Absent Board Members: Donna Nolan and Sofia Brenson (Student Representative)

I. Call to Order and Welcome

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

II. Chairperson's Report

Board Chair Logan welcomed administrators, teachers, parents, and students in the audience this evening.

III. Awards and Recognition

Pepper Jones and Benjamin Finkbeiner were recognized for being recipients of the Connecticut Association of Schools Elementary Arts Award for students who excel in the areas of visual or performing arts and who exhibit high levels of citizenship and cooperative skills. Pepper Jones was selected by Ms. Nicole Lucas, Music Teacher, to receive the Elementary Arts Award in Performing Arts and Ben Finkbeiner was selected by Ms. Katie Ransom, Art Teacher, to receive the Elementary Arts Award in Visual Arts.

IV. Public Comment

Silvana Brenson, 4th grade student at Wells Road Intermediate School, expressed her concern to the Board that water is not sold during lunch, only milk and chocolate milk, which is an issue for students who are lactose intolerant. She raised a suggestion of selling bottling water to students which can also raise money for the school. Additionally, she expressed a concern regarding food allergies and intolerance and suggested there be one allergy-friendly option on the lunch menu and also suggested that healthy food options be added. She requested for the Board to please take these suggestions into consideration.

Mike Kramarenko, 150 Notch Road, thanked Superintendent Burke for her quick response last week with regard to teachers telling students that if the budget didn’t pass students would lose after-school programs. He also commented on the State Department of Education dissemination of funding for schools and stated without national standards there is no way to make schools accountable. Lastly, Mr. Kramarenko shared a program called “Pennies for Police” which gets students involved to raise money for bullet-proof vests for School Resource Officers and he strongly advocated for this program.

V. Student Representative Reports

- Katie O’Neill shared students are in the homestretch with Quarter 4 beginning last week.
- Juniors took the CT SATs last week.
- The Empty Bowls Fundraiser was held last Friday and \$2K was raised for Granby/Hartland food banks.
- Modified schedules were held on Monday and Tuesday this week for students to participate in connect days. Students gave presentations on a wide variety of topics to other students and also watched a short film called *Screenagers: Growing Up in the Digital Age* about the effect of phones on the brain as developing adolescents.
- Students are looking forward to the April break April 12-20.
- Sports Report: First games as follows: Baseball April 3rd; softball April 7th; boys’ lacrosse April 5th; girls’ lacrosse April 5th; track’s first meet is April 8; golf’s first match is April 3rd; boys’ tennis April 5th; and, girls’ tennis April 5th.

VI. Reports and Discussion

VI.A. Schools in the Spotlight

Colleen Bava, Kelly Lane Principal, introduced Natalie Ferreri, Kindergarten Teacher, and Lis Diemer, Early Intervention Specialist, along with some students from Kelly Lane Primary School, who shared how a love for reading is instilled through the Kindergarten Book Buddies Program. Ms. Diemer shared this is the third year of implementation of this program. There are two opportunities for members of the community to purchase books for students. The cafeteria is decorated, snacks and juice are served and each student goes to their seat to find a wrapped book. It is a great opportunity to promote early literacy. Each student shared their book and what they enjoyed most about the book. Ms. Ferreri stated this is a great way for the community to get involved with the schools. After the celebration, all of the Kindergartners write thank-you notes to their book buddy. Ms. Burke commented that she participated last year and was amazed to see the note in the beginning of the year and the growth made when the second note was received.

Katie Busbey, Instructional Specialist, Laurie Smith, Media Specialist, Christina Janssen and Kristin LaFlamme, Grade 5 Teachers, and Alyssa Linden, Teaching Assistant, along with some 5th grade students from Wells Road Intermediate School and 6th grade students from GMMS shared interdisciplinary learning through their Wax Museum projects. Pauline Greer, Wells Road Principal, shared the Wax Museum Project is an interdisciplinary, almost capstone experience and stated that since 5th graders have not yet presented their projects, 6th grade students were invited back to speak about the projects they presented last year. Students shared the process for the project which includes writing a draft of a proposal and submitting it for approval. Next, a biography of the assigned person is read to gain a better understanding of the person. Various reliable sources are checked. 6th graders spoke about Book Creator and how students become authors and these books are shared digitally. The wax museum project is linked with art class. In library tech class, a tri fold of the project is made including a biography, timeline, pictures, quotes, and poems. Students then dress up in character and present the final project to the whole school and parents. Karen Richmond Godard inquired if students get to pick their person and if a backup is needed. Students shared they actually choose 3 people for that reason. Superintendent Burke asked the students how it feels to work on one project with several adults in the school and students shared that it is a very fun project. David Peling asked the 6th grade students if there was anything learned from this project to help them this year and students shared that it helped with speaking in front of people and the fact that it was a big project.

VI.B. FY26 Board of Education Budget Update

Board Chair, Monica Logan, will provide an update on the FY26 Board of Education Budget. Chair Logan stated the BOE budget was presented to the BOF last week and it was accepted at 3.41%. The BOE saved money wherever possible and put forth the most responsible budget possible. April 7th public hearing at HS at 7pm. The referendum will be held 4/21 8-8 at the town hall meeting room. She shared that if anyone has a question on the budget to please email her and she will get back to you.

VII. Business Requiring Action

VII.A. Minutes

A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Karen Richmond-Godard that the Granby Board of Education approve the minutes from the March 19, 2025 Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 7:47 p.m.

VII.B. Second Reading and Approval of Revised Policy 4112.5/4212.5 - Security Check/Fingerprinting/Criminal Justice Information

The Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee recommended revised Policy 4112.5/4212.5, Security Check/Fingerprinting/Criminal Justice Information, to the Board for a second reading and approval. Jennifer Parsons stated this policy is now up-to-date with processes such as background checks, fingerprinting, etc. No questions were received after the first reading. A motion was made by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Ali Zafar that the Granby Board of Education adopt revised Policy 4112.5/4212.5, Security Check/Fingerprinting/Criminal Justice Information, as recommended by the

Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee. This motion passed unanimously at 7:48 p.m.

