

GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
GRANVILLE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
JOINT WORK SESSION
January 27, 2025
THE MARY POTTER CENTER FOR EDUCATION
200 Taylor Street, Oxford, North Carolina

PRESENT (BOC):

Chair Jimmy Gooch
Vice-Chair Zelodis Jay
Commissioner Robert Williford
Commissioner Mark Griffin
Commissioner Tony W. Cozart
Commissioner Russ May
Commissioner Timothy Karan

County Manager Drew Cummings
Deputy County Manager Korena Weichel
County Attorney James C. Wrenn, Jr.

PRESENT (BOE):

Chair Dr. Helen Lindsey
Vice Chair Ethel J. Anderson
Vicki Baker
Katrina Waters
Danielle Hayes
Amanda J. LaBrecque
Gwen Russell

Superintendent Dr. Stan Winborne
Chief Finance Officer Vickie Hines
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Operations and Public Information Officer
Courtney Currin
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction & Student Services Jamar Perry
Board Attorney Eva DuBuisson

CALL TO ORDER

At 6:30 p.m. the Joint Session was called to order. Commissioner Russ May had the invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING REMARKS

Chair Lindsey (Board of Education):

- Chairwoman Lindsey welcomed everyone to the joint meeting of the Granville County Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners.
- She highlighted recent tours of South Granville High School and J.F. Webb High School, emphasizing the urgent need for repairs despite decreased state funding due to declining student enrollment.
- Chair Lindsey expressed the administration's efforts to make cuts in personnel and programs while stressing the importance of creating a warm and supportive learning environment for students.

- She appealed to the County Commissioners for continued financial support to maintain and improve school facilities, aiming to make them attractive and conducive to learning.

Chair Gooch (Board of Commissioners):

- Chair Gooch acknowledged the importance of the joint meeting and thanked the Board of Education and Granville County Public School staff for hosting.
- He discussed the challenges faced by elected officials in making decisions that may not show immediate results, emphasizing accountability for both past decisions and current challenges.
- Chair Gooch outlined the annual budget constraints, categorizing priorities into wants, needs, and essential items that cannot be omitted.
- He underscored the role of the County Manager and staff in budget preparation and stressed the importance of fiscal responsibility and stewardship of taxpayer funds.
- He expressed empathy for the Board of Education's challenges and looked forward to productive discussions to enhance mutual understanding and collaboration between the two bodies.

WELCOME AND ICEBREAKER

Superintendent Dr. Winborne:

- Dr. Winborne expressed optimism about the meeting format. Before proceeding with discussions, he introduced an icebreaker activity led by Dr. Currin to foster engagement and interaction.

Dr. Currin (Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Human Resources):

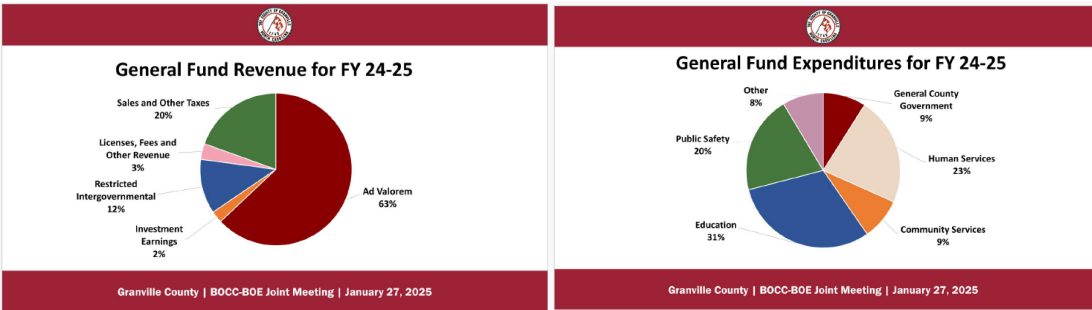
- Dr. Currin explained the icebreaker, in which participants received question sheets and paired up with someone outside their board or staff.
- Each pair had 30 seconds to answer a question before seeing a new pair; the process repeated for five minutes.

