Board of Education Meeting - Budget Workshop - Amended Agenda
Wednesday, October 21, 2026, 7:00 PM
Granby Senior Center

I. Call to Order and Welcome
{{Goal-}}
{{Attachment:}}
{{RecommendedMotion}}

II. Pledge of Allegiance
{{Goal-}}
{{Attachment:}}
{{RecommendedMotion}}

III. Chairperson's Report
{{Goal-}}
{{Attachment:}}
Rationale: The Board Chair will share remarks.
{{RecommendedMotion}}

IV. Public Comment
{{Goal-}}
{{Attachment:}}
Rationale:
The Board of Education welcomes public participation and values the diverse perspectives, questions, and concerns of our community. The Board has a responsibility to provide a respectful, orderly, and equitable forum where all members of the community have a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
Comments should be directed to the Board and focus on matters of public concern. Disagreement and criticism is welcome, and the board requires that all speakers respect the legal privacy and dignity of our students and employees. Concerns or allegations involving identifiable individuals should be addressed through appropriate district channels rather than through public comment. Personal attacks, intimidation, harassment, or disruptive conduct interfere with the purpose of this forum. The Chair may intervene, pause, or end comments when necessary to preserve an orderly and respectful environment.
Speakers must state their name and address for the record, and limit comments to 5 minutes.
The Board will not engage in dialogue or respond during public comment; however, matters raised may be considered for follow-up or placed on a future agenda in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act.
{{RecommendedMotion}}

V. Reports and Discussion
{{Goal-}}
{{Attachment:}}
{{RecommendedMotion}}

A. Salaries / Benefits
{{Goal-}}
{{Attachment:}}
{{RecommendedMotion}}

B. Teaching & Learning
{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

C. Equipment / Furniture / Supplies

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

D. Special Education

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

E. Student Activities / Athletics

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

F. Transportation

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

G. Technology

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

VI. Business Requiring Action

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

A. Regular Board of Education Meeting - October 7, 2026 - Minutes

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

B. Finance Subcommittee update

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

1. Expense Report Approval

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

VII. Superintendent's Update

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

Rationale: Superintendent Burke will provide district updates.

{{RecommendedMotion}}

VIII. Adjournment

{{Goal-}}

{{Attachment:}}

{{RecommendedMotion}}

Regular Board of Education Meeting - Minutes *[Subject to Approval]*
October 7, 2026, at 7:00 PM
Granby Town Hall Meeting Room, 15 N. Granby Rd., Granby, CT 06035
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83453303149?pwd=FnUxbbNsuTX7XgA1OFncqAjZzrR2Da.1

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME
Board Chair, Heather Lombardo, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present Board Members: Heather Lombardo, Dave Peling, Ann Woods, Joel Danke, Jessica Diglio-Tsaptsinos, and Andrew Billig. **Absent Board Members:** John Limeburner
Also Present: Superintendent Cheri Burke, Assistant Superintendent Jennifer Parsons and Director of Finance and Operations, Nicole Stevenson.
Student Representatives: Madison Schantz and Teagan Hall

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
The Board of Education Chair, Heather Lombardo, celebrated Granby Public Schools' Staff Member of the Year, Bethany Grupp. Ms. Burke added that Bethany was ever present in the daily operations of her programs and endeavors.

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS
Madison Schantz: Had several key updates pertaining to school activities. Student Principal Advisory Council is in motion, where monthly meetings are held with Dr. Dill, who has open discussions with the students to assess student-climate. Smart Pass has been overall, positively received, with a few experiencing time-constraint challenges, but overall a good implementation. Ms. Schantz reported that the high school drama production, *Puffs,* is also in motion and encouraged everyone to attend the drama club's presentation. Ms. Schantz reported that the National Honor Society will hold their inductions on October 29th, and acceptance letters have gone out; as have the World Language induction letters. Ms. Schantz shared that in October, the PSAT is coming up for all juniors and some AP World Language seniors will also have the opportunity to take a biliteracy test. Additional events include Field Hockey Senior Night and an in-school support day held for SRO Dufresne, who will be running the New York City Marathon.

Teagan Hall: Expressed excitement surrounding the Pep Rally's and Spirit Week, which took place last week. Ms. Hall reported on the homecoming game and Hollywood-themed homecoming dance, which students were excited about.

PUBLIC COMMENT
A **Town of Granby resident** shared concerns regarding IEP's, safety, and the bus company's handling of personnel matters.

A **Student**, who is currently a senior at Granby Memorial High School, spoke on concerns of bullying and how they are addressed.

