

Regular Board of Education Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 7:00 PM
Town Hall Meeting Room

I. Call to Order and Welcome

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

II. Pledge of Allegiance

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

III. Chairperson's Report

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

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

{{RecommendedMotion}}

IV. Student Representative Reports

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Ms. Sofia Brenson and Madison Schantz, Student Representatives, will report on activities taking place at the high school.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

V. Reports and Discussion

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

A. Schools in the Spotlight

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

1. Wells Road School - Pauline Greer - Principal

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

2. Kelly Lane School - Kim Loveland - Principal

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

B. Granby BEAR Transition Academy and GAP Announcement

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

VI. Business Requiring Action

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

A. Revised FY 27 Operating Budget

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

B. Minutes—March 16, 2026, Budget Workshop Meeting

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

C. Minutes—March 18, 2026, Regular Board of Education Meeting

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

VII. Committee Reports

{{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}}

VIII. Public Comment

{{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}}

IX. Superintendent's Report

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Superintendent Burke will provide district updates.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

X. Action Items

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: The Board will put forth any action items at this time.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

XI. Adjournment

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

An illustration of a hand holding a paintbrush, painting a canvas on an easel. The canvas features abstract shapes: a large pink blob, a blue circle, an orange oval, and a white outline of a rectangle. The background is a light pink color with various decorative elements: a white flower in the bottom left, a pink apple in the top right, a pink vase in the bottom right, and several white stars scattered throughout.

Integrating HMH Into Reading within Unified Arts

Wells in the Spotlight, April 1st, 2026

Fourth Grade Students
♦ **Hudson**
Samuel ♦
Ivy

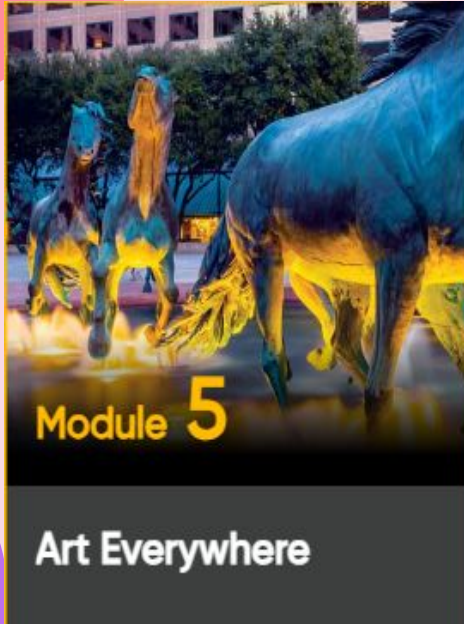
♦ **Mrs. Kristy Lankford,**
Art Teacher

Ms. Courtney Piotrowski,
Literacy Instructional Coach



Module Five, Art Everywhere

What impact can artists have on the world?



- *read, listen to, and view a variety of information about the arts, with a focus on biography and poetry
- *build vocabulary and synthesize topic knowledge
- *identify main ideas and support, facts and opinions, text structures, and figurative language
- *sharing creative talents with the world can bring us closer together



*Shared Reading

*Our teachers stopped to ask us questions after chunks of text and we turned and talked with partners to share the answers

*Sometimes we wrote notes or answers in the margins

Some questions we answered were:

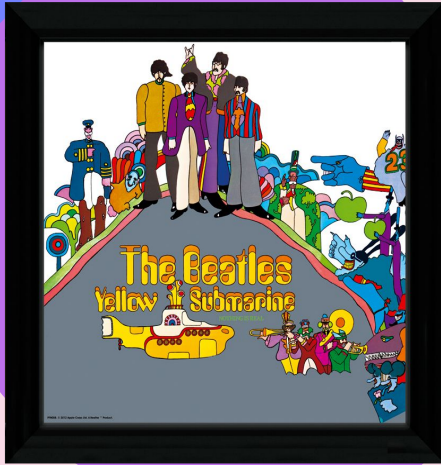
*How were the Beatles fab? (because of the title)

*How do the illustrations help us understand the text?

*What was the text structure?



Fun Facts about the Beatles



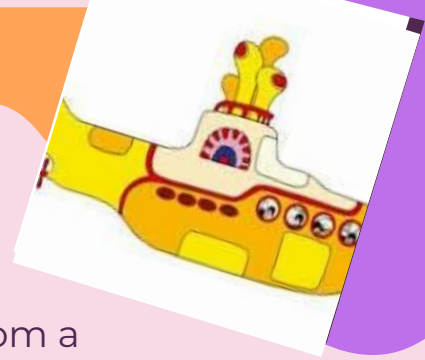
Fun Facts

- *The Beatles were actually very funny people. John Lennon loved to joke. He liked to call the song “I Want to Hold Your Hand” “I Want to Hold Your Nose.”
- *The Beatles started out by playing very small shows and in restaurants in Britain. Then they went on the Ed Sullivan Show and became really popular!
- *Paul McCartney helped write one of the Beatles’ early songs, “Love Me Do,” when he was a teenager.