BOCC REPORT AND OVERVIEW

Summary of County Manager Cummings' Remarks:

Tax Base & Revenue:

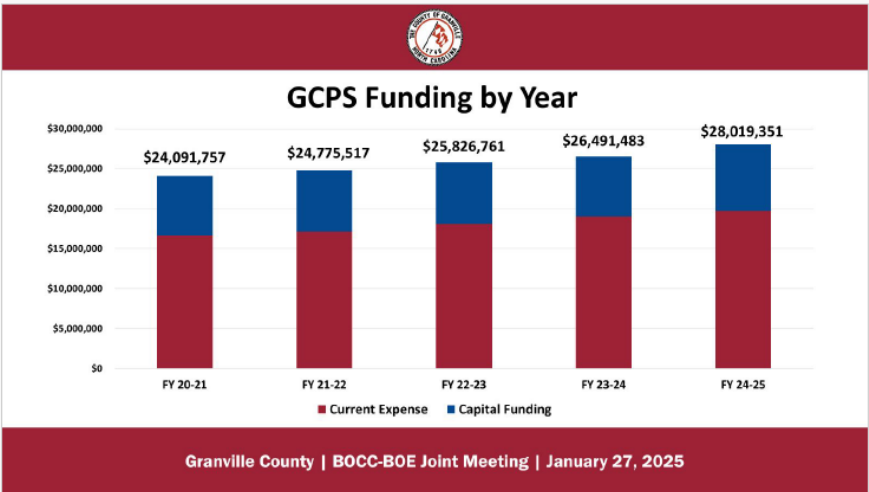
- Property taxes are the largest revenue source, with significant growth in the County's assessed market value over the past six years.
- Sales taxes contribute to County revenue, with portions required for school system capital needs.
- A deep dive last year confirmed that the County's capital contributions to schools exceed the state-mandated sales tax distributions.



Expenditures & Granville County Public Schools (GCPS):

- Education is the largest County expenditure, with funds increasing annually.

- SRO funding was included in past school allocations but now flows directly from the County.
- Per-pupil funding has increased year over year despite flat enrollment.
- Public safety, human services, and community services are other major expenditure areas.



Capital Outlay:

- School capital outlay funding has nearly doubled from the prior year to \$2.75 million, with a recommendation to increase to \$3.25 million next year.
- The County continues debt service payments on past school construction and a \$15 million capital allocation from 2018.
- Efforts are underway to ensure an SRO in every school, seen as a major community goal.

Granville County Education Expenditures		Granville County Education Expenditures	
FY24-25 Funding for GCPS		• VGCC • Statutorily required facility support • Same kinds of deferred maintenance needs as GCPS • FY24-25 facilities expenditures: \$1.34m (up 51% from FY23-24) • Also - \$1.116m contribution to the Advanced Manufacturing Center, which should be a resource for GCPS students • Starting to save for larger capital needs at main VGCC campus	
Operating	\$19,702,660	Granville County BOCC-BOE Joint Meeting January 27, 2025	
Category 1, 2, & 3 Capital	\$2,750,000		
Debt Service	\$4,875,691		
School Resource Officers	\$691,000		
Total	\$28,019,351		

Upcoming Opportunities & Challenges:

- Granville County also funds Vance-Granville Community College (VGCC) facilities, including the South Campus and a portion of the main campus in Vance County.
- The County is proactively saving for its 25% share of future VGCC facility maintenance, given Vance County’s financial challenges.
- A \$1 million contribution has been set aside for the VGCC Advanced Manufacturing Center, with planning to be completed by March 2025 and the facility expected by December 2026.

Upcoming Challenges	Upcoming Opportunities
• Balancing very wide range of needs across county, <i>with no tax rate increase likely possible next fiscal year</i> • 6 cent fire tax added FY23, 9 cent effective increase this year (in addition to municipal rates all going up as well) • Significant issues w. employee pay and cost increases for employee benefits in both organizations • Facility needs for County, court system, GCPS, and VGCC	• Reaping benefits of continued right-sizing / consolidation • Potential joint work with GCPS and VGCC on building maintenance and utilities • Opportunities presented by the Advanced Manufacturing Center • Continued work to expand safety funding through grants, other state funding, municipal funding, and possible, additional County funding
Granville County BOCC-BOE Joint Meeting January 27, 2025	Granville County BOCC-BOE Joint Meeting January 27, 2025

GCPS REPORT & OVERVIEW

Summary of Superintendent Winborne’s Presentation:

Strategic Process

- The district operates under a strategic plan developed with community input, guiding all decisions and resource allocations.
- Priorities are tracked with measurable outcomes, adjusting strategies as needed.