Jessica Corinne: Expressed feelings on grading and how it affects students.

A resident of **[218 Salmon Brook St]** who is part of the *Balance Project* shared information on the initiative, which aims to help parents become informed on ways to balance technology for students.

Corinne Delgallo, Strawberry Hills, shared her support for teachers and the need for them to be appropriately compensated.

Maureen Eberly joined via Zoom to provide feedback on students' scores and shared her feelings on previous budget meetings and overall budget processes and information.

BOARD BUSINESS, DISCUSSION AND ACTION
Superintendent's Report:
District Highlights
Superintendent Burke highlighted school activities she has had the opportunity to see through her walks throughout the schools. Ms. Burke went on to share about a recent meeting on finding a balance within the budget, which gave her the opportunity to collaborate with the commissioner and cabinet members, as well as to roundtable with several superintendents to share on their budget processes and challenges. This also provided the opportunity for Ms. Burke to hear from the State Director of Special Education, Bryan Klimkiewicz, who provided insight into upcoming grants.

Ms. Burke also mentioned that she attended the NEASC workshop, as Granby was selected as one of seven districts in the state to participate in the district-wide accreditation process. This process provides support to the district as they meet requirements for accreditation.

Enrollment / Personnel
Ms. Burke was excited to share updates on new hires, which include a new band teacher, as well as a new Special Education teacher for the Rise program; in which enrollment has nearly doubled in the last year. Though the additional certified staff member for the Special Education, Rise Program, was not budgeted, Ms. Burke explained that the cost-savings in hiring a staff member as opposed to paying out-of-district tuition for each student in the program was fiscally beneficial and a fraction of what the out-of-district cost would be. Ms. Woods posed a question as to whether out of district students were in the program, and Ms. Burke explained that that particular program only housed Granby residents.

Facilities / Operations
The importance of the projects, one of which includes the scoreboard at the High School Stadium, were explained. The scoreboard at the stadium has reached the end of its life and is no longer supported with maintenance, as the parts are no longer manufactured. The other being the field, which has another sinkhole. Ms. Burke acknowledged that failing to act on replacing these items could further disrupt the sports played on these fields. Ms. Burke also mentioned that servers are being replaced, but costs have nearly doubled since the replacements were originally budgeted for in the small capital projects line item several years ago. Mr. Lambert, IT Director, stated that growth in data centers and storage were probable drivers in costs and limits their availability to others, such as school districts.

Other District Matters
Ms. Woods posed questions regarding the anonymous reporting app for students, Stop It, used to report incidents and concerns to identify trends. Ms. Parsons and Ms. Burke explained that the app is in use and while mostly anonymous, the incidents reported that have enough information are referred to police or the administrators at schools for review and follow-up. Ms. Parsons explained that data is collected in terms of identifying trends in reports and then staff uses pertinent subjects collected from such data to provide SEL lessons for students in similar situations.

Teaching and Learning:
World Language Department - Field Trip - Spain 2028 - Discussion and Action
Mr. Luis Miguel-Romero, Grades 9-12 World Language Director, presented plans for the Spain International Field Trip, planned for April 2028. Mr. Miguel-Romero expressed the need to provide the information early to families wanting to explore the enrichment opportunity. Ample notice provides parents with proper planning time, as well as cost-savings. Discussion surrounding ample notice, chaperone's and the tour company that is used to facilitate the trip were had between Ms. Burke, Mr. Peling and Mr. Miguel-Romero. The opportunity is open to high school students who wish to attend. Ms. Burke emphasized that there was absolutely no cost to the taxpayer as this is simply an enrichment opportunity presented to students, but that approval is sought from the board as it is an international trip. The presentation can be accessed HERE.

Motion: Ann Woods moved to approve the Spain International Trip planned for 2028. Mr. Dave Peling seconded the motion. All in attendance were in favor.

Strategic Plan - Discussion and Action
Superintendent Burke presented the revised, 2nd Generation Strategic Plan, which considered the feedback received from the board on September 16, 2026. Ms. Burke emphasized that the "North Star," for the vision in the Strategic Plan is student achievement and that the plan creates an alignment - from language, to the mission to the implementation - for students and staff from Pre-K up through the Bear Academy program, which services students with special needs up to the age of 22. Ms. Burke envisions this as a, "roadmap," for the direction in which student achievement will be accomplished, configured with metrics, assessments, and accountability. There was extensive planning that went into creating the plan, from community, student and staff input, to creation of focus groups with members from all angles. The plan also considers every aspect of the operational, financial, staff and student success, from curriculum to professional development planning, down to the budget. Principals from all buildings will present their individual metrics of success and their own roadmaps in alignment with the plan in the coming months. More information on the Strategic Plan and Student Data can be found HERE.