"John, Paul, George, and Ringo recorded more than two hundred songs together. For decades after, their music would inspire people to sing along, dance, love, remember, cry, think, imagine – and laugh."

Integrating ELA with Art and Music



What do you think...

Rate these songs out of ten and make a short comment on each.
What songs will you save for your own playlist?



Yesterday		Yellow Submarine	
Hey Jude		Come Together	
Let it Be		Twist and Shout	
Daytripper		All You Need Is Love	
Help		Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds	
Penny Lane		Here Comes the Sun	
Get Back		Can't Buy Me Love	
I Feel Fine		With a Little Help From My Friends	

Music

During music, we listened to songs from a variety of Beatles albums. Then we discussed facts about the songs and the Beatles. Finally, we rated the songs 1–10. Some of the highest-rated songs were “Twist and Shout,” “Come Together,” and “Yellow Submarine.” What is your favorite Beatles song?

Art

During art, we learned about the artists Peter Max and Heinz Edelman, who worked with the Beatles on a variety of artwork including the animation of The Yellow Submarine movie. We then made our own mixed media watercolor paintings of underwater creatures and the yellow submarine.



When Art is integrated with reading and other content areas...

- Students show up to a 10% improvement in testing
- 5% improvement in behavior
- 5% improvement on student attendance

*www.artsintegration.com

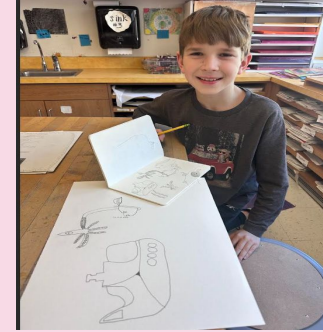


The Artwork



The Yellow Submarine Process

- Students watched a two minute version of the Yellow Submarine animation produced by artist Heinz Edelman
- They then sketched several under the sea creatures, submarines, and coral reefs
- Next, they drew their under the sea drawings on the “fancy” watercolor paper
- They created their final art with mixed media supplies including crayons, color pencils, and pen



Working on Yellow Submarine Art



The Sea Creatures Process

- Building on what students learned in art last year, students made pinch pot under the sea creatures
- They used the slip and score method to attach body parts to their creatures
- They used clay tools to decorate
- After the projects were fired once in the kiln, students glazed their projects
- The projects are fired one more time and then will be ready to go home with students



Clay Projects Being Glazed and Fired



Teacher Feedback

**Mrs. Wojtas,
Classroom Teacher**

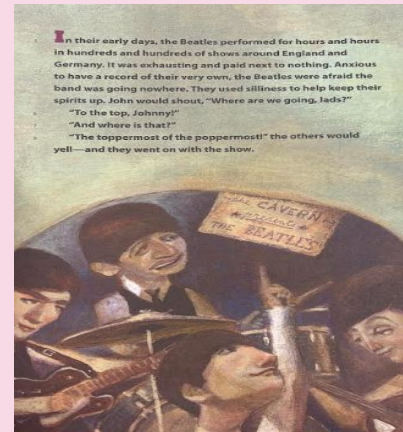
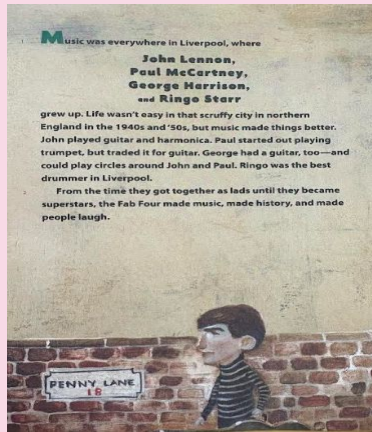
The integration of the arts with this module was awesome! I noticed a significant increase in student engagement with the module after listening to Beatles songs in music class, as well as creating the artwork inspired by the artists behind the animation of the yellow submarine. Hoping to integrate more artwork with future modules.

**Ms. Beyer,
Classroom Teacher**

The integration of specials with classroom learning broadened students' exposure to a variety of artists and perspectives. Students were eager to make connections between art, music, and our core content, often sharing their ideas and insights during reading discussions. This cross-curricular approach deepened their thinking and sparked creativity!

Student Feedback

What did you like about having your reading lessons connect to art and music?



Essential Question: What impact can artists have on the world?

Samuel

Artists taught me that the harder you try the farther you will go.

Ivy

Artists help people like different types of art or music.

Hudson

Artists bring joy to the world. Their creativity and happiness can impact the world.

