School Build Committee

East Granby, CT

Minutes

August 13, 2026

East Granby Town Hall/ 6:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Suzanne Palmieri, Superintendent, Jason Hays, First Selectman, Keith Antaya, Tom Carroll, Marc Dlugolenski, Magdalena MacKay, Dreux Namnoun, Brian O'Connor (6:53 pm, Rosemary Pizzoferrato, Paul Thulen, Donna Mattera, Clerk

1. **Welcome –** Suzanne Palmieri, Superintendent opened the meeting by welcoming all the committee members. She provided an overview of the process and project offering her vision as well as the important part the committee will serve in seeing it through to a referendum next spring. She provided information regarding the timeline, grants and reimbursement of school projects. Jason Hayes, First Selectman welcomed the members and provided important information regarding the growth of East Granby. He noted we need to plan to accommodate for the future of our schools and community. He also shared East Granby had the largest population growth percentage wise in the State for 2025. He reported our town has numerous rentals that are being built. It is deceiving when we project student enrollment as rentals are not allowed when projecting enrollment numbers. Jason provided his vision and the importance of looking at the buildings through the lens of not only education but also the community. There is an opportunity if approved to repurpose some of the buildings. The schools occupy the buildings however, the town owns the buildings. This committee will look at the various options and in the end bring forth recommendations for the town to decide in a referendum if it moves to the next step. Suzanne and Jason gave a brief overview of how the state reimbursement rate is determined. They thanked the committee for dedicating their time for the community. The committee went around the table and introduced themselves as well as Eric Feiss of GWWO architects. Matt Gallerani from their firm joined the meeting shortly thereafter. A discussion took place in regards the role of a chairperson that would need to be established. ***MOTION:*** A motion was made by Dreux Namnoun seconded by Magdalena to select a chair. Dreux Namnoun amended his motion to select a temporary chair for tonight's meeting and waiting until we have a full slate of members at the next meeting. ***Motion passed.*** Dreux Namnoun nominated Paul Thulen to serve as the temporary chair. Seeing no further nominations, Paul took over facilitating the meeting.
2. **Introduction –** Eric Feiss of GWWO architect gave a brief overview of his background and the firm. He introduced Matt Gallerani who provided a detailed presentation on how the details of a project are determined. He brought the committee through the process thus far and how projects progress. Eric and Matt discussed feasibility studies and the tools used as well as evaluation of existing conditions of the current school buildings. Matt reviewed renovations vs. rebuilds. His presentation included up to date models with a focus on the changes in education. There is a shift of bringing trades back into the schools as an option for students. They noted East Granby is in a prime location with all the industries surrounding the town. It provides students a wider variety when deciding their future

3. **Context and Timeline for possible Referendum** –Suzanne and Jason spoke to the goal of having a referendum in the spring. It was noted through the process, there will be community forum to inform the community what the vision is for the schools. Suzanne noted in her previous community forums, the concern of the school buildings came up repletely.
4. **Scope of the Committee**– Suzanne and Jason noted the committee member's role previously in the meeting
5. **Upcoming Meeting Dates** – 2nd Thursday of the month. The committee is in agreement to meet the 2nd Thursday of the month and keeping the meetings to a maximum time limit of 90 minutes.
6. **Future Agenda Items –** Appoint a chairperson and vice chairperson.
7. **Adjournment -**
8. **ADJOURN –** ***MOTION***: a motion was made by Dreux Namnoun, seconded by Magdalena MacKay to adjourn the meeting at 8:32: p.m. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Mattera