

**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