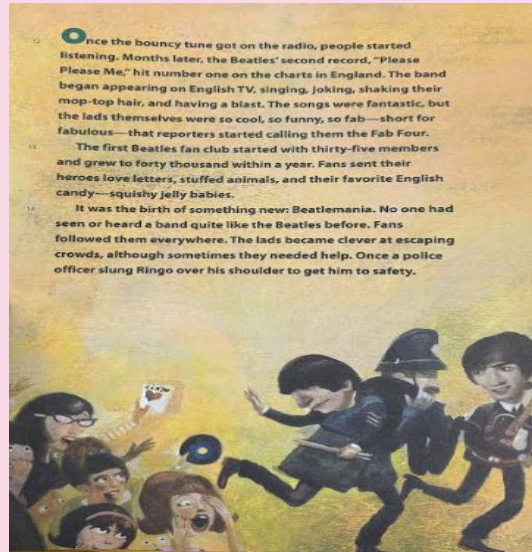
Avery

Artists make an impact on the world by helping people love art. I love that I learned to draw illustrations and then color them.

Toby

Artists make people happy by making music. If the world didn't have music, people wouldn't be happy and calm.

What was your favorite part of all the units?



“It is the artist who has
the courage to go
against the crowd...”

~Henry Miller



**Thank
You!**



Kelly Lane Primary School Pre-K Edition

Kelly Lane in the Spotlight
April 1, 2026



Meet our Team



Mrs. Farnsworth



PreK 3 Teacher



Mrs. Tatar



Teaching Assistant



Mrs. Holt



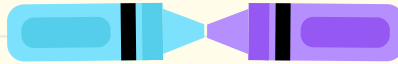
Teaching Assistant



Mrs. Peterson



PreK 4 Teacher



Mrs. Fijolek



Teaching Assistant

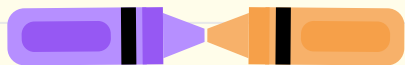


Mrs. Connelly



Teaching Assistant

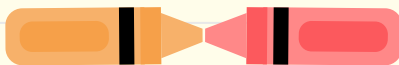
Meet our Support Staff



Mrs. Frigon



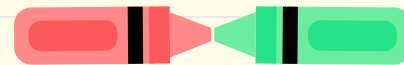
Occupational Therapist



Mr. McGowan



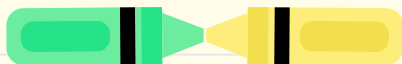
Physical Therapist



Mrs. Mattil



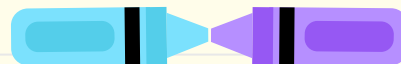
Speech & Language
Pathologist



Ms. Wilson



Speech & Language Pathologist



Mrs. Miller



Special Education Supervisor



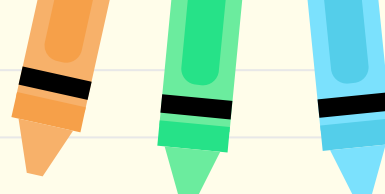
History and Purpose

Granby PreK started in 2016, servicing an average of 37 students per year

Originally comprised of:

- ★ Multi-age classrooms
- ★ 4 half-day classes with 9/10 students each, which varied based on needs
- ★ Integrated Model





Classroom Make-Up

- Students with IEPs
 - Identified through Birth to 3 Services and/or Child Find
- Role Model Peers



Application Process

- PreK Play Dates
 - Rubric targeting social interactions, independence, ability to follow directions, transitioning, social emotional skills, and communication



Structure

- Soft Start - Cooperative and parallel play
- Morning Meeting (Greetings, Calendar, Weather, Letter of the Day, SEL)
- Heggerty for Phonemic Awareness
- Centers (Teacher directed and Choice)
 - Math
 - Writing
 - Fine Motor Practice
- Specials (Art, Music, PE, Library)



Half Day

Primarily Services PreK 3

AM: 8:45 am - 11:15 am

PM: 12:30 - 3:00 pm

Full Day

Primarily Services PreK 4

Includes lunch and rest time

8:45 am - 3:00 pm

Curriculum Aligned to the Connecticut Early Learning and Development Standards (CT ELDS)



Cognition



Social and Emotional
Development



Physical Development
and Health



Language and Literacy



Creative Arts



Mathematics



Science



Social Studies

How Do We Measure Growth?

Language and Literacy (LL)							
Learning Progression	Young Infants by about 6 months	Older Infants by about 1 year	Young Toddlers by about 1.5 years	Toddlers by about 2 years	Older Toddlers by about 3 years	Young Preschoolers by about 4 years	Older Preschoolers by about 5 years
Strand A: Early learning experiences will support children to understand language (receptive language).							
Considerations for Multilingual Learners	- Children may understand communication in languages other than those spoken in an early learning setting. Gather information about their understanding of all languages they are learning across settings to provide a full picture of a child's language development. - Depending upon the features of the language(s) children are most comfortable with, their understanding of more complex syntax (e.g., plurals, past tense, compound sentences) in other languages may be impacted. - Children who are still learning the primary language of the early learning setting may rely on contextual and visual cues to assist in their understanding of language.						
AI. Understanding words	Responds to facial expressions or familiar voices by changing expression, movement, or crying	Responds to own name, and familiar words and phrases heard in context	Understands words, gestures, or signs used to refer to people, objects, or experiences that are not present	Understands much of what is communicated in language(s) they are most comfortable with Points to familiar objects, people, and body parts referred to in the language(s) they are most comfortable with	Understands more words across languages they are regularly exposed to, including nouns, verbs, and some adjectives	Understands words for objects, actions and visible characteristics (e.g., color, size) in real situations and symbolic contexts (e.g., books, pretend play)	Understands different types of words that convey more specific information about objects, actions and attributes in real situations and symbolic contexts (e.g., books, pretend play) Figures out the meaning of unknown words/concepts using the context of conversations, pictures, or concrete objects



