



GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES

Special Budget Edition

The Newsletter of the Granville Golden Horde

Spring 2025

Q&A with Superintendent Tom McGurl: Retirement and Looking Ahead After Eight Years of Service

Our superintendent, Mr. Tom McGurl, will retire on July 1st, marking the end of eight years of dedicated service to the Granville Central School District. As we prepare for this transition, the District would like to express heartfelt appreciation for his leadership and the many meaningful contributions made to our schools and community.

Q: What was it like when you first came to Granville CSD?

A: Prior to my role as superintendent of schools at Granville, I worked in a variety of leadership roles, in a variety of districts and brought with me over 22 years of education experience. What struck me the most about Granville was how quickly I was made to feel welcome and a part of the community, and I appreciated that very much.

Q: What are some accomplishments that you're most proud of?

A: Looking back over the past eight years, I am proud that we've maintained sound fiscal practices, managing to keep a zero-percent increase despite state and federal financial pressures, ensuring that our taxpayers, programming, and staff have continued to benefit. In today's economy, being on stable financial footing is essential. If approved by the voters, the 2025-2026 budget will help the district plan for changes many schools face, including rising

"To the Board of Education, the faculty and staff, and especially our students—your dedication, hard work, and passion have continuously impressed and inspired me."



health insurance costs, declining education aid, and transportation expenses. This year, we are able to continue to manage these changes without increasing taxes.

Q: What changes or improvements were made under your leadership?

A: Several important building projects were completed during my time at Granville, preserving and enhancing one of the most beautiful campuses in the region and the district will continue to do so this summer, thanks to voter approval in 2024. We've also implemented more formalized systems and processes, including improved school communications that have allowed us to better share important information with our community.

Q: What are some of the biggest challenges you've faced, and how did you address them?

A: I never expected to lead the district through a global pandemic followed by a nationwide staff shortage, as I'm sure no one did. Our staff worked together

and overcame challenge after challenge. We worked hard to avoid cutting staff or reducing programming, which was a direct result of the dedication and resilience of our community. We have much to be proud of.

Q: What's ahead for Granville Central School District following this leadership change?

A: I'm hopeful about the future of our district. This summer marks the beginning of an exciting new capital project that will continue to improve the interior and exterior of our schools. I am confident in leaving the district in the hands of a talented and dedicated administrative team, and district office staff, all of whom are ready to work alongside the incoming superintendent.

Q: Any parting words for our school community?

A: To the Board of Education, the faculty and staff, and especially our students—your dedication, hard work, and passion have continuously impressed and inspired me. It has been an honor to serve this school community, and I look forward to seeing continued successes.

On behalf of the entire Granville community—we thank you for your service and unwavering dedication to our students, Mr. McGurl. We wish you happiness, health, and fulfillment in retirement.

Budget Vote is Tues., May 20

The Granville Central School District will hold its annual budget vote and Board of Education election on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, from 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. in the High School Gym at 58 Quaker Street. Voters are asked to enter through the back parking lot. Absentee ballot request forms are available at the school district office Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Absentee ballots must be returned by 5 p.m. on May 20.

Granville Central School District Budget with Zero Tax Increase

The Granville Central School District Board of Education is proposing a budget for the 2025-2026 school year that will keep the local tax levy (the amount raised from taxpayers) unchanged. This is possible due to strong savings and a healthy fund balance, continuing a ten-year trend of no tax increases, including two tax refunds.

Proposed Budget Overview

The total budget for the upcoming school year is \$33,374,531, which represents a \$3,136,943 (10.37%) increase from the previous year. However, the tax levy will remain the same, meaning no additional burden on taxpayers.

Main Reasons for Budget Increase:

- 15% increase in health insurance premiums – This increase accounts for 20.77% of the overall budget rise.
- 20% increase in commercial insurance rates – This contributes 2.35% to the increase.
- \$1,044,244 for new diesel buses and a van – This is 33.29% of the increase.

To help cover these costs, we will use part of the district's unassigned fund balance and savings. These funds come from smart financial planning and capital reserves built up over time.

Long-Term Planning

The unassigned fund balance is also key to our long-term financial health. Some of this balance has been established in reserve accounts for future capital projects, electric bus requirements, increases in teacher and employee retirement contributions, and potential cuts in state funding.