Motion: Mr. Joel Danke moved to approve the 2nd Generation Strategic Plan. Mr. Andrew Billig seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

Technology Use Report - Information / Discussion
A presentation on the use of technology was given by Mr. Jon Lambert, IT Director, and Jennifer Parsons, Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Lambert opened the presentation by acknowledging that the use of

technology and AI in schools should be a mindful balance. Through the presentation screentime concerns were acknowledged, state legislation and Connecticut's guidance for technology use in schools were shared. Ms. Parsons shared that currently, there are no state laws on the use of personal or district technology in schools. She said that they are working on balancing between preparing students for the future of work, while also developing hands-on activities to balance technology use in the classrooms. Ms. Parsons emphasized that it is not only the minutes allotted for technology during the classroom time, but the quality and intentional use within those minutes that matter. The presentation can be viewed HERE.

Curriculum Subcommittee Report - Information
Finance and Operations
Finance Subcommittee Update
Mr. Joel Danke, the Finance Subcommittee board member, highlighted previous meeting notes which included the work that was done at Wells Road with the changing of the propane tanks to a safer alternative and the security updates Mr. DeGray implemented. Mr. Danke also thanked Mr. DeGray and staff for the savings found, to perform in-house work that needed to be done with tiling.

Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes - September 16, 2026
Motion: Ann Woods moved to approve the September 16, 2026 Finance Subcommittee meeting minutes. Jessica Diglio-Tsaptsinos seconded the motion. Ms. Lombardo, Mr. Danke, and Mr. Billig were all in favor. Mr. Peling, who was not present at the September 16, 2026 meeting, abstained, as did Ms. Woods. Motion carried.

BOARD LIAISON REPORTS - INFORMATION
Granby Education Foundation
Chairperson Heather Lombardo highlighted that Mr. Andrew Billig is the liaison member for the board.

Other Board Liaison Assignments
Ms. Heather Lombardo shared that the board is looking for people to fill the liaison roles. Meetings are held virtually and are only about 30-minutes, and during the day.

BOARD GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP
Chairperson's Report
Ms. Lombardo gave an overview of what each committee does and how that is helpful to the board. Ms. Lombardo mentioned that a budget workshop will be the next Board of Education meeting, which will be used to gain input from the community prior to a budget being put together. The Budget Workshop will be publicized, along with the agenda. The information has already been announced in previous meetings, sent to the Drummer for publishing, and will be promoted through ParentSquare and other avenues of communication to ensure engagement.

IBAC (Intra Board Advisory Committee) Update
Ms. Lombardo gave an overview as to why the committee was formed, which included wanting to identify redundancies and efficiencies after concerns were brought up during previous budgetary conversations from the community. Ms. Lombardo shared that CLA will be conducting interviews between the Board of

Education and Town to audit efficiencies and roles. Hopes are to create a roadmap for their findings and implementation of recommendations from the firm that was selected to conduct the interviews.

POLICIES, CONTRACTS AND BOARD ACTION

Approval of Minutes

Regular Board of Education Meeting - September 16, 2026

Motion: Jessica Diglio-Tsaptsinos moved to approve the September 16, 2026 Board of Education Minutes. Ann Woods seconded the motion. Ms. Lombardo, Mr. Billing, and Mr. Danke were all in favor. Mr. Dave Peling abstained.

Special Board of Education Meeting - Board Retreat - September 30, 2026

Motion: The minutes for the Special Meeting of the Board of Education Retreat from September 30, 2026 were approved. Andrew Billig moved to approve and Dave Peling seconded. Ms. Lombardo, Mr. Danke and Ms. Woods were in favor. Jessica Diglio-Tsapsinos abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The board entered into Executive Session to discuss a student discipline matter, which could result in the disclosure of public records. Those who were in attendance were the Superintendent of Schools, Cheri Burke and Board Members: Heather Lombardo, Dave Peling, Andrew Billig, Ann Woods, Joel Danke and Jessica Diglio-Tsapsinos.

Motion: Jessica Diglio-Tsapsinos moved to enter into the Executive Session and Ann Woods seconded. All were in favor.

Motion: Dave Peling moved to approve the agreement as presented by the Superintendent. Andrew Billig seconded the motion. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Session went into session at 9:56PM. Andrew Billig moved to adjourn the meeting and Jessica Diglio-Tsapsinos seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:05PM.