VIDEO



PreK Parent Feedback



"Before my daughter started with the preschool program she was very behind in all aspects. She struggled the most with being able to communicate properly. When starting the preschool program, the most I thought she would learn was her ABC's and maybe how to count from 1-10. I never thought she would be where she is now. Not only does she know her ABC's and how to count from 1-10 she can recognize her own name and even spell it. She also knows how to identify a lot of her shapes and colors. She's can draw and color more clearly and she is able to focus on trying to achieve things. Whether it is folding, cutting, and even reading books. This preschool program also helped in getting her potty trained which I thought would never happen. And the biggest thing of all is she is able to communicate with full sentences and sound out hers words. I can go on and on at how much my daughter has accomplished while attending Kelly Lane preschool program. I'm so happy my daughter has taken part in this program and know she will be well prepared for kindergarten. "

PreK Parent Feedback Cont.



"Both Mrs. Farnsworth and Mrs. Peterson have been fantastic and provide so much reassurance and love to the kids and the parents. It really makes it much easier on everyone. They take their time and get to learn the kids and work with them. I've really enjoyed working with them both and they've made a huge impact on my kids lives."

"We have seen AMAZING progress from September to now with 'our child's' learning. He just started reading, he can draw figures, he can do so many things that he couldn't just a few short months ago. He loves school, loves his teachers, his friends, everything. I feel so lucky to live in Granby and have my children attend Kelly Lane preschool. Even luckier that you guys are offering full day next year- we are all looking forward to it!"

MEMO

To: Granby Board of Education

From: Superintendent of Schools

Date: April 1, 2026

Subject: BEAR Transition Academy Relocation and Program Expansion

I am pleased to share an exciting update regarding the continued growth and success of the Granby B.E.A.R. (Bringing Emerging Adults Resources) Transition Academy. The B.E.A.R. program will be relocating from the YMCA to a new site at South Congregational Church, located at 242 Salmon Brook Street, for the 2026–2027 school year.

This location will also serve as the home for our new Granby Alternative Program (G.A.P.), serving secondary students who require a nontraditional educational setting and addressing the social, emotional, behavioral, and academic needs of such students. G.A.P. was successfully piloted this year and will be completely funded by the Connecticut Special Education Expansion and Development (SEED) grant, designed for school districts to implement in-district special education services, reduce the need for costly out-of-district placements, and address staffing shortages.

This move represents a significant and positive step forward for Granby Public Schools. As enrollment and programming opportunities have expanded, it has become increasingly important to provide a larger, dedicated space designed specifically to meet the unique needs of our students. We thank the YMCA for housing our program for the past three years, as it has grown. The new location will offer enhanced learning environments, including individualized instructional spaces, a kitchen area, and flexible group spaces that will support hands-on, real-world learning experiences and the continued development of independent living skills.

Equally important, this transition strengthens and expands our community partnerships. We are proud to continue our valued collaboration with the YMCA, where students will still access wellness activities, fitness facilities, and meaningful vocational and internship opportunities. These experiences remain a cornerstone of the program and will continue uninterrupted.

At the same time, we are excited to establish a new partnership with South Congregational Church. Only a short walk to the town center, this connection will further embed the program within the community and create additional opportunities for student engagement, skill-building, and employment. The students already value the internships with Waste Not, Want Not Community Kitchen on this campus and look forward to exploring more internships in the town center.

The development and expansion of G.A.P. and B.E.A.R. reflect our commitment to expanding opportunities for students' academic, social, and emotional needs to be met within Granby Public Schools. This next chapter positions our programs to grow thoughtfully while maintaining the strong relationships and experiences that have made it so impactful. We look forward to sharing more about the process at a BOE meeting this fall and inviting the board members to an open house in the new space.

MEMO

To: Granby Board of Education

From: Superintendent of Schools

Date: April 1, 2026

Subject: FY27 Budget Reductions to Meet Board of Finance Directive

At the March 23, 2026, Board of Finance meeting, the Board of Education was directed to reduce the FY27 proposed operating budget by an additional \$100,000. In response, I am presenting for your review and approval a set of targeted reductions designed to meet this request while minimizing impact on student programming and district operations.

The revised FY27 Operating Budget is \$40,816,434, representing a 3.55% increase over the FY26 Operating Budget. The Quality & Diversity Fund total of \$1,123,769 and Small Capital Fund spending of \$1,000,000 remain unchanged.