Safety & SROs (Grants)

- Strong partnerships with the County and municipalities have enhanced safety measures.
- The district now has 12 School Resource Officers (SROs), supported by the Sheriff's Office, Creedmoor, Butner Public Safety, and soon Oxford Police.
- State grant funding for SROs increased by \$350,000 annually for two years, nearly doubling previous amounts.
- Additional grant application for over \$600,000 submitted for safety equipment and training.
- District Safety Officer Keith King is leading these efforts effectively.



Consolidation & Surplus Property

- School consolidation aims to optimize resources, reducing three high schools to two and restructuring middle and elementary schools.
- Estimated annual savings of over \$3 million, with improved course offerings, extracurriculars, and staffing efficiencies.
- Surplus properties will become available in Fall 2025, with potential partnerships with municipalities and first right of refusal for the County.



School Consolidation

- Three traditional high schools to two
 - South Granville High School
 - JF Webb High School
 - Closure of GCHS & Conversion to a NEW middle school
- Three traditional middle schools to two
 - Granville Central Middle School
 - Northern Granville Middle School
 - Closure of Butner Stem Middle School and GC Hawley Middle School
- Relocation of Butner Stem Elementary School to the former campus of Butner Stem Elementary School
- Next steps for 2025 and beyond?



School Consolidation

Estimated Annual Savings:
\$3,000,000 +/-

Surplus Properties (FALL 2025)

- Former Butner Stem Elementary School
- Former Creedmoor Elementary/GC Hawley Middle School

Energy Efficiency

- Schools spend over \$3 million annually on utilities.
- Exploring performance contracting to reduce costs by 15-25%, reinvesting savings into capital improvements like HVAC, windows, and light



Other Opportunities...

Annual Utilities Expenses:
\$3,500,000 +/-

PERFORMANCE CONTRACT:
"Guaranteeing utility savings and reinvesting the savings into facility improvements"



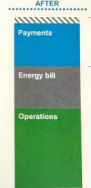
Performance Contracting Overview

Definition: "Guaranteeing utility savings and reinvesting the savings into facility improvements."

BEFORE



AFTER



Guaranteed savings

Budget before and after Capital Recovery and Reinvestment

Summary of Chief Finance Officer Vickie Hines' Presentation:
Fund Balance & Budget

- The district operates on a \$105 million budget, with over half of the funding from the state and nearly a quarter from the County.

Tier Designation Impact

- Financial health rankings and county-tier designations impact funding opportunities and grant eligibility.



2024-2025 Funding Allocations

TOTAL FUNDS	104,941,862
State	55,820,596 53%
Local Current Expense	24,216,778 23%
Federal	8,350,476 8%
Federal (COVID funds)	789,155 1%
Other Restricted	6,200,232 6%
Capital Outlay	4,845,543 5%
Child Nutrition	4,457,212 4%
Community Schools	261,870 0%

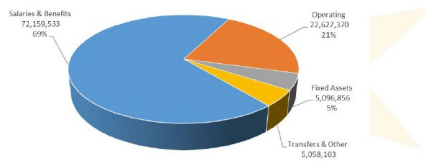
Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay funding listed includes the use of fund balance.

