

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GOWER SCHOOL DISTRICT
62 BOARD OF EDUCATION, DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, HELD IN GOWER
DISTRICT BOARD ROOM**

in said district at 7:00 p.m. on the 18th day of March, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

President Fetouh convened the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

The following board members were present: Akhter, Fetouh, Pitsoulakis, Lupo, Jankowski, Williams, and Polanco-Webb.

Also present: Superintendent Simon, Assistant Superintendent Laratta, Chief Financial Officer Riegler, Director of Special Education Dr. Cadard, Principal Murphy and guests.

BOARD SALUTE

The Board saluted Gower Middle's two West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence (WSCAE) Science Fair winners, Daniel Luberda and Rania Naveed. Daniel won first place with his project The Transmission of Electrical Energy Without Physical Wires and Rania won second place with her project Optimizing Natural Materials for Water Retention. Congratulations to both of them! Rania will also be participating in the State Science Fair at the University of Illinois April 24th and 25th.

The Board also saluted the Gower Middle JV Girls Volleyball team for winning the Regional Championship. Coach Jen Stankiewicz was unable to attend, but Mr. Scott Dunning, the district's Athletic Director, was present to congratulate the team. The team had a great season and each member received a certificate from Mrs. Murphy to celebrate their accomplishment.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's Report included a review of the English Learner (EL) Program ([Appendix A](#)) and the Preliminary Staffing Plan for 2026-2027 ([Appendix B](#)).

A full copy of the [Superintendent's Report](#) may be found in the Board materials of the March 18, 2026 meeting as posted online.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Correspondence

None.

Freedom of Information Requests

None.

Enrollment Report

As of March 11, 2026, the enrollment at Gower West was 514 students and at Gower Middle 391 students for a total enrollment of 905 students.

First Reading and Posting of the Following Policies

- i. 2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure
- ii. 6:15 - School Accountability
- iii. 6:130 - Program for the Gifted
- iv. 6:135 - Accelerated Placement Program
- v. 7:50 - School Admissions and Student Transfers to and from Non-District Schools and Class Assignments

Board Reports: Gower Foundation, PTO, and IASB

The Gower Foundation, PTO and IASB reports were reviewed and can be found [here](#).

Monthly Financial Reports

The financial reports were presented to the Board and there were no questions.

Board Charter and Social Contract - Self-Evaluation

The Board reviewed Section 4 of the Board Charter and Social Contract, Concerns from the Community, and determined no changes are needed at this time. They will review Section 8 at the next meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 18, 2026
- ii. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, February 18, 2026
- iii. Monthly Payroll and Approval of Bills
- iv. First Reading and Posting of Policies
- v. Second Reading and Adoption of Board Policies
 - i. 5:270 - Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment
 - ii. 5:280 - Duties & Qualifications
 - iii. 5:285 - Bus Drivers & Commercial Vehicle Drivers
 - iv. 5:290 - Employment Terminations and Suspensions
 - v. 5:300 - Schedules and Employment Year
 - vi. 5:320 - Evaluation
 - vii. 5:330 - Sick Day, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves
 - viii. 6:230 - Library Media Program
 - ix. 7:180 - Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment
- vi. Personnel Action: Resignation
 - i. Daniela Todorovska, GW SpEd Teachers Assistant, effective March 20, 2026
 - ii. Ellie de Buhr, GM Art Teacher, effective May 29, 2026
- vii. Personnel Action - Hiring
 - i. Molly Maci, 7th Grade Social Studies Teacher, effective August 18, 2026
 - ii. Sajeedah Shabaneh, School Psychologist, effective August 18, 2026
- viii. Data Sharing Memorandum of Understanding - Hinsdale High School District 62 and Gower Elementary School District 62

Members Fetouh motioned and Lupo seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

Ayes: Akhter, Fetouh, Jankowski, Lupo, Pitsoulakis, Williams, Polanco-Webb

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

- b. Resolution NO. 26-04 Authorizing and Approving the Gower West Principal's Contract effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 - M. Hoff

Members Fetouh motioned and Polanco-Webb seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Gower West Principal's contract as presented.

Ayes: Akhter, Fetouh, Jankowski, Lupo, Pitsoulakis, Williams, Polanco-Webb

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

- c. Resolution NO. 26-05 Authorizing and Approving the Gower Middle Assistant Principal's Contract effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 - J. Schiffler

Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Gower Middle Assistant Principal's contract as presented.

Ayes: Akhter, Fetouh, Jankowski, Lupo, Pitsoulakis, Williams, Polanco-Webb

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

- d. Resolution NO. 26-06 Authorizing Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Teachers other than Final Year Probationary Teachers

No action was taken on this item.

CLOSED SESSION

Members Fetouh motioned and Williams seconded to adjourn to closed session to confidentially discuss the following items:

- a. The employment, compensation, performance of specific employees. *5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)*.

Ayes: Akhter, Fetouh, Jankowski, Lupo, Pitsoulakis, Williams, Polanco-Webb

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a voice vote.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 11:00 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Policy Review
 - i. 4:140 - Student Fees and Waiver of Student Fees - last action - reviewed 5/17/2022
 - ii. 4:80 - Accounting and Audits - last action - revised 5/17/2022
 - iii. 6:120 - Education of Children with Disabilities - revised 5/17/2022

- iv. 6:70 - Teaching About Religions - revised 5/17/2022
- b. Statement of Economic Interest - Filing Deadline May 1st - [DuPage County Login](#)
- c. Personnel: Hiring - [Current Job Openings](#) in Gower School District 62

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. March 20 - End of Quarter, Gower Middle School
- b. March 27 - Early Dismissal for All Students
- c. March 30 - Spring Break Begins
- d. April 6 - School Resumes
- e. April 17 - Early Dismissal for All Students
- f. April 22 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Members Pitsoulakis motioned and Akhter seconded to adjourn open session at 11:00 p.m.
Motion passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Schillinger
Board Recording Secretary

_____ President

_____ Member