To achieve the required \$100,000 reduction, the following adjustments are recommended:

- **Reduction of School Counseling Secretary Position (GMHS): (\$24,232)**
Due to a retirement, this position can be reduced from a 12-month to a 10-month role. Summer responsibilities, including student registration, course selection, and transcript processing, will be absorbed by existing main office staff.
- **Adjustment to Athletic Stipends (GMHS): (\$11,980)**
A review of participation data identified three stipends that have not been utilized over the past two years (diving, Junior Varsity softball team, and winter cheerleading). These stipends will be removed for FY27. Should participation needs change, funding can be addressed through the Quality & Diversity account. This is considered a one-time reduction.
- **Special Education Purchased Services: (\$16,313)**
While this line will still increase overall to better align with prior-year actual expenditures, the projected increase will be reduced by \$16,000. Given the volatility of these costs, this adjustment carries some risk and may require in-year budget management.
- **Art Staffing Adjustment: (\$47,475)**
High School course requests are coming in lower than expected and the art department has covered a graphic design class in 2025-26 that can be taught by a different teacher (0.1 FTE). The known retirement in this department can therefore be reduced by 0.8 FTE. We further anticipate the high school to decline in enrollment over the next 2-3 years, and we have part-time art teachers in other schools in the district that will be able to increase their FTE to meet the current need.

These recommendations reflect a careful review of available options, including staffing changes through attrition and adjustments based on historical usage. Each reduction was selected to preserve core instructional programs and student support to the greatest extent possible.

I respectfully request that the Board of Education approve these reductions so that we may present a revised budget to the Board of Finance in alignment with their guidance at the Town Budget Hearing on April 6, 2026.

GRANBY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Granby, Connecticut
Monday, March 16, 2026 - 5:00 p.m.
Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes
(subject to approval)

The Granby Board of Education's regular meeting was held on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the Granby Senior Center 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 (Zoom), Donna Nolan, Heather Lombardo, Ann Woods, and Andrew Billig. **ABSENT:** Liz Barlow, Dave Peling, Ed. D.

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

Call to Order and Welcome:

Vice Board Chair Heather Lombardo called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

Please click [HERE](#) to review the Budget Workshop Questions and Answers that were discussed at this meeting.

Operating Budget:

The following was discussed from the [FY 27 Budget Book](#):

1. Certified Salaries pg. 17
 - a. *Nickie Stevenson spoke to the Administrative increase, which was due to the new Kelly Lane Principal hire at a higher step/salary. Also, the addition of health stipends for the Superintendent and Assistant. Superintendent. This information will be added to the final budget book. Also, it was noted that the Union Salaries are listed in the budget book on pgs. 53-54.*
2. Clerical/Custodial/Technology Salaries pg. 18
 - a. *Technology support is increasing because grant money provided by the town is no longer available in FY 27.*
3. Student Activity/Athletic Salaries pg. 19
4. Substitutes/Tutors/Support Salaries pg. 20
5. Teacher Assistant Salaries pg. 21
6. Employee Benefits pg. 22

On a motion by Donna Nolan and seconded by Andrew Billig at 5:13 p.m., the meeting was recessed due to a gas odor detected in the building. The Fire Department responded and, for safety reasons, we all evacuated the building.

The Budget Workshop Meeting resumed at 5:27 p.m.

Program:

The following was discussed from the [FY 27 Budget Book](#):

1. Communications pg. 25
 - a. *The Technology Department conducted a thorough review of our phone line usage and was able to reduce the number of lines from ten to three. This reduction is the reason for the decrease reflected in the budget.*
2. Equipment/Furniture pg. 26
3. Insurance/Legal Services pg. 27
4. Library/Media Center pg. 28
5. Professional Development pg. 29
6. Purchased Services pg. 30
 - a. *It was noted that the School Resource Officer (SRO) is an employee of the Granby Police Department; however, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Board of Education assumes responsibility for his salary and benefits (Q&D), which are reimbursed to the Town. Any hours worked outside of his Board of Education schedule are paid by the Granby Police Department.*
 - b. *Additionally, within Instructional Support Services, the \$80,058 increase was noted, with \$68,000 attributed to Special Education (SPED).*
7. Repairs/Maintenance pg. 32
8. Student Activities/Athletics pg. 33
 - a. *It was noted that only Football and Basketball charge gate fees; those fees pay for the referees (which are extremely expensive at the high school level). All other games are free to attend, with the exception of CIAC playoff championships. CIAC sets those fees. Also, please refer to the Q&A link above - regarding transportation to events - Granby BOE does not provide transportation for any awards ceremony or banquet.*
 - b. *Football support - what is listed is capped. Anything above and beyond the amount of \$26,367 the booster is responsible for.*
9. Supplies pg. 35
10. Textbooks/Workbooks/Software pg. 37
 - a. *It was noted by Asst. Superintendent Parsons stated that there are no new textbooks that need to be ordered.*
11. Transportation pg. 38
 - a. *The decrease shown reflects the elimination of the Asnuntuck program and the addition of the Goodwin program, for which the transportation is paid for by CREC Magnet Schools.*
12. Tuition pg. 39
13. Utilities pg. 40