County Appropriations	FY 24-25
Current Expense	19,702,660
Total Current Expense funding	19,702,660
Capital Outlay - Category I	2,313,703
Capital Outlay - Category II & III	436,297
Special Projects (HVAC & Roofing)	1,709,952
Total Capital Outlay funding	4,459,952



A Closer Look at 24-25

2024-2025 Current Budget Resolution BY CATEGORY

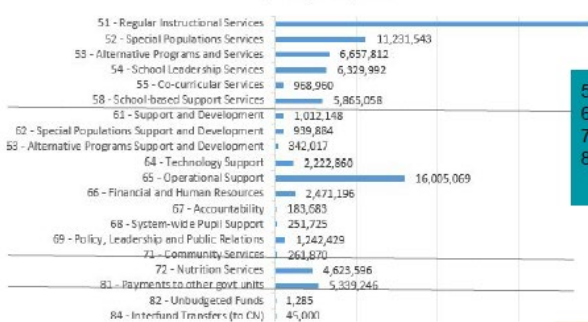


Salaries & Benefits	72,159,533 69%
Operating	22,627,370 21%
Fixed Assets	5,096,856 5%
Transfers & Other	5,058,103 5%



A Closer Look at 24-25

Total Budget by Purpose/Function
\$104,941,862



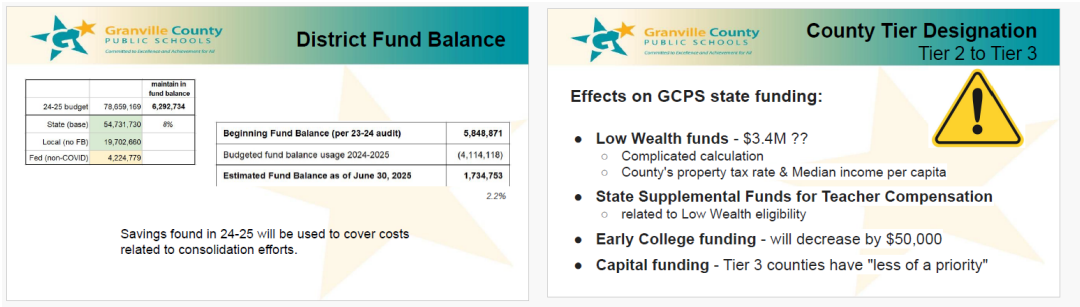
51 - Regular Instructional Services	38,946,489
52 - Special Populations Services	11,231,543
53 - Alternative Programs and Services	6,657,812
54 - School Leadership Services	6,329,992
55 - Co-curricular Services	958,960
58 - School-based Support Services	5,865,058
61 - Support and Development	1,012,148
62 - Special Populations Support and Development	939,884
63 - Alternative Programs Support and Development	842,017
64 - Technology Support	2,222,860
65 - Operational Support	16,005,069
66 - Financial and Human Resources	2,471,196
67 - Accountability	183,583
68 - System-wide Pupil Support	251,725
69 - Policy, Leadership and Public Relations	1,242,429
71 - Community Services	261,870
72 - Nutrition Services	4,623,596
81 - Payments to other govt. units	5,339,245
82 - Unbudgeted Funds	1,285
84 - Interfund Transfers (to CN)	45,000

5x - 67% - School-based Instructional

6x - 23% - District support services

7x - 5% - After-School & Child Nutrition

8x - 5% - Transfers to Charters, CN, & Indirect Costs



REMARKS

Commissioner Jay

- Acknowledged the importance of addressing challenges together.
- Reflected on last week's school tour, noting similarities between middle and high school issues.
- Recognized the problems within schools and emphasized the need for solutions.

Commissioner Williford

- Commended the school board for making the difficult decision to close schools.
- Acknowledged the challenge of school closures in the current economic climate.
- Noted the particularly poor condition of South Granville High School during last week's tour.
- Expressed appreciation for the presentation.

Commissioner Griffin

- Shared his connection to South Granville High School as a 1979 graduate.
- Was emotionally impacted by the school's deteriorating condition.
- Stressed that while funding is needed, basic maintenance efforts could address some issues.
- Urged for accountability in school facility maintenance.

Commissioner Cozart

- Reflected on his pride as a 1976 J.F. Webb High School graduate.
- Strongly urged the immediate relocation of students from Hawley due to poor conditions.
- Expressed optimism about the County's financial outlook and potential savings from consolidation.
- Commended the school board's efforts to improve school safety and discipline.
- Highlighted the strong parent involvement at West Oxford and hoped consolidation would enhance student experiences.
- Praised the Board of Education's support for the joint letter requesting \$50,000 for beginning teachers.