VII.C. Ratification of Secretarial Union Contract

The Board will consider ratification of the CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Secretarial Contract effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Board Chair Logan stated the Board met with members of the SEIU Union three times during negotiations and they were very collaborative meetings. The increased cost over the life of the 3-year contract is 10.82%. There is a slight increase in health insurance rates in 2027-2028 and dental rates remain flat. Language changes were made similar to the teachers' contract around retirement as well as general language clean-up. Liz Barlow inquired if salaries are in line with other districts. Superintendent Burke stated that salaries are comparable and the salary increases were acceptable. It was a great negotiation providing a fair and equitable contract. A motion was made by Liz Barlow and seconded by Karen Richmond-Godard that the Granby Board of Education ratify the CSEA/SEIU Local 2001 Secretarial Contract effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. This motion passed unanimously at 7:51 p.m.

VIII. Committee Reports

VIII.A. Board Standing Committee Reports

VIII.A.1. Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication

Karen Richmond Godard reported this Subcommittee met this evening and reviewed the Assistant Superintendent's report which included an update on the Wellness Committee related to legislative requirements for healthy foods in schools; going out to bid for a new food services contract; and field day is on the last Friday in May with Wells Road and the middle school combined. The District Leadership Team met recently and discussed the March 7th professional development day. Departments are currently assessing their respective curriculum review cycles. Received a scheduling update after over a year of working with a consultant and various stakeholders as part of the committee. Discussed needs going forward and the schedule next year will align the middle school and high school which will allow increased instruction time by 86 hours/year for students. Classes will be an average of 45 minutes per day per class. This will coincide with the Superintendent's goal of increasing student achievement.

VIII.A.2. Finance/Personnel/Facilities

Approved minutes are in the packet.

VIII.B. Other Board-Related Reports

VIII.B.1. CREC/CABE

Monica Logan stated she attended the Board Chair meeting last Thursday. The focus was on individual town budgets and federal reduction in funds from the federal government. She stated there is a lot of "wait and see" still happening and will share when it is appropriate.

VIII.B. 2. Granby Education Foundation

Liz Barlow stated the GEF is still working hard getting ready for the GranBee. Fundraising is going well.

VIII.C. Calendar of Events

The calendar of events is as presented.

VIII.D. Board Member Announcements

There were no board member announcements this evening.

VIII.E. Action Items

There were no action items this evening.

IX. Superintendent's Report

- The district had an opportunity to present at the Senior Women's Breakfast this morning. Thank you to Music Teachers, Carmen Irons and Jessica Foskitt, along with students in Grades 2, 5 and 8 who performed a strings concert. They were very enjoyable performances. Superintendent Burke also thanked Joelle Gilbert, Family & Consumer Science Teacher. Her classes prepared baked goods and yogurt parfaits for approximately 60 women. Four students, Maeve Maroney, Claudio Ortiz-Sanchis, Hayes Horst, and Callie Lawton served the breakfast items and engaged with the women. They did a great job representing the outstanding students in our district.
- The PTO is holding a Family Books and Bingo Night tomorrow night.
- 5th graders are performing *Sponge Bob* also tomorrow night.
- *Screenagers: Growing up in a Digital Age* will be shown to middle and high school parents on Tuesday, April 8th from 6:30-8:30 pm.
- There will be no Board Meeting on April 16th due to the April break. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 7th.
- The 2025-2026 calendar for next school year has been finalized. The Board already adopted this calendar with regard to start date, end date, etc.; however, the calendar needed to be completed with open houses, curriculum nights, etc. As a result of the scheduling work to align schedules across the middle and high school campuses, the decision was made to no longer hold the PLC late openings for high school students. In past calendars you would have seen an indication that every Thursday was a late opening; however, when one school out of four are afforded this opportunity, it creates an equity issue. Instead, professional learning will be embedded in collaboration during the day. Unfortunately, some hard decisions need to be made in order to improve student achievement. Additionally, some slight changes were made in professional learning. The full day traditionally in May is moved to January and two additional early release days have been added to the calendar in the months of October and February. This also aligns with semester and quarter breaks. Every month there is an opportunity for professional learning. Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Parsons also made note that elementary conferences have been moved up to November as opposed to December.

X. Adjournment

A motion was made by Karen Richmond-Godard and seconded by Ali Zafar that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth H. Barlow
Board Secretary

Special Board of Education Meeting – Draft Minutes
Monday, April 7, 2025, 6:30 p.m.
High School

In attendance: Liz Barlow, Monica Logan, Heather Lombardo, Donna Nolan, and Karen Richmond-Godard.

I. Call to Order

Board Chair Monica Logan called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Karen Richmond-Godard that the Granby Board of Education enter into an Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter. This motion passed unanimously at 6:36 p.m.

II. Executive Session

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Heather Lombardo that the Granby Board of Education accept the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools to expel Student “B22024-25” for 180 days from the Granby Memorial High School, as well as all buildings and grounds and activities of the Granby Public Schools for violation of School Board Policy #5131.6 Drug & Alcohol Use. This motion passed unanimously at 6:45 p.m.

III. Adjournment

A motion was made by Donna Nolan and seconded by Heather Lombardo that the Granby Board of Education adjourn the Special Board of Education Meeting. This motion passed unanimously at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth H. Barlow
Board Secretary

GMHS INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIPS

2025-2026

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC, CANADA

Dates: 2/12/26 - 2/15/ 2026

Company: Jumpstreet Tours

Details: Activities will include a tour of the city, tubing, sledding, cross-country skiing, a visit to the fine arts museum, Montmorency falls, a Cabane a sucre and St. Anne.