Fiscally Responsible Budgeting

We've carefully planned a budget that meets the needs of our students and community while remaining fair to taxpayers. The goal is to provide the quality education our students deserve without increasing the tax burden in the 2025-2026 school budget.

Budget Highlights for 2025-2026

Transportation:

The District proposes to purchase five (5) diesel buses and one (1) van before the state's electric bus mandate goes into effect in 2027. Given the long time frame from ordering a bus to receiving a bus (16-18 months) and given that the District can not take possession of any diesel

vehicles as of January 1st, 2027 in anticipation of NYS electric-bus mandate, this is the final year to order and purchase diesel transportation. The District has the money in our unassigned fund balance for transportation needs. The purchase will be fully covered by our fund balance, so no additional cost to taxpayers.

Insurance:

Health insurance costs for employees and retirees premiums are increasing by 15%. Our commercial insurance coverage is also increasing, which includes coverage for our buildings, grounds and vehicles. The deductible for this insurance will rise from \$2,500 to \$50,000, so we need to set aside funds just in case the District has to file a claim.

Inflation and Other Costs:

The budget also accounts for inflation in areas like energy, fuel, supplies, and food. Additionally, we're budgeting for replacing worn-out equipment, like purchasing a new zero-turn mower for maintenance and regularly updating sports uniforms that are purchased on a rotating cycle (this year it will be basketball, volleyball and bowling).

We understand that inflation is a challenge for everyone, and we appreciate the support of our community. Thanks to our careful financial management, we've been able to create a stable budget that allows us to continue providing quality education without increasing the tax burden on local families.

If you'd like to see the full budget, you can find it on our website at GranvilleCSD.org under the "Budget Vote" icon or contact me directly should you have a question at eviele@GranvilleCSD.org or (518) 642-1051 ext. 1302.

Thank you for your continued support.

Elizabeth Viele
School Business Official
Granville Central School District

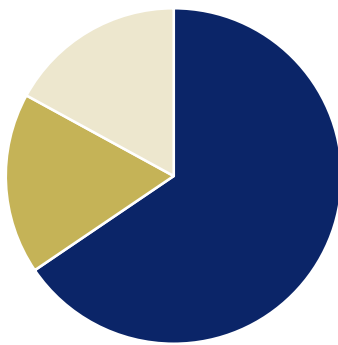


Please Vote!
May 20

2025–2026 Revenue Summary

Income Sources	2024 - 2025 Budgeted	2025 - 2026 Proposed	\$ Change
State Aid/Foundation Aid	\$21,599,587	\$21,863,124	\$263,537
Local Property Taxes	\$5,828,507	\$5,828,507	\$0
Other*	\$1,609,494	\$2,692,380	\$1,082,886
Fund Balance Transfers	\$1,200,000	\$2,990,520	\$1,790,520
TOTAL REVENUES	\$30,237,588	\$33,374,531	\$3,136,943

* Includes Medicaid Reimbursement, Interest, Turn back, Student Fees, Tuition (Vermont and non-resident), Bus Leasing, Rental BOCES/LEAP, Sale of Scrap, Sale of Equipment, Refund Prior Year BOCES, Donations, Unclassified Funds

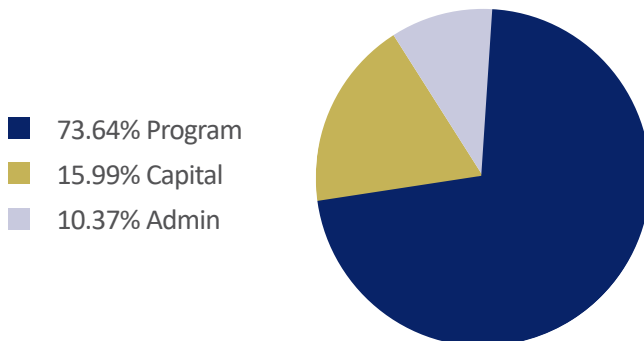


- 17.46% Real Property Taxes
- 65.51% Miscellaneous
- 17.03% State Sources

2025–2026 Expenditure Summary

Budget Category	2024 - 2025 Budgeted	2025 - 2026 Proposed	\$ Change
Program	\$22,678,190	\$24,574,780	\$1,896,590
Capital*	\$4,535,639	\$5,335,254	\$799,615
Administrative	\$3,023,759	\$3,464,497	\$440,738
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$30,237,588	\$33,374,531	\$3,136,943

* Includes purchase of 5 buses and 1 van



- 73.64% Program
- 15.99% Capital
- 10.37% Admin

How Your School Tax is Determined

The Granville Central School District Board of Education and the administration are charged with developing an annual budget based on the amount of money they determine is needed to provide district students with a high quality and affordable educational experience. They then subtract the amount of aid that will be received from New York State and other sources to determine the amount of money that needs to be raised from district taxpayers. The result is what is termed the “tax levy.”