Quality & Diversity (Q&D) Fund:

The following was discussed from the [FY 27 Budget Book](#):

1. Q & D Fund Summary pg. 41
2. Q & D Expenditures pg. 42
3. Q & D Revenues pg. 43

Small Capital Fund:

The following was discussed from the [FY 27 Budget Book](#):

1. Summary of Proposed Expenditures pg. 44
2. Transportation & Equipment pg. 45
 - a. *It was noted that the replacement of a van is necessary because the van currently used is 20 years old. Additionally, it was mentioned that no one other than certified drivers in the facilities department at the Board of Education are allowed to drive these vehicles. The BOE vehicles have never been driven by outside contractors.*
3. Building Maintenance & Improvement pg. 46
4. Technology Equipment pg. 46

Public Comment:

Please note that the following are brief recaps of each individual's statements. For the full statements, please refer to the link above to view the meeting in its entirety and hear the full public comment statement.

1. Mike Kamerenko - He inquired about the distance limitations for Special Education (SPED) transportation - Granby doesn't seem to limit the distance. **It was noted that each decision is determined based on the individual needs of the student, as outlined during the Planning and Placement Team (PPT) process.* He also asked whether the district receives \$25,000 per pupil for Open Choice students. **It was clarified that the district receives \$10,000 per Open Choice student from Hartford.* Additionally, he inquired about Sport Stipends. **He was informed that detailed information regarding these stipends is available via a link on the district's website - part of the teacher contracts online.*
2. Beth Carroll - Quail Lane - She first wanted to publicly thank Cheri and her team for the timely responses to all of the questions that she had emailed Cheri. She wanted clarification on the van being leased for \$60,000 per year. **It is not per year - we budget for the full expense of the van, and then the town handles all of the lease agreements. Make two payments per year for four years - each payment is \$6,800.00.* Beth wanted to have more taxpayer involvement with the surplus money regarding the \$1.2 million dollar security project. **We, as a Board of Education, followed the town charter. With this surplus, all three boards, the board of education, the board of finance, and the board of selectmen, approved the surplus to be allocated to the funding of the safety and security project.* As a taxpayer, 3.7% is just too much of an increase for the Board of Education.
3. Mike Flannigan - He asked about the presentation budget that Dave Anderson from the GTA had passed out at the last budget workshop meeting. **The Board has prepared a response, and that group will be responded to after the Board has had some time to review all of the information in the presentation.* ** Donna Nolan added that the BOE must account for required expenditures while recognizing the reality that funding often falls short of*

*expectations, particularly when state contributions are lower than anticipated. She explained that excess cost-sharing is used to help offset budget increases, keeping the overall impact to taxpayers under 3%. Any excess funds are returned to the town, which is a responsible approach that ensures necessary expenses are covered while helping to reduce the overall increase. *Also, it was clarified that the lease agreements for vehicles are through the town. He asked what the Superintendent's salary is. *\$245,000 with benefits, salary is \$236,000; it was noted that she is the lowest paid Superintendent in the Farmington Valley.*

4. Curt Johnson - Fielding Woods Rd. - He mentioned the letter that he read at the last meeting. He would like clarification on the \$8,000 on how much DECA receives versus Robotics. He has a strong affinity for the trades. He wants encouragement for students to enter trades. He would like to know how many graduates attend college, go into trades, or join the military. **He was directed to EdSight to view that information. And, our program with Goodwin College was mentioned as encouraging trades.*
5. John Spatcher - 22 Roundhill Road - He agrees with Donna Nolan and her previous statement regarding the revenues from the State. He also thanked Superintendent Burke and her staff for the information regarding his questions. He had questions as to who was the fourth in the Administrative staff, which was noted as the Director of Finance. How much were the stipends for the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent? He wants clarification as to who the employees are at the Central Office. He reiterated about having a study to see if there could be job sharing in the Finance Department. And, a study as to why we have so many administrative assistants.

The following will be reviewed at the Regular Board of Education meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

***Revenue Analysis:**

The following was discussed from the FY 27 Budget Book:

1. 2026-2027 Revenue Analysis pg. 47
2. 2026-2027 Revenue Analysis — Description pg. 48

***Capital Priority Planning:**

The following was discussed from the FY 27 Budget Book:

1. Capital Priority Planning pg. 51

Adjournment:

On a motion by Donna Nolan and seconded by Andrew Billig, the Board of Education adjourned with all in favor, no discussion, at 6:45 pm.

Recording by:

Michelle L. Crowley

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

GRANBY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Granby, Connecticut
Wednesday, March 18, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.
Regular Meeting Minutes
(subject to approval)

The Granby Board of Education's regular meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the Granby Town Hall Meeting Room, located at 15-B N. Granby Road, and via the Zoom Meeting Platform.