Advisor: Lauren Kennedy & Katherine Guyette

Grades: GMHS 10-12

Students: 20-40

MADRID AND BARCELONA, SPAIN

Dates: April 8-17, 2026 - 10-day trip

Cost: \$4,700 per student

Company: Passports

Details: Students will travel to Spain and explore Madrid, Barcelona and surrounding cities. Students will have an opportunity to truly engage in an educational and cultural experience. Sites/excursions include: Museo del Prado, Plaza Mayor, Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium, Sagrada Familia Basilica, Chocolate Making Workshop, and many more!

Advisor: Stephanie Sanchez

Grades: GMHS 9-12

Students: 20-30

Your Tour Proposal from

Jumpstreet Tours by WorldStrides



Granby Memorial HS
4 Days Quebec City - Winter Carnival
February 12 to 15, 2026

Included:

- A detailed itinerary tailored to your needs;
- A price sheet with details about what's included;
- Information about options, insurance, and [health & safety](#);
- A link to our full [Terms & Conditions](#).

Peace of mind must be at the core of what we offer. Jumpstreet by WorldStrides uses the services of **Exlog Global** to understand the world around us when it comes to travel risk management and making safe decisions for our groups. Meanwhile our **Doctors on Call** program offers real time medical consultation while on tour.

You can also help ease the decision-making process with our **Insurance Plans and Cancel For Any Reason Waiver Benefit (CFAR)**, which your participants can purchase to cancel their trip for whatever reason up until 2 days from departure and get a 75% refund.

Now that you know you'll be well taken care of, let's turn our focus to the fantastic world of educational travel.

Livia Laverdure



"I only wish I would have known about Jumpstreet sooner. The activities were not only more fun for my students than past tours (not-led by Jumpstreet), but the guides were intuitive to the students' needs and willing to switch up something or add in an extra activity for fun."

- Alexa, middle school teacher



Thursday, February 12, 2026

- 07:00 AM The day has arrived! The trip you've been waiting for is finally here!! Hop aboard your locally chartered luxury motorcoach, get comfortable and get ready for your adventure!
- Stops and lunch en route (at individual expense).
- 03:30 PM Hooray! You've arrived in Quebec City! Meet your tour leader and check in to the hotel to relax and unwind before dinner. The fun starts now :)
- 04:30 PM Check out the beautiful view of the mighty Fleuve St-Laurent and look out for the famous Pont de Québec, the longest cantilever bridge span in the world, as you drive along Boulevard Champlain and make your way to...
- 05:00 PM Welcome to Chez Victor, a beautiful restaurant offering a variety of reinvented burgers in Quebec's Lower Town and where the word 'delicious' is an understatement!
- 06:30 PM Stop to admire "La Fresque des Québécois". See how many characters of Quebec's history you can identify!
- 07:30 PM Québec City got its name from "Kébec", a Franco-Algonquin term that roughly translates to "where the river narrows". You're going to learn why it earned this name on your ferry ride across the St. Lawrence River, where you'll get not only a spectacular view of the Château Frontenac but also a glimpse of neighbouring Lévis.
- 08:30 PM Overnight stay at the hotel (hotel will only be confirmed upon receipt of deposit)

Friday, February 13, 2026

- 08:15 AM Everybody ready? Time to head out for your activities! Your tour leader will fill you in on all the fun that's in store.
- 08:30 AM You know what they say: Eat your breakfast like kings and queens. This morning, that's exactly what you'll be doing at Chez Cora. This local chain is both delicious and inspiring, a true Quebec flagship! Bon appétit!
- 09:30 AM All aboard! Next stop: Valcartier!
- 10:00 AM Are you ready to visit one of the world's coolest hotels? See how guests stay warm in the themed suites of the Hotel de Glace de Québec during your self-guided visit of this hotel made out of snow and ice!
- 11:00 AM Some say it's worth learning French grammar in exchange for an inner tubing ride, so today, we're going to try out all of the fun slides at the Village Vacances Valcartier! The Himalaya, the Avalanche, and so many more. Let's gooooooo! (Inner tube rental is included.)
- Have lunch on site (at individual expense).
- 02:30 PM Discover the Carnival sites with your tour leader during an orientation tour, followed by some time to explore the sites on your own! See the ice castle, the snow sculptures, Bonhomme Carnaval and so much more!
- 04:00 PM Depart for the hotel to relax and unwind before dinner.
- 05:30 PM All aboard! Next stop: the SUGAR SHACK!
Discover how the people of Quebec managed to brave the difficult winters through the tradition of maple syrup production as your tour leader shares their Sugar Shack story.
- 06:00 PM Get ready to party like it's 1699! At Érablière du Cap, an authentic French-Canadian cabane à sucre, you're going to feast on a 17th Century meal and get down to traditional songs and dances. You'll even break a sweat attempting to make your own maple butter. Don't forget to add some syrup to your pea soup (we're not kidding).
- 09:00 PM Departure for the hotel.

Saturday, February 14, 2026

- 07:30 AM Everybody ready? Time to head out for your activities! Your tour leader will fill you in on all the fun that's in store.



- 08:00 AM Start your day with flaky croissants and hot chocolate at Paillard, an artisan bakery located in the heart of the old walled city.
- 09:30 AM Enjoy the many pleasures of winter, including cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, at Le Domaine de Maizerets.
- 11:30 AM The Côte-de-Beaupré, also referred to as Québec's breadbasket, has deep agricultural roots running back to the First Nations and New France's earliest settlers. Time to discover another part of Quebec and head out there for your next activity!
- 12:00 PM Observe beautiful mosaics and a replica of Michelangelo's Pieta during your visit of the Ste-Anne de Beaupré shrine.
- 01:00 PM Poutine - what's that? Try it for lunch at Chez Bolduc, a local casse-croûte (at individual expense).
- 02:30 PM The Montmorency Falls is a true Quebec icon. They're the tallest waterfalls in the Province, the site of historic battles and legends, and John Keats even references them in his poetry. Keats! Plus, there's also a sweet suspended bridge that spans the top and you're about to walk across it. Acrophobics: prepare to conquer your fear!
- 04:00 PM Let's go tobogganing by the Château Frontenac on the world famous Terrasse Dufferin wooden toboggan run, and then warm up with a cup of hot chocolate.
- 05:30 PM Le Saint-Patrick Irish Pub is the perfect place to enjoy a good meal in a festive, dynamic and relaxed atmosphere. Enjoy the moment and the pub! Bon appétit!
- 07:00 PM Line up for the parade! Jump and sing to keep warm during the "Défilé du Carnaval", the ultimate Winter Carnival festivity. Enjoy the show!!
 > Exact time pending release of the 2025 Carnival schedule in early January.
- 08:30 PM Departure for the hotel.