The amount of taxes to be paid by each individual taxpayer is determined by a tax rate and the assessed value of their property. The tax rate is the amount of tax owed on each \$1,000 of a property’s assessed valuation. School tax rates are determined by a combination of 1) the tax levy, 2) local equalization rates and 3) local property assessments.

School districts control the tax levy amount only. Equalization rates and assessment values are determined by the local assessor’s office and the state Office of Real Property Tax Services. Equalization rates can change as late as mid-August.

The 2025-2026 budget adopted by the Board of Education represents a 0% in the tax levy. Any attempt to determine tax rates in May must be regarded as strictly an estimate.

All other factors being equal, school taxes on a home assessed at \$150,000 with a Basic STAR exemption will equal approximately \$1,193. (estimated tax rate of \$9.94 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation minus a projected Basic STAR exemption of \$298).

Meet The Candidates: GCSD Board of Education

Two Granville residents are running for three open seats on the Granville Central School District Board of Education, one incumbent and one new candidate. The seats are for three-year terms. The District invited each candidate to submit a photo and brief introduction.



Mario Torres

Hello, I'm Mario Torres, and I am seeking re-election to the BOE. Our district has unfinished business, we are in the middle of arguably the single most important decision of a district, the Superintendent search. Additionally, we are currently negotiating our GTA contract all while trying to maintain programs within a financially responsible budget. Consistency is paramount. I believe in open, honest, and transparent communication; always putting kids first as I believe we are in the business of children. It is our responsibility to give them the best opportunities to be successful, remembering that all students matter. I will be an active, responsible voice for the community. A vote for me gets you the drive, determination and experience it takes to guide the district into 21st century learning. I will have the difficult conversations; make the difficult decisions and give 100% to all stakeholders because that is what we deserve. I will work tirelessly for the betterment of this district, our kids and the community. I will not rest until GCSD is something we can all be proud of.



Jennah Lacoste

I'm running for the Granville Board of Education because I care deeply about our schools, our students, and our community. As a parent of three stepchildren currently in the district and a younger child soon to follow I'm personally invested in the success of Granville's educational future. Since moving to the village in 2022, I've rooted myself in the community through my businesses, Happy Haven Daycare and Indulge Pizza, as well as helping run the Granville Little League concession stand for the past two seasons. I also had the privilege of working in the junior high counseling office, where I saw firsthand the importance of both academic support and mental health resources. I'm running to be a collaborative, approachable voice on the board, one that advocates for academic achievement while ensuring our kids feel safe, supported, and empowered to succeed. Together, we can make our great schools even stronger together with the community.

Capital Improvement Project – Phase I Begins Summer 2025

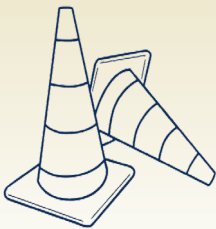
The **Jr/Sr High** will undergo repairs to exterior stairs, railings, masonry, and windows, as well as interior upgrades to classrooms, hallways, stairwells, and the gym. These improvements will enhance safety, accessibility, and overall building integrity.

Granville Elementary will receive updates to its fire alarm system, electrical panels, fan room, and exterior masonry, ensuring improved safety measures and system reliability.

At **Mary J. Tanner**, repairs to slate, concrete, exterior stairs, and the fire alarm system will begin, further strengthening building safety and functionality.

The **Bus Garage** will also see interior and structural repairs as well.

Thank you to the voters for approving this capital improvement project.



Are You Benefiting from the STAR School Tax Relief Program?

For more than 25 years, the New York State School Tax Relief program (STAR) has been providing eligible homeowners with a credit toward their annual school tax bill. To qualify, you must own your primary residence and meet income eligibility requirements. Once registered, you will receive a check each year to help offset your school taxes. STAR exemptions apply only to school taxes. They do not apply to county, town, or village taxes.