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

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

Call to Order and Welcome:

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

Chairperson's Report:

Chair Logan noted that there will be a motion to amend the agenda to move public comment to follow the Student Representative Reports. She also shared that *The Little Mermaid* production was phenomenal, thanking everyone who participated in the show as well as those who helped with the production. She described it as absolutely magnificent and expressed that the students and families should be very proud.

Awards and Recognition:

The Board of Education recognized Simone Lohr, a Grade 8 student, for creating the budget book cover art. Superintendent Burke shared that there was a vision for the budget book to tell a story by highlighting the many talents of students through their work. Simone is the first student to design the cover for the BOE budget book.

Student Representative Reports:

- Madison's Updates:
 - GMHS's annual Empty Bowls dinner will be held on March 27th from 5-7 pm in the school cafeteria. Featuring handmade bowls, local soups, and bread to fight local hunger. All proceeds will benefit the Granby and Hartland food banks.
 - Congratulations to the Drama Club for all of the sold-out shows of *The Little Mermaid*.
 - The junior class will take their SAT's tomorrow, March 19th.
 - Students will be participating in the Model UN conference in Boston.
 - The Boys Basketball team made it to the quarter finals.

Public Comment:

On a motion by Heather Lombardo, seconded by Ann Woods, the agenda was amended to move Public Comment to follow the Student Representative Reports.

Public Comment:

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

1. Rebecca Mikus - 14 Stonewall Dr. - She thanked Mr. Billig for his questions regarding the drama department at the March 16th budget workshop meeting. She expressed the need for money in the budget for drama, noting the rights for a Disney production are expensive. There wasn't any money for set and/or costume design. Parents were asked to purchase items from an Amazon list. They were extremely supportive. She also requested more information on other student activities and would like to see them itemized in the budget book.
2. Mike Kamenenko - He read a card with notes on it from another parent who couldn't attend the meeting. Points that were made included the following: her daughter was put on a Snapchat list that she was gay. Her child is not gay and has been bullied for that. She hates school, and the family will be moving. Students treat teachers horribly, and it's no surprise that teachers leave. Safety issues at the crosswalk - five cars went through the bus stop sign, which is illegal; there needs to be cameras on buses. A health teacher was explaining to students the dangers of vaping. However, the technology was lax in that the health teacher was able to go on a website where vapes can be purchased. He also noted that kids go on Amazon and make personal orders while in school.

Reports and Discussion:

The following was discussed from the [FY 27 Budget Book](#):

Revenue Analysis:

The following was discussed from the FY 27 Budget Book:

1. 2026-2027 Revenue Analysis pg. 47
2. 2026-2027 Revenue Analysis — Description pg. 48
3. Staffing Summary pg. 50

Capital Priority Planning:

The following was discussed from the [FY 27 Budget Book](#):

1. Capital Priority Planning pg. 51

Superintendent Burke shared final thoughts regarding the FY27 budget. She expressed appreciation to Nicole Stevenson for her vision in personalizing the budget book and to Megan Siegel for creating the tables and documents, as well as developing a dedicated space on the website to share information in real time. She also thanked the administrative team for their support throughout the process.

She noted that rising costs for salaries, benefits, and contractual obligations are driving the budget increase. There are no new additions or technology purchases included, and no cushion has been built in for everyday expenses. The budget is based on current data and circumstances, with a focus on fiscal responsibility and maintaining commitments to students. All decisions, she emphasized, are made with what is best for the students of Granby in mind. She concluded by thanking the community for their feedback and questions throughout this budget process.

Monica Logan spoke about how the Board presented the Plus One Budget back in December. It was presented to demonstrate transparency, and it came in at 3.8%, which is where our budget came in tonight. The 3.8% budget does not mean a 3.8% mill rate change. She proposed to create a temporary subcommittee or group to explore possible internal efficiencies between the town and school administration and external opportunities in neighboring communities for mutual partnerships.

Heather Lombardo spoke to the budget and stated that she does not advocate for further cuts to this budget. Once a district starts to consistently cut, it becomes an undesirable district for skilled teachers to want to come and stay, and it impacts the morale of the current staff. She commits to working with the town for opportunities for efficiencies this coming year. She supports the budget with the 3.8% increase.

Andrew Billig believes that the Superintendent has had a proactive approach to the students and staff. Her choices have been fiscally responsible. She has the best interests of the community in mind. He fully supports her proposals. He agrees with more transparency and more detail into the school spending for more transparency. He supports more support for the fine arts program and continued support from the Board for all of the extracurricular clubs. Reduction in Administration would have a negative effect on the classroom experience, gutting the support system would only increase clerical burden for teachers, and affect staff morale. He does support the Superintendent's 3.8% budget increase.