Submitted By:

Jennifer Arnold

Jennifer Arnold

GRANBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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15-B North Granby Road
Granby, CT 06035
(860) 844-5253

stevensonn@granbyschools.org

To: Cheri P. Burke, Superintendent of Schools

From: Nickie Stevenson, Director of Finance & Operations

Re: September 2026 Budget Expense Report

Date: October 8, 2026

Please find attached the September 2026 budget expense report for this fiscal year.

Personnel and Program Accounts

An analysis of both personnel and program accounts indicates that projected expenditures remain on track to be covered within the appropriated budget. As we are still early in the fiscal year, all accounts and expenditures will continue to be monitored regularly to ensure spending remains consistent with budget projections.

Special Education

Special education expenditures for FY 2027 remain generally aligned with the district's established spending plan. As previously noted, the district did not receive the anticipated grant funding for positions needed to support the Kelly Lane RISE program. As a result, a certified teacher and Registered Behavior Technician (RBT) were hired using the district's operating budget, resulting in shortfalls within special education certified salaries and support services.

These variances have been offset through available savings in regular education salaries, with the necessary budget transfers made accordingly. Special education expenditures will continue to be closely monitored throughout the year.

Quality and Diversity Fund (Q&D)

To date, the district has received approximately $13,000 in revenue from summer school and Pre-K tuition, with related expenditures increasing as anticipated.

Revenue to the Town

At this point in the fiscal year, revenue to the Town for FY 2027 remains favorable at $2,571,144, representing a slight decrease of approximately $17,000 from the previous projection. This change is primarily attributable to a $58,000 decrease in Excess Cost revenue, which has been partially offset by a $40,000 increase in Hartland tuition revenue.

These adjustments are based on the preliminary Per Pupil Expenditure (PPE) amount of $22,973, which is $1,225 higher than the current PPE of $21,748. Please note that the PPE amount is preliminary and is typically finalized in mid-January. Any necessary revisions to the related revenue projections will be made once the final amount is released.

PROGRAM ACCOUNTS

Granby Board of Education FY 2027

September 2026 Budget Expense Report

Row #	Description	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	YTD Expended	Encumbered	Balance	Combined % Expended and Encumbered
01	Communications	$80,657	$80,657	$17,442	$32,879	$30,335	62.4%
02	Conference & Travel	$47,944	$47,944	$8,299	$3,617	$36,028	24.9%
03	Dues and Fees	$42,235	$42,235	$20,522	$6,263	$15,450	63.4%
04	Equipment/Furniture	$18,385	$18,385	$0	$0	$18,385	0.0%
05	Legal Services/Insurance	$160,074	$165,198	$54,226	$107,006	$3,966	97.6%
06	Library/Media	$51,983	$51,983	$12,788	$8,169	$31,027	40.3%
07	Purchased Services	$1,217,229	$1,217,229	$134,636	$979,849	$102,744	91.6%
08	Repairs & Maintenance	$612,514	$612,514	$169,961	$341,258	$101,295	83.5%
09	Software	$510,360	$510,360	$330,944	$12,953	$166,463	67.4%
10	Special Education	$4,785,090	$4,785,090	$520,451	$3,877,956	$386,684	91.9%
11	Student Activities/Athletics	$369,945	$369,945	$42,525	$226,868	$100,552	72.8%
12	Supplies	$563,561	$563,561	$188,367	$174,508	$200,685	64.4%
13	Textbooks	$80,666	$80,666	$4,151	$7,004	$69,512	13.8%
14	Transportation	$1,261,940	$1,256,816	$70,587	$1,165,344	$20,885	98.3%
15	Tuition	$11,578	$11,578	$0	$10,000	$1,578	86.4%
16	Utilities	$842,535	$842,535	$138,031	$657,773	$46,731	94.5%
17	Unallocated Appropriation	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	
	Program	**$10,656,696**	**$10,656,696**	**$1,712,930**	**$7,611,446**	**$1,332,319**	**87.5%**