Sunday, February 15, 2026

- 08:00 AM Breakfast and orientation session at the hotel with your tour leader.
- 09:30 AM You won't believe it, but the time has come...for your last day of this fantastic journey! Time to leave the hotel with your luggage and take advantage of today to say goodbye to these foreign lands.
- 10:00 AM During your self-guided visit of the Museum of fine arts of Quebec, browse the collections of ancient art, modern art, contemporary art, current art, decorative arts and design or art Inuit.
- 11:30 AM Time for lunch and to explore in Old Quebec and the Carnival sites! Hang out with your friends, grab some food (at individual expense) and practice your conversational French. Your tour leader will give you a meeting place and time.
- 01:30 PM It's already time to say "au revoir" to Quebec City. You've seen and done so much, yet you've only scratched the surface. This is definitely a city that's best experienced over many, many visits. Until next time!

Stops and dinner en route (at individual expense).
- 10:00 PM This is when you're expected to arrive back at your school, where your family and friends will be eager to hear all about your adventure!



TOUR PRICE (including taxes)

Complimentary chaperones Double Occupancy	Paying students Quad Occupancy	Per student
5	50	US\$1075.00
5	45	US\$1125.00
4	40	US\$1159.00

✔ WHAT IS INCLUDED

- 1 Tour Leader(s) with your group 24/7, to bring your itinerary to life!
- Virtual parent/guardian meeting (by request and pending availability)
- All programming, reservations and itinerary items
- Bracelets featuring our 24/7 toll-free emergency line
- Round trip transportation via luxury motorcoach(es)
- Hotel(s) and restaurant(s) as per itinerary (or equivalent depending on availability when trip is confirmed)
- Carbon neutral travel
- 24/7 access to George Washington University Doctors on Call
- Online individual payment and registration platform
- 24/7 tour support, with a direct patch to our senior staff
- Your money placed in a bonded trust account
- \$25M in liability protection for teachers and chaperones
- Early warning service for disruptions or global threats to avoid or minimize risks to travel security
- All fees related to road, bridge, tunnel and parking tolls
- Private security guard (per coach) to monitor the hallways at night
- Comprehensive Travel Insurance Including a Cancel for Any Reason waiver benefit

🍴 MEALS

- 3 breakfasts
- 3 dinners

🚶 ACTIVITIES

- Sanctuaire de Sainte-Anne-de-Beaupré - Self-guided Tour
- Village Vacances Valcartier - Winter Playground day Pass
- Village Vacances Valcartier - Hôtel de Glace + Winter pass playground (COMBO)
- Carnaval de Québec - Effigies
- Parc de la Chute Montmorency - Admission / Parking
- Au 1884 - 3 Glissades + Chocolat Chaud
- Société des Traversiers - Ferry Quebec-Levis (2 ways)
- Domaine de Maizerets - 2 activities (Ski de fond-patins-raquettes-trotinette des neiges)
- Musée national des beaux-arts du Québec - Self-guided visit



TO CONFIRM YOUR TRIP

The contents of the proposed itinerary are subject to availability. As soon as you sign below and return a copy of this page to me, I will book your coach and hotel. I will then activate your online portal which will give you access to planning resources, a preliminary itinerary and the payment schedule. An initial payment of \$200 per paying participant is due 30 days following the signing of this contract (\$350 for trips including flights) which enables me to begin reserving your entire proposed itinerary and guarantee your trip price.

CLASSROOM TRAVEL RESOURCES

Our [classroom travel resources](#) will help you and your community stay organized and energized as you prepare for your adventure.

INSURANCE

By law, we are required to inform you of the insurance plans available to your group. I have sent you information about comprehensive coverage. Please distribute this information to your group as insurance must be purchased at the same time as the initial payment.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Please read our complete [terms and conditions](#). The following sections are particularly helpful:

- Trip price
- Cancellation policy: group cancellation
- Cancellation policy: individual cancellation
- Exchange rates

By signing below you are confirming:

- That you agree with the itinerary and price
- That you agree with the payment schedule
- That you have distributed our travel insurance options to your group
- That you have read and accepted our terms and conditions

Client signature _____ Date _____

Portal activation will act as your electronic signature in case we do not receive this signed proposal.



Travel Protection Plan Plus (TPPP)

We recommend protecting your investment with the Travel Protection Plan Plus. The TPPP includes the Comprehensive Travel Protection Plan from third-party provider Trip Mate and WorldStrides' Cancel For Any Reason waiver benefit which allows you to cancel your trip for reasons not otherwise covered by the policy, for a reimbursement of 75% of non-refundable cancellation fees.

TRIP PRICE	PRICE OF INSURANCE*
\$0 to \$1,500	\$179
\$1,501 to \$3,500	\$279
\$3,501 to \$6,000	\$379
\$6,001 to \$8,000	\$479

SUMMARY OF BENEFITS	TRAVEL PROTECTION PLAN PLUS
WorldStrides' Cancel For Any Reason waiver benefit**	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covers 75% of the amount due per the payment schedule; The price of the trip will not increase for the remaining participants due to reduced numbers; Cancellation must occur at least 48 hours prior to departure.
Trip cancellation (such as illness or injury—doctor's note must be provided)	100% of the total trip price
Trip interruption	100% of the total trip price
Travel delay	\$750 (up to \$150 per day)
Itinerary change	\$150
MEDICAL EXPENSE / EMERGENCY EVACUATION WHILE ON TOUR	
Accident & sickness medical expense	\$50,000
Emergency evacuation & repatriation	\$50,000
Accidental death	\$25,000
Baggage & personal effects	\$3,000
Baggage delay	\$300

*Prices are subject to change without notice until time of purchase. Plan must be purchased within 14 days of the initial trip payment and is not refundable once purchased. See policy (by State of departure) for full details.

