

Curriculum Subcommittee Meeting
Wednesday, September 3, 2025, 5:30 PM
Central Office

I. Public Comment

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{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

II. Asst. Superintendent's Monthly Report

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{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

III. Summative Assessment Data Preview

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{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

IV. Summer Curriculum Updates

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{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

V. Strategic Planning Update

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VI. Other

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}



Date: September 3, 2025

To: Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communications Subcommittee of the Granby Board of Education

From: Jennifer M. Parsons, Assistant Superintendent of Schools

Subject: September Monthly Update

Off to a Great Start

The week before school begins is always a whirlwind of activity. On Monday August 18th, the administrative team gathered for our annual retreat to review strategic planning, the pupil services plan, and back-to-school logistics. That afternoon, the team traveled to the Wilson Gray YMCA in Hartford for a Back-to-School BBQ and Meet & Greet with our new Open Choice families. This year we are welcoming 21 new students, bringing our district's total Open Choice enrollment to 103.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, New Teacher Orientation was held at Central Office. New certified staff learned about the district and our instructional practices, and heard from Superintendent Burke, pupil services, technology, human resources, and a panel of last year's new teachers. They also enjoyed a bus tour of town and spent time in their buildings with administrators and mentors. We are pleased to welcome nine new certified staff members this year—six classroom teachers and three pupil services staff. Two previously served in long-term substitute roles in the district, and only three are brand new to the profession.

On Thursday the 21st, all district staff returned for a welcome breakfast provided by our new food service company, Chartwell's. Convocation featured remarks from Superintendent Burke, Board Chair Logan, the Granby Education Foundation, Teacher of the Year Mrs. Sarah Warner, and keynote speaker Jose Bou of the Great Schools Partnership. A common theme of "Connect. Believe. Achieve." ran through each address. The day also included building meetings, restorative practices work, ParentSquare training, department and grade-level meetings, and state-required training.

Summer Work

There is a great deal of planning work that happens over the summer from resetting budgets, professional development requests and grant planning to developing assessment calendars, purchasing and planning for new software and programming to hundreds of hours of curriculum hour documenting units, developing assessment and planning for robust instruction. All work is conducted under the direction of our curriculum leaders and approved through the Assistant Superintendent. Notable work this summer included revising the K-4 ELA curriculum to reflect the new reading program being implemented, documenting and developing K-8 math assessments, continued work in the high school English department, planning for middle school unified arts, intervention programming refinement and alignment of the world language courses across the middle and high school.

Notable summer projects included revising the K-4 ELA curriculum to align with the new reading program, developing K-8 math assessments, advancing work in the high school English department, planning middle school unified arts, refining intervention programs, and aligning world language courses across grades 6-12.

Assessment planning was another major focus. The state now requires districts to adopt an approved K–3 reading screener, and grades 3–8 will transition from STAR to the iXL diagnostic assessment. These tools will continue to provide nationally normed benchmark data. The middle school is embedding more formative assessments before each summative assessment, while the high school is clarifying grading policies in syllabi that will be sent home before Open House. Plans are also underway to revise grading indicators on K–2 progress reports this year.

Summer work also included planning meeting structures, committees, and procedures for the year, along with updates to the teacher evaluation plan, parent conferences, and curriculum nights. Additional time was spent aligning practices with the newly approved school climate policy and preparing for the districtwide transition to ParentSquare.