School Build Committee

East Granby, CT

Minutes

September 10, 2026

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

In attendance:
Suzanne Palmieri, Superintendent, Joshua Martin, Chief Operating Officer, Jason Hayes, First Selectman, Brian O'Connor, Tom Carroll, Brett Lowman, Magdalena MacKay, Rosemary Pizzoferrato, Paul Thulen, Peter Ritter, Donna Mattera, Clerk

1. **Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance –** Paul Thulen, Temporary Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. and everyone in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Public Comment –** None.
3. **Officer Selection**–Paul Thulen opened the nomination process for chair and vice chairperson.
   MOTION: a motion was made by Paul Thulen, seconded by Brian O'Connor to open nominations for chairperson. *Motion passed.*
   MOTION: a motion was made by Paul Thulen, seconded by Rosemary Pizzoferrrato to nominate Brian O'Connor as chairperson. Brian accepted and there were no further nominations. By unanimous vote, Brian O'Connor was voted chairperson.
   The meeting was turned over to Brian O'Connor, Chairperson.
   MOTION: a was made by Brian O'Connor, seconded by Paul Thulen to open nominations for vice chairperson. *Motion passed.*
   MOTION: a was made by Brian O'Connor, seconded by Brett Lowman to nominate Paul Thulen for vice chairperson. Paul accepted and there were no further nominations. By unanimous vote, Paul Thulen was voted Vice Chairperson.
4. **Correspondence**
   a) Proposed Mission Statement –
   Brian O'Connor read the proposed mission statement into the record as follows:
   Mission Statement "The East Granby School Build Committee serves to conduct a comprehensive, transparent, and data-driven analysis of East Granby's current infrastructure and future enrollment projections. We are committed to evaluating viable expansion strategies that prioritize equitable access, fiscal responsibility, and optimal learning environments. Through rigorous research and community collaboration, we will deliver an objective recommendation to the School Board to ensure our facilities sustainably support the academic excellence and well-being of all future students."
   b) August Consultant Presentation – Jason Hayes, First Selectperson provided the committee with a copy the GWWO presentation from the August 13th meeting.
5. **Minutes:** a. Approve August 2026 Minutes
   MOTION: a motion was made by Brian O'Connor, seconded by Brett Lowman to approve the minutes as presented. *Motion passed.*
6. **Superintendent/First Selectman's Report –**
   Suzanne Palmieri, Superintendent distributed to the committee the 2026-2027 District Goals, a Timeline to March 2027 and "We Do Not Launch Without" which is being shared with the Board of Education members related to this process. She thanked the committee for the long meeting last month as there was important information being presented. Suzanne reported on

active initiatives the school district is working on and building partnerships and opportunities for the students. There are current and new partnerships in the making with Bradley Airport for air traffic controller career paths, the East Granby Historical Society and expanding our teacher certification to enhance more course selections. This year the upper grades moved from a 7 period day to an 8 period day which offers more opportunity and flexibility for program of studies. She noted Gorman and York will be in attendance at our next meeting. Jason Hayes, First Selectperson noted he distributed the GWWO presentation as it was not available at the last meeting.

7. **Consultant's Report**
   a. **CSG – C**onstruction **S**olutions **G**roup – Suzanne Palmieri introduced Jim Giuliano, President of CSG. Jim gave an overview of their services. He noted their firm is an important part of the Grant submission and Ed Specs process. Their firm guides the projects to receive the most reimbursable rates from the State of Connecticut. He offered current and past projects the firm has been contracted for. Suzanne noted the importance of their current role.
   b. **Gorman and York** – Joshua Martin, COO met with Gorman and York and provided an update in their absence. Josh brought the committee through where the school districts enrollment typically changes and how the costs are associated with the changes. He explained how Gorman and York collect their data regarding enrollment. They look at the entirety of our program. He noted when students leave, it does not equate to cost savings ie. Possibility of less teachers and staff. The student choosing other options of education when leaving the district results in increase costs of tuition and transportation that the district is still responsible for. Josh noted East Granby needs to grow as other programs grow.

      The committee engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the timeline, process and communication to the community. Ideas of how to communicate information, have an effective timeline, hold community forums to educate the public was discussed with great ideas. Meeting with the Board of Education members, Board of Finance, attending senior events were a few ideas to receive community input. Jason noted the importance and benefit of looking at not only the students but also to include the seniors and other age groups that will help with programming within our town.

      Suzanne will create a Communication in Planning schedule to help publicize information.
8. **New Business**

   MOTION: a motion was made by Brian O'Connor, seconded by Magdalena MacKay to adopt the Mission statement as read into the record. *Motion passed.*
9. **Public Comment -** None
10. **ADJOURN – *MOTION***: a motion was made by Paul Thulen, seconded by Brett Lowman to adjourn the meeting at 7:37: p.m. ***Motion passed unanimously.***

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Mattera