**WorldStrides' CFAR waiver benefit will come into effect if the insurance claim is rejected—once rejected, you can send a CFAR refund request to yourteam@jumpstreet.com, including your reason of cancellation, for a reimbursement within 6 weeks.



Madrid and Barcelona

Group Organizer: Ms. Stephanie Sanchez

Tour Includes

Departure Date

April 8, 2026

Overnights

Madrid 4 • Barcelona 4

Accommodations

Accommodations in centrally-located three-star or four-star hotels. Rooming on a triple basis. Double rooms: \$400 per person.

Transportation

Round-trip transportation on scheduled airline. Unlimited public transportation.

Meals

All breakfasts. All dinners. Flamenco dinner and show on Day 4. Tapas dinner on Day 9.

Tour Director

Services of a specially-trained **passports** Tour Director throughout. Tipping is included in the Program Cost. Whisper headsets included.

Travel Protection

passports provides and pays for a Post-Departure Travel Protection Plan that provides coverage for Trip Interruption, Trip Delay, Medical Expense and Evacuation and more.

Investment

\$4642
\$290 / month

Program Cost \$4842
-\$200 Early Enrollment Discount
Total \$4642

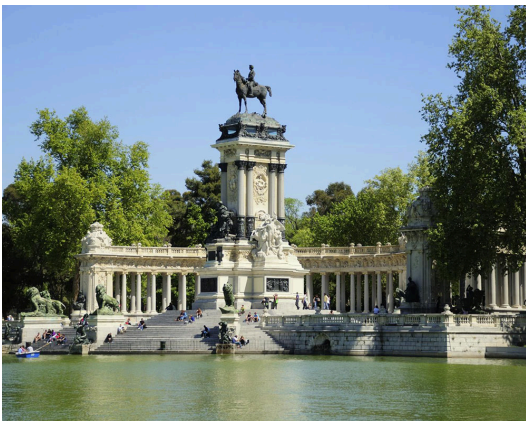
Monthly payments are based on the E-Z Pay payment schedule with \$0 deposit. Early Enrollment Discount expires March 15, 2025. Final payment is due 12/19/2025 or, with E-Z Pay, 3/9/2026. Tour cost is based on a minimum group size of 20 participants. Departure from Hartford, CT. Adults 24 years or older are automatically charged for double rooms. With doubles, total price is \$5,042.

For More Information

- 1 Visit our website
passports.com
- 2 Enter Tour ID
SSANCHEZ2026-3

Madrid and Barcelona

Departs: April 8, 2026



Days 1-2: Home - Madrid

Arrival transfer

Tour director-led walking tour to Plaza de Oriente: Madrid one-day public transportation pass zone A

Day 3: Madrid

Half-day city sightseeing: Guide, Visit to the Prado Museum, Prado headset

Excursion to Toledo: Guided walking tour in Toledo, Visit to Toledo Cathedral, Visit to the Church of *Santo Tomé* (El Greco's painting), Visit to a historic synagogue

Day 4: Madrid

Guided tour at the Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium (*subject to game schedule and route may vary*)

Store at the Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium Store

Churros at Chocolateria San Gines

Flamenco dinner and show

Day 5: Madrid

Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen: Visit to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, Visit to the Valley of the Fallen, Local Guide

Day 6: Madrid - Barcelona

Departure transfer, AVE train Madrid-Barcelona, Arrival transfer

Tour director-led walking tour in the Gothic Quarter: Picturesque medieval lanes of the Barrio del Born

Day 7: Barcelona

Barcelona City Sightseeing: Local Guide, Visit to Parc Güell

Visit to the Sagrada Familia Basilica

Day 8: Barcelona

Chocolate Museum Guided Tour: Chocolate Making Workshop

Montjuïc Cable-car Ascent from funicular station (round trip)

Castell de Montjuïc

Day 9: Barcelona

Excursion to Montserrat: Round trip on the Montserrat Funicular, Visit to the Basilica of Montserrat

Tapas dinner with Tuna Musicians: Entertainment by Tuna Musicians

Day 10: Departure

Departure transfer

To enroll or view full text itinerary, point your camera here:



Detailed Itinerary

Days 1-2: Arrival in Madrid, Plaza de Oriente Walking Tour

A dream comes true as your wide-bodied jet thunders off the airstrip, Europe-bound! Watch the sun rise up to meet your airplane, after a short night. Spain glides by beneath your airplane, in shades of sienna, as you head towards Madrid's Barajas Airport.

Get settled in your *madrileño* hotel and explore your surroundings.

Stroll in the Plaza Mayor, the heart of the Old City.

For lunch, why not duck into a sidewalk *mesón* for a *sopa de pescado* or some *calamares*?

Tour director-led walking tour to Plaza de Oriente

The focus of this walking tour is the vast esplanade adorned with statues of Spanish kings that faces the imposing Royal Palace. Calle de Bailén, the avenue that separates Plaza de Oriente from the palace leads to Plaza de España in one direction and to the Basilica of San Francisco el Grande in the other

Madrid one-day public transportation pass zone A

Day 3: Madrid City Sightseeing, Excursion to Toledo

On a tour of the city, you will be introduced to the sights and the city grand squares: *Plaza Mayor*, *Puerta del Sol*, *Plaza de España* with the Cervantes Monument, *Gran Vía*, *Calle Alcalá*, *Plaza de Colón*, and *Plaza de Cibeles* with its fountains.

A half-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of Madrid and its surroundings, will accompany your group.

Visit to the Prado Museum

View world-famous paintings by El Greco, Goya, and Velázquez, and much, much more, at the magnificent *Museo del Prado*.