PERSONNEL ACCOUNTS

Granby Board of Education FY 2027

September 2026 Budget Expense Report

Row #	Description	Original Budget	Adjusted Budget	YTD Expended	Encumbered	Balance	Combined % Expended and Encumbered
18	Administration	$1,773,343	$1,776,703	$383,714	$1,392,989	$0	100.0%
19	Central Office	$524,406	$522,959	$98,230	$423,883	$846	99.8%
20	Certified Staff	$12,009,799	$11,877,399	$1,403,734	$10,354,170	$119,496	99.0%
21	Custodial and Maintenance	$1,601,392	$1,601,392	$351,479	$1,245,599	$4,314	99.7%
22	School Secretaries	$692,649	$709,554	$125,945	$583,609	$0	100.0%
23	Special Education	$4,801,294	$4,912,826	$529,078	$4,368,153	$15,596	99.7%
24	Student Activities/Athletics	$573,647	$573,647	$23,363	$540,316	$9,968	98.3%
25	Teaching Assistants	$391,852	$391,852	$27,318	$364,535	$0	100.0%
26	Technology Support Services	$334,496	$336,546	$11,656	$324,890	$0	100.0%
27	Tutors	$36,357	$36,357	$1,566	$33,867	$923	97.5%
28	Employee Benefits	$6,995,503	$6,995,503	$1,232,915	$5,680,042	$82,547	98.8%
29	Unallocated Appropriation	$0	$0	$0	$0	$0	
	Personnel	**$29,734,738**	**$29,734,738**	**$4,188,999**	**$25,312,051**	**$233,689**	**99.2%**
	100 General Fund	**$40,391,434**	**$40,391,434**	**$5,901,929**	**$32,923,497**	**$1,566,008**	**96.1%**

SPECIAL EDUCATION ACCOUNT DETAIL

Granby Board of Education FY 2027

September 2026 Budget Expense Report

Row #	Description	Budget	Adjusted Budget	YTD Expended	Encumbered	Balance	Combined % Expended and Encumbered
01	Adminstrative/Certified	$2,370,841	$2,449,414	$324,112	$2,123,417	$1,884	99.9%
02	Secretaries	$115,009	$115,009	$23,180	$91,400	$429	99.6%
03	Support Services	$511,158	$544,117	$54,369	$489,748	$0	100.0%
04	Teaching Assistants	$1,792,371	$1,792,371	$126,795	$1,652,484	$13,092	99.3%
05	Tutors	$11,915	$11,915	$621	$11,103	$191	98.4%
	TOTAL PERSONNEL	**$4,801,294**	**$4,912,826**	**$529,078**	**$4,368,153**	**$15,596**	**99.7%**
06	Communications	$150	$150	$0	$0	$150	0.0%
07	Conference & Travel	$12,048	$12,048	$259	$1,091	$10,698	11.2%
08	Dues and Fees	$2,250	$2,250	$400	$320	$1,530	32.0%
09	Legal Services	$28,875	$28,875	$8,993	$11,508	$8,375	71.0%
10	Purchased Services	$238,661	$238,661	$35,031	$60,164	$143,467	39.9%
11	Software	$9,860	$9,860	$6,665	$900	$2,294	76.7%
12	Supplies/Textbooks	$53,028	$53,028	$9,391	$14,739	$28,898	45.5%
13	Transportation	$1,299,073	$1,299,073	$16,244	$1,280,332	$2,496	99.8%
14	Tuition	$3,141,147	$3,141,147	$443,469	$2,508,903	$188,775	94.0%
	TOTAL PROGRAM	**$4,785,090**	**$4,785,090**	**$520,451**	**$3,877,956**	**$386,684**	
	OVERALL TOTAL	**$9,586,384**	**$9,697,916**	**$1,049,528**	**$8,246,109**	**$402,279**	**95.9%**

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Granby Board of Education FY 2027
September 2026 Budget Expense Report

REVENUE TO TOWN SUMMARY

REIMBURSEMENTS FOR BOE EXPENDITURES

Description	Budget	Anticipated	Received To Date	Difference (Received minus Anticipated)
Regular Education Tuition*	$739,432	$758,109	$0	-$758,109
Special Education Tuition*	$800,000	$800,000	$0	-$800,000
B.E.A.R. Transition Academy Tuition*	$104,527	$124,223	$0	-$124,223
Granby Alternative Program Tuition (GAP)*	$120,000	$0	$0	$0
Excess Cost Grant	$905,000	$846,812	$0	-$846,812
Pay for Participation	$42,000	$42,000	$1,597	-$40,403
Totals	**$2,710,959**	**$2,571,144**	**$1,597**	**-$2,569,547**

*From Other Towns

QUALITY AND DIVERSITY FUND (Q&D)

Description	Budget	YTD	Difference (YTD vs. Budget)
Opening Balance	**$454,209**	-	-
Expenses	$1,277,330	$110,916	$1,166,415
Revenue	$1,093,300	$13,212	-$1,080,088
Ending Balance	**$270,179**	**$356,506**	**$86,327**