Donna Nolan started by thanking everyone for the effort that was put into the budget. The community wanted to see some cuts. She believes some areas can be reduced and cuts such as secretaries at the Central Office. Also, mentioning that we need to find more revenue, such as bringing in more business to the town of Granby. We can't keep going to the taxpayers. She feels the budget can be leaner. She doesn't want to cut any services to the students.

Ann Woods was also very impressed with all of the work that was put into the budget book. She highlighted areas of what we get for what money is spent in the budget. 90% of Kindergartners are at or above the benchmark. Wells Road students are participating in the Climate Survey of the school. The middle school students are leading conferences. The high school is ranked number 18 in Connecticut. From a facilities perspective, we are doing so much more with less. Technology launched Parent Square, which has been a huge improvement in communication, and also introduced Unified Sports. It's a responsible budget, and she fully supports the budget.

David Peling supports the 3.8% budget. It is a responsible budget, 90% of it is salary benefits and contractual obligations. He agrees with the idea of a subcommittee and working with other communities. He thinks the workshop part of the process should start at the front of the budget process. We should hear from the community first, and then it can be discussed, and the information can be used in the beginning planning stages of the budget, rather than at the backend of the process.

Business Requiring Action:

- **Adoption of the FY 27 Budget:**
 - On a motion by Heather Lombardo, seconded by Ann Woods, the Board of Education adopted the FY27 budget, with one opposing vote by Donna Nolan.
- **Director of Finance and Operations Report:**
 - Nickie Stevenson, Director of Operations and Finance, presented the February 2026 Budget Expense.
 - On a motion by Donna Nolan and seconded by Andrew Billig, the February 2026 Budget Expense Report was approved.
- **March 4, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes:**
 - On a motion by Heather Lombardo, seconded by Ann Woods, the March 4, 2026, Board of Education meeting minutes were approved.
- **March 11, 2026 - Budget Workshop meeting minutes:**
 - On a motion by Heather Lombardo and seconded by Andrew Billig, the March 11, 2026, budget workshop meeting minutes were approved.

Board Standing Committee Reports:

- Curriculum/Policy/Technology/Communication: The next meeting is on April 1, 2026.
- Finance/Personnel/Facilities— This committee met tonight. Donna Nolan shared the agenda and what was discussed: the February 2026 budget report, an FY 27 Budget update, and a discussion about our bus contracts changing from owning our buses to a transportation contract with the town, with no longer owning our buses.

Other Board-Related Reports:

- CREC/CABE - No Updates.
- Granby Education Foundation - No Updates.

Public Comment:

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

1. Mike Kamerenko - He opposes the budget. Agrees that teachers need to be paid more. Granby shouldn't be part of the Open Choice program. There are many issues with the students in the program, including Open Choice students bullying other Granby students. He does believe the budget should pass.

2. John Spatcher - 22 Roundhill Rd. - He thanked the Board of Education and staff for their hard work and acknowledged that tough decisions will need to be made. He expressed support for a special subcommittee, emphasizing the need to explore alternatives to continually going to taxpayers for funding. He also called for increased transparency and more detailed information in the budget book, noting that greater detail would reduce public questions.
3. Rebecca Mikus - 14 Stonewall Dr. - She expressed concern that the budget may not pass, noting that property taxes in Granby are already high. She emphasized the need for greater transparency in the budget book regarding exactly how funds are being allocated. She also thanked everyone for their hard work.
4. Maureen Eberly - (Zoom) - She expressed support for the idea of a subcommittee and suggested that it should include members of the public. She emphasized the need to be mindful of elderly residents on fixed incomes and stressed that the Board of Education should “walk the talk” and be held accountable. She also expressed interest in seeing the percentages of teachers who have left the district, along with categorized reasons for their departures. She thanked Cheri for providing the FOIA information she had requested.
5. Lynn Kraus - Zoom - She noted that Cheri had not thanked the residents. She suggested that the Board of Education consider changes to the budget and hopes that the requested or considered changes will be addressed moving forward. Agreeing with Donna Nolan, she stated that taxpayers are tired of continual increases and expressed her opposition to the budget. She also emphasized that staff reductions are necessary and expressed concern that taxpayers are being forced to leave Granby.

Superintendent's Report:

- Our next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for April 1st. There is only one meeting this month due to the April vacation.
- PD day for Teachers on Friday, March 20th.
- On March 24th at 3:30, we will have our Unified Basketball Game - students vs staff/teachers.

Action Items:

- Research information on Teacher attrition and retention - check with Jennifer Brown.
- Creating the subcommittee and researching what it will look like, who will make up the subcommittee, and what its goals will be.
- Discuss creating an earlier workshop to discuss the budget - what will that timeline look like, and adding this item to the Finance meeting for further discussion.

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: [March 18, 2026 - Regular Meeting Recording](#).

Adjournment:

On a motion by David Peling, seconded by Heather Lombardo, the Board of Education adjourned, with all in favor, no discussion, at 8:32 pm.

Recording by:

Michelle L. Crowley

Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent
and Assistant Superintendent