Excursion to Toledo

Toledo is surrounded on three sides by the Río Tajo, which has cut a deep gorge out of the encircling mountains. Christianity, Judaism and Islam coexist on the tiny streets of this ancient city, which was once the capital of Spain. Indeed, the entire panorama of Spanish history is embodied in its churches, synagogues, Moorish mosques and fortifications.

Guided walking tour in Toledo

Your guided walking tour starts at the main square, *Plaza de Zocodover*.

Visit to Toledo Cathedral

Visit one of the most impressive Spanish cathedrals, completed in 1492, after nearly 300 years. Its treasury contains an impressive display of gold and silver vessels and alabaster sculpture.

Visit to the Church of Santo Tomé (El Greco's painting)

Visit the Church of St. Thomas to view El Greco's *Burial of the Count of Orgaz*, a fresco commissioned in honor of a Spanish nobleman who was known for his generosity and charitable deeds.

Visit to a historic synagogue

Enjoy a visit to one of the city's two remaining medieval synagogues.

Wednesday 4/8 - Thursday 4/9

Home - Madrid

Arrival transfer

Tour director-led walking tour to Plaza de Oriente: Madrid one-day public transportation pass zone A

Meals included: Dinner

Overnight: Madrid

Friday 4/10

Madrid

Half-day city sightseeing: Guide, Visit to the Prado Museum, Prado headset

Excursion to Toledo: Guided walking tour in Toledo, Visit to Toledo Cathedral, Visit to the Church of *Santo Tomé* (El Greco's painting), Visit to a historic synagogue

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner

Overnight: Madrid

Saturday 4/11

Madrid

Guided tour at the Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium (*subject to game schedule and route may vary*)

Store at the Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium Store

Churros at Chocolateria San Gines

Flamenco dinner and show

Meals included: Breakfast, Flamenco dinner and show

Overnight: Madrid

Day 4: Santiago Bernabéu Stadium Guided Tour, Santiago Bernabéu Stadium Store, Churros at Chocolateria San Gines, Flamenco Dinner and Show

Guided tour at the Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium (*subject to game schedule and route may vary*)

On a standard tour of the home of the Real Madrid soccer team, see the Presidential balcony, the locker rooms, the entrance to the players' tunnel, the benches, and the coaching area. You'll get an overview of the stadium from a panoramic elevator and a player's perspective from the field. At the stadium's museum (Club History Room), see exhibits that document the illustrious history of the Real Madrid soccer club and of its star players.

Store at the Santiago Bernabéu Soccer Stadium Store

Make your way to *Calle Padre Damián*, near Gate 57 of the *Estadio Santiago Bernabéu*, the home of the Real Madrid soccer team, to pay a visit to the official store. It's huge (three floors), and it's pricey, but it's got everything, and more, a fan would wish for.

Churros at Chocolateria San Gines

Prepare your taste buds for an authentic Spanish treat at the legendary Chocolatería San Ginés, located in the heart of Madrid. Established in 1894, this quintessential churro café has been serving up the beloved Spanish dessert of churros con chocolate to locals and travelers alike for more than a century. Nestled in a narrow alley near the bustling Plaza Mayor, this Madrid institution is a must-visit culinary destination that exudes old-world charm, from its mirrored walls adorned with vintage photographs to its marble-topped tables and green velvet banquettes.

Upon entering, you'll immediately be enveloped by the warm, inviting aroma of churros being freshly fried. Made by piping out a mixture of water and flour into hot oil, these sweet, crispy batons of dough are a classic Spanish treat. At Chocolatería San Ginés, they've perfected the art of making churros — golden, crunchy on the outside and soft on the inside. The churros here are served the traditional way, in a paper cone, and paired with a cup of their rich, thick hot chocolate, perfect for dipping.

But this isn't your typical hot chocolate. Spanish hot chocolate is a revelation, darker and thicker than its American counterpart, with a velvety texture that clings lovingly to the churros. The combination of the warm, crispy churros and the luscious chocolate is a match made in dessert heaven. The crunch of the churro, the richness of the chocolate, the perfect balance of sweetness — it's a sensory experience that's not to be missed.

Aside from the delectable taste experience, part of the charm of Chocolatería San Ginés is its historical and cultural significance. This café has seen the comings and goings of Madrid's residents for over a hundred years. As you savor your churros and chocolate, you'll be taking part in a longstanding Madrid tradition, shared by the countless visitors who have passed through its doors over the decades.

Visiting Chocolatería San Ginés is more than just a snack break, it's a deliciously immersive cultural experience. As you dip your churro into the glossy pool of hot chocolate, you're not just tasting a dessert, but a cherished Spanish tradition that has been delighting palates for generations. So, make your way to Chocolatería San Ginés and indulge in a taste of Madrid's sweet history.

Flamenco dinner and show

Tonight, enjoy dinner and an evening of traditional entertainment, *flamenco*! The poet Federico García Lorca called it "the most gigantic creation of the Spanish people." You will long remember its complex and insistent rhythms, castanets, guitars and clacking heels as the highlight of your trip to Spain.

Sunday 4/12

Madrid

Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen: Visit to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial, Visit to the Valley of the Fallen, Local Guide

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Madrid

Day 5: Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen, Madrid

Excursion to El Escorial and the Valley of the Fallen

Set out for the wooded slopes of Mt. Abantos, watershed of the Guadarrama River, where Spanish royalty retreated from the summer heat and from the bustle of the capital city.

Visit to the Royal Monastery of El Escorial

At the palatial religious retreat of King Philip II, *El Escorial*, you will see the Royal Pantheon where the kings are buried, the Crypt of the Royal Children, the Apartments of King Philip, the Basilica with Titian's fresco depicting the martyrdom of St. Lawrence, and the lavish library, which contains 40,000 rare manuscripts, including the diary of St. Teresa of Ávila.