Commissioner May

- Acknowledged the need for school improvements but emphasized the Board of Commissioners' previous efforts.
- Stressed that earlier action on consolidation could have saved more money.
- Praised the school board for making difficult decisions regarding South Granville and J.F. Webb High Schools.
- Highlighted commissioners' efforts to secure funding, including support for SROs and capital investments.
- Encouraged continued collaboration between the County and school boards.

Commissioner Karan

- Reflected on his 14 years in office and noted the County's increased financial support for schools.
- Pointed out that student enrollment has remained steady despite rising costs.
- Acknowledged that charter schools like Oxford Prep and Falls Lake Academy were unforeseen.

- expressed optimism about the benefits of consolidation, particularly in expanding course offerings.
- Cautioned against chasing educational trends without follow-through.
- Highlighted the importance of fiscal responsibility, especially after last year's tax increase.
- Encouraged further energy efficiency upgrades to reduce costs.
- Commended improved communication between the school system and County government.

Chair Gooch

- Reflected on his ties to the county as a 1972 South Granville graduate.
- Commended the Board of Education for making difficult but necessary decisions on school closures.
- Reiterated that the financial benefits of consolidation would be seen in the 2025–2026 school year.
- Acknowledged that opinions on school closures would remain divided but expressed confidence in the board's decision.
- Transitioned the discussion to the Board of Education chair.

School Board Member Katrina Waters

- Explained her absence from the school tour due to grand jury duty.
- Stressed the importance of unity, stating that success requires working together.
- Encouraged both boards to collaborate despite disagreements.
- Recognized the joint meeting as a milestone and step forward.
- Referenced Ms. Hines' financial presentation as a basis for productive discussions.
- Called for unity and forward movement for the benefit of students.

School Board Member Amanda J. LaBrecque

- Kept remarks brief but praised the impact of zero-based budgeting.
- Credited Dr. Winborne and Ms. Hines for stabilizing school finances.
- Noted improved transparency and collaboration between the two boards.
- Encouraged continued focus on progress rather than past challenges.
- Expressed gratitude for a successful joint meeting.

School Board Member Vicki Baker

- Expressed enthusiasm for bringing fresh ideas to the board.
- Shared her shock and concern over conditions at South Granville High School.
- Having lived in Granville County for 15 years after moving from Durham, emphasized her commitment to students.
- Stressed that some school improvements require minimal financial investment, while others depend on funding allocation.
- Reaffirmed her dedication to advocating for students and improving educational environments.

School Board Member Danielle Hayes

- Thanked those who participated in the school tours and supported increased teacher pay.
- Appreciated the Board of Commissioners' support for school consolidation.
- Praised zero-based budgeting for generating significant savings.
- Suggested that the County implement zero-based budgeting for improved efficiency.
- Acknowledged the County's commitment to avoiding tax increases and encouraged alternative cost-saving measures.
- Emphasized fiscal responsibility across all government entities.

Commissioner May (Response to Hayes)

- Confirmed that the County has been discussing zero-based budgeting.
- Stated that the County Manager is involved in these discussions.
- Noted that department budgets are currently under review.
- Expressed appreciation for the suggestion and the focus on fiscal efficiency.

School Board Member Ethel J. Anderson

- Described the joint session as eye-opening and valuable.
- Mentioned this was her first time attending such a meeting.
- Recalled her initial visits to GC Hawley and compared them to the South Granville tour.
- Stressed the importance of collaboration between the two boards.
- Reinforced that teamwork is essential to progress and success.

School Board Member Gwen Russell

- Recognized consensus on the need for high school funding.
- Appreciated the forward-thinking discussions on savings.
- Shared deep concern over the conditions at South Granville High School.
- Agreed with Commissioner Griffin that she was unaware of the extent of needed maintenance.
- Stressed that the physical learning environment directly impacts student achievement and motivation.
- Reaffirmed commitment to prioritizing students in all decisions.

School Board Chairwoman Lindsey

- Emphasized the importance of collaboration between the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners.
- Reinforced that unity strengthens both boards and expressed appreciation for the evening’s discussions.
- Ended on a lighthearted note, jokingly dismissing everyone "from class."

ADJOURNMENT

The joint meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Evans
Clerk to the Board