

**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 Kameranenko - 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