Visit to the Valley of the Fallen

Stop at the *Valle de los Caídos*, a wooded belvedere nestled in the Guadarrama Mountains that features the world's largest monumental cross. It's also the site of an underground basilica that General Franco ordered carved inside a hill of solid granite by prisoners of war from the Republican side. It once housed his tomb but was removed to avoid public veneration of his dictatorship. Make your way across the vast esplanade for a panoramic view of valleys and mountains.

Local Guide

Free time in Madrid

The afternoon is unscheduled.

Why not stroll through Retiro Park. Once royalty's playground, *El Parque del Retiro* now opens its gardens and recreational areas to the public. You may be tempted by a row boat ride on the lake (you row!), or by a solar boat ride (you relax!).

You may want to check out the elegant *El Corte Inglés* department store at the Puerta del Sol.

Day 6: Train to Barcelona, Gothic Quarter Walking Tour

A *Alta Velocidad* train takes you at high speed across the semi-deserts of northern Spain and the plains of Castile on your way to the palm-fringed Mediterranean shores.

Enjoy a free evening in this Mediterranean town of parks and fountains.

Tour director-led walking tour in the Gothic Quarter

Enjoy a walking tour with your Tour Director in the tight maze of streets found in the Gothic Quarter, Barcelona's medieval district, where the focal point is the great Gothic cathedral. Other landmarks, all dating back to the 1300s, include the *Palau de la Generalitat* (seat of Catalonia's Government), *Casa de la Ciutat* (Barcelona's Town Hall) and the former royal palace where Christopher Columbus met Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand upon his return from the Indies in 1493. Several of the mansions now house museums.

Picturesque medieval lanes of the Barrio del Born

Nearby lies the medieval quarter known as *Barrio del Born*. Explore its maze of alleyways and squares, including *Passeig del Born*, where jousting tournaments were once held. This picturesque neighborhood, which is home to the Picasso Museum, has become a fashionable enclave within the old town.

Monday 4/13

Madrid - Barcelona

Departure transfer, AVE train Madrid-Barcelona, Arrival transfer

Tour director-led walking tour in the Gothic Quarter: Picturesque medieval lanes of the Barrio del Born

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Barcelona

Tuesday 4/14

Barcelona

Barcelona City Sightseeing: Local Guide, Visit to Parc Güell

Visit to the Sagrada Familia Basilica

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Barcelona

Wednesday 4/15

Barcelona

Chocolate Museum Guided Tour: Chocolate Making Workshop

Montjuïc Cable-car Ascent from funicular station (round trip)

Castell de Montjuïc

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner
Overnight: Barcelona

Day 7: Barcelona City Sightseeing, Sagrada Familia Basilica

A tour will introduce landmarks such as the wide avenues called *Las Ramblas*, the medieval Gothic Quarter around the cathedral, Modernist landmarks such as the Basilica of the *Sagrada Família*, and *Plaça de Catalunya*, the lively heart of Catalonia's capital city.

A half-day local guide, well-educated and specially-trained on the history and culture of the region, will accompany your group.

Visit to Parc Güell

Enjoy a visit to Gaudí's most colorful creations on exhibit in *Parc Güell*, notably the mosaic-decorated pavilions and the cavernous Room of a Hundred Columns.

Visit to the Sagrada Familia Basilica

Visit the extraordinary-looking basilica whose construction was planned in the 1870s. Antonio Gaudí worked for more than forty years to create a unique and huge sanctuary still far from completion. The *Temple Expiatori de la Sagrada Família* combines elements of Gothic architecture and the tenets of the *Modernista* movement associated with Gaudí.

Day 8: Chocolate Museum, Montjuïc Cable-Car Ascent, Castell de Montjuïc

Chocolate Museum Guided Tour

Step into a world where every turn is a sweet discovery at the Museo de la Xocolata in Barcelona, a destination that promises to enchant chocolate lovers of all ages. This unique museum offers a journey through the history of chocolate, exploring its origins, its journey to Europe, and its evolution into the beloved delicacy we cherish today. Marvel at intricate chocolate sculptures, uncover the secrets of chocolate making through interactive exhibits, and savor the rich flavors of artisanal chocolates crafted by master chocolatiers. Nestled in the heart of Barcelona, the Museo de la Xocolata is not just a museum; it's an immersive experience that delights the senses and ignites the imagination, making it a must-visit for anyone seeking to indulge in the sweetest part of Catalan culture.

Chocolate Making Workshop

Indulge in the sweet art of chocolate making with a two-hour workshop at Barcelona's Museo de la Xocolata, a haven for chocolate enthusiasts. This immersive experience invites you to dive into the rich history and craft of chocolate in a city renowned for its culinary delights. Under the guidance of expert chocolatiers, you'll learn the secrets behind creating exquisite chocolate treats, from tempering to molding, and even decorating your own masterpieces.

Montjuïc Cable-car Ascent from funicular station (round trip)

Board a gondola at the station located near the upper funicular station. Disembark on top of the hill in the vicinity of Montjuïc Castle, and take in the panoramic view over the city and its coastline.

Castell de Montjuïc

Visit this military fort first built in the 17th century on a hill some 550 feet above city and sea. Take in the views from its terraces.

Thursday 4/16

Barcelona

Excursion to Montserrat: Round trip on the Montserrat Funicular, Visit to the Basilica of Montserrat

Tapas dinner with Tuna Musicians:
Entertainment by Tuna Musicians

Meals included: Breakfast, Tapas dinner
Overnight: Barcelona

Day 9: Excursion to Montserrat, Barcelona, Tapas dinner with Tuna Musicians

Excursion to Montserrat

Enjoy a visit to Catalonia's holiest place, the Monastery of Montserrat, located amidst the serrated peaks of the Montserrat mountain range. Montserrat has served as a place of pilgrimage since the 12th century. After being destroyed by the French in 1811, the monastery complex was rebuilt and repopulated in 1844 and now includes quaint shops and cafés.

Round trip on the Montserrat Funicular

Enjoy a funicular ride for the last leg up the mountain, which affords stupendous views stretching from the Pyrénées Mountains to the Mediterranean Sea.