The Basic STAR program is open to homeowners with a household income up to \$500,000. This program exempts, for school tax purposes, the first \$28,500 of the full value of your residence.

Homeowners age 65 and over, with a household income of

\$107,300 or less, are eligible for Enhanced Star. This program exempts the first \$81,800 of the full value of your residence.

You can register for the STAR program 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, at www.tax.ny.gov/star, or by phone at (518) 457-2036 weekdays between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Estimated 2025–2026 STAR Savings

	Basic	Enhanced
Town of Granville	\$298	\$835
Town of Hampton	\$313	\$876
Town of Hebron	\$316	\$868
Town of Whitehall	\$286	\$775

MEET OUR TEAM

The Granville Central School District has more than 240 talented and dedicated teachers and staff. We're pleased to introduce you to two members who are embracing new roles.

JUSTIN NASSIVERA - NEW HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL FOR 2025 - 2026



What I like most about becoming an administrator at Granville is that nine years with Granville CSD has helped me to grow from physical education teacher, to Athletic Director to two years of mentorship with Superintendent McGurl as Dean of Students. I appreciate the opportunity to continue learning and get to know all of the students in the Jr/Sr High building.

I decided to become a principal because as a teacher I got to know 35-40% of the students

and as a principal, I'll get to know everyone and make an impact in the entire building.

When I'm not at Granville Jr/Sr High I am with my young daughter and wife (a teacher at Argyle CSD) and participate in local organizations like the Granville Lions Club. I shop locally and have grown up in the area and look forward to getting to know more community members, faculty and staff.

CORY BURTON - NEW HIGH SCHOOL DEAN OF STUDENTS FOR 2025 - 2026



What I like most about working at Granville CSD is that I feel like I can make a difference. I've been teaching English to Granville high school students for 14 years and coaching baseball for over 13 years too. I am looking forward to expanding out of the classroom and connecting with all the students in the building.

I decided to become Dean of Students to explore how to collaborate with my colleagues

in new ways and get more involved in the school community. I grew up in the area and live in Hudson Falls, NY and this new role feels like a natural progression of my love of teaching.

When I'm not at Granville CSD I play golf, spend time with my wife and family and do a little bowling too.

Stay up to date with what is happening in the district. Visit our website: Granvillecsd.org
Follow us on social media: @granvillecsd on Facebook & Instagram



**MJT & GES
Happenings**



GRANVILLE

Central School District
58 Quaker Street
Granville, NY 12832

Superintendent of Schools
Thomas D. McGurl

Board of Education
Edward Vladyka - President
Shirley Kunen - Vice President
Walter Bishop
Priscilla Brown
Dale Bucciero
Connor Hoagland
Michele O'Brien
Mario Torres
John P. Troy

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2025-2026 GCSD Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2024-25 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2025-26 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 30,237,588	\$ 33,374,531	\$ 30,809,078
Increase/Decrease for the 2025-26 School Year		\$ 3,136,943	\$ 571,490
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		10.37 %	1.89 %
Change in the Consumer Price Index		2.95%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$ 5,828,507	\$ 5,828,507	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$ 0	\$ 0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$ 0	\$ 0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$ 0	\$ 0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$ 5,828,507	\$ 5,828,507	\$ 5,828,507
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$ 14,516	\$ 11,493	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$ 5,846,417	\$ 5,964,666	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$ 5,812,991	\$ 5,817,014	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$ 33,426	\$ 147,652	
Administrative Component	\$ 3,078,263	\$ 3,464,497	\$ 3,136,364
Program Component	\$ 22,621,749	\$ 24,574,780	\$ 23,572,363
Capital Component	\$ 4,537,576	\$ 5,335,254	\$ 4,100,351
* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2025-26 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law. 1) Elimination of community use of buildings and grounds unless costs are reimbursed to the district, 2) elimination of equipment purchases, 3) elimination of certain field trips and supplies, 4) elimination of non-contractual salary increases			

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2025-26 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹	\$ 298.00

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2025-26 by the qualified voters of the Granville Central School District, Washington County, New York, will be held at Granville Junior Senior High School school(s) in said district on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between the hours of 10:00 am and 8:00pm, prevailing time at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.