Visit to the Basilica of Montserrat

You will enter the Basilica to view *La Moreneta* (Black Virgin). This revered statue, said to have been carved out of wood by St. Luke around 50 AD, has been on the mountain since it was rediscovered in 880 AD after being hidden from the Moors.

Free time in Barcelona

The afternoon is unscheduled.

You may want to stroll down *Las Ramblas* to the Columbus Monument, which marks the spot where the explorer stepped ashore in 1493 after his voyage of discovery. Nearby is *Port Vell*, the harbor area where you'll find one of Europe's largest aquariums.

You may take a walk to the trendy part of town known as *Poblenou*, where former warehouses now house the studios of artists and photographers. A palm tree-lined boardwalk leads all the way to the sea.

Tapas dinner with Tuna Musicians

For dinner this evening, experience *tapas*, the delightful and varied snack-like servings, which are a specialty of Spain, there's something to please every taste!

You will be serenaded by a band of *tuna* musicians with guitars and tambourines.

Day 10: Departure

¡Adios España! Barcelona's airport recedes, and you're 500 miles closer to home with each hour in the air. You'll be back! For now, race the sun westward, arriving home later today, eager to share your experiences with family and friends.

Friday 4/17

Departure

Departure transfer

Meals included: Breakfast

Cost Breakdown

Itinerary	Madrid and Barcelona
Departing	April 8, 2026
Departure City	Hartford, CT
Rooming	Triples
Program Cost	\$4,842
	-\$200 Early Enrollment Discount for enrollments before 3/15/2025
Total Cost	\$4,642
Monthly Payment	\$290 with \$0 deposit
Standard Final Payment Deadline	12/19/2025
E-Z Pay Final Payment Deadline	03/09/2026
Available Add-ons not included in price	Double rooms: \$400 per person - 8 @ \$50 per night (mandatory for adults 24 years and older)

Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting, March 5, 2025 – Approved Minutes Central Office

Present:

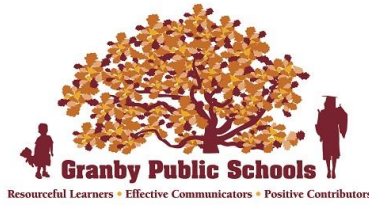
Liz Barlow	Cheri Burke
Monica Logan	Jennifer Parsons
David Peling	
Karen Richmond-Godard	

Meeting commenced at 5:33 pm and adjourned at 6:45 pm

- 1. Public Comment:** There were no public comments this evening.
- 2. Approve Minutes from the February 5, 2025 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting:** A motion was made by David Peling. and seconded by Liz Barlow. to approve the minutes from the February 5, 2025 Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting. Motion carried.
- 3. Assistant Superintendent’s Monthly Report:**
 - Second to last PD day on Friday. Only day when K-12 teams are together.
 - Open Choice students traveled with Family Engagement Specialist, Bethany Grupp, to Washington, DC to visit HBCU and one student got into Howard. Traveled with Simsbury and used Open Choice grant funding to help pay for this.
 - Ten (10) seats are open in Kindergarten for Open Choice students; however, only 3 have signed up so far.
 - The Scheduling Committee has determined there will be an 8-period day and they are working out the details.
- 4. Curriculum Review, Revision and Approvals:**

There have been major curriculum-related accomplishments since 2020 and Jenn Parsons shared policy connections with the committee members. She also shared a breakdown of curriculum, assessments and instruction and how resources are selected. Finally, information was shared about upcoming curriculum work, as well as outlining the role of the Board of Education in curriculum. Assistant Superintendent Parsons then shared the proposed curriculum review cycle with us. It is a 5-year cycle.
- 5. Policies:**
 - Policy 4112.5 – Fingerprinting: This policy was approved to bring forward to the BOE for a first read on March 19th.
 - Policy 5131.911 – School Climate: This policy was tabled to the April Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting.
 - Policy 5145.5 – Suicide Prevention: This policy was tabled to the April Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting
- 6. Other:** N/A

A motion was put forth to adjourn. A motion was made by Dave Peling and seconded by Liz Barlow. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.



UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

May 5-16	AP Exams		
May 7	Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting Board of Education Meeting	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Central Office Town Hall Meeting Room
May 8	Wells Road Gr. 3&4 Chorus & Band Concert		
May 12	SEPTO Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Central Office
May 12	Strings Concert	7:00 p.m.	HS Auditorium
May 14	5 th to 6 th Grade Transition Night	6-7:00 pm	GMMS Cafeteria
May 16	Prom	6-10:00 pm	The Riverview, Simsbury
May 19	GEF Meeting	7-8:30	Central Office
May 20	NHS Science Night	5:00-7:00 pm	HS Cafeteria
May 21	Finance Subcommittee Meeting Board of Education Meeting	5:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Central Office Town Hall Meeting Room
May 22	Senior Outing		Boulder Ridge
May 22	Arts Expo	5:30-8:00 pm	HS Rotunda/Hallways
May 22	GMMS Chorus Concert	8-9:00 pm	HS Auditorium
May 23	No School – Professional Development		
May 26	No School – Holiday		Offices Closed
May 27	GMMS Chorus Concert	7-8:00 pm	HS Auditorium
May 29	GMMS Band Concert	7-8:00 pm	HS Auditorium
May 30	Underclassmen Awards	1-2:30 pm	HS Auditorium
June 2	CPPAC Meeting	5-7:00 pm	Town Hall Meeting Room
June 3	Senior Awards & Scholarship Night	7-9:00 pm	HS Auditorium
June 4	5 th Grade Picnic	9:30am-1:30pm	Salmon Brook Park
June 6	Top Scholar Luncheon	11:30am-3 pm	The North House
June 9-10	Early Release – All Schools		
June 9	8 th Grade Moving-Up Ceremony	6-7:00 p.m.	HS Auditorium
June 10	High School Graduation	5:30 pm	HS Stadium Field
June 11	Early Release – Last Day of School		