

**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 19th day of August, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

President Fetouh convened the regular meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Also present: Superintendent Simon and Dr. Arlana Bedard from the Illinois Association of School Boards (IASB).

CLOSED SESSION

Members Fetouh motioned and Lupo seconded to adjourn to closed session to confidentially discuss “Self-evaluation, practices and procedures or professional ethics, when meeting with a representative of a statewide association of which the public body is a member.” *5 ILCS 120/2(c)(16)*.

- i. Identify areas for board development related to practices, procedures, and professional ethics
 1. Review the Principles of Effective School Board Governance
 2. Explore roles and responsibilities with Ownership v. Oversight activity
 3. Evaluate the board and its processes
 4. Discuss and commit to Board Charter and Social Contract
- ii. Reflect on session and commit to next steps

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 6:57 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION

President Fetouh convened the business portion of the board meeting at 7:05 p.m. and welcomed the visitors in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was given.

BOARD SALUTE

Dr. Simon welcomed Gower’s new teachers starting this school year. Principals Murphy and Capizzi introduced their new teachers in attendance and noted how excited they are to have the teachers join the Gower team.

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

A full copy of the [Superintendent’s Report](#) may be found in the Board materials of the August 19, 2025 meeting as posted online.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Correspondence

None.

Freedom of Information Requests

None.

Enrollment Report

As of August 13, 2025, the enrollment at Gower West was 490 students and at Gower Middle 391 students for a total enrollment of 881 students.

First Reading and Posting of the Following Policies

- i. 4:120 - Food Service
- ii. 4:130 - Free and Reduced-Price Food Services
- iii. 4:160 - Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds
- iv. 5:35 - Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act
- v. 5:40 - Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease
- vi. 7:255 - Students Who are Parents, Expectant Parents, or Victims of Domestic or Sexual Violence - NEW

Board Reports: Gower Foundation, PTO, and IASB

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

Board Charter and Social Contract - Self-Evaluation

The Board began the work on editing the existing Board Charter and creating a Social Contract during the Closed Session with Dr. Bedard. Following the completion of the business portion of the meeting, the Board continued to meet in open session to finalize their changes. The draft versions will be available for the public to view and comment on following the August Board Meeting and the final version will be adopted at the September 24th meeting.

Monthly Financial Reports

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

Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026

The tentative budget was presented by Mr. Riegler. There were no questions from the Board. The fiscal year 2026 budget will be available for the public to review before being approved at the September 24 board meeting.

Annual Crisis Plan/Regional Office of Education Threat Assessment Form

In accordance with School Code, the District is required to conduct at least one annual meeting at which it will review each school building's [emergency and crisis response plans](#). The District must provide evidence of this meeting to the DuPage Regional Office of Education (ROE) by November 1st of each year. The Board reviewed the form required by the ROE. There were no questions from the members.

Board Reports and General Action Calendar

The Board reviews a number of reports throughout the school year and is expected to take action on a number of important recommendations. The Board Reports and General Action Calendar was

presented to the Board for review and feedback. It will be available for all members to review throughout the year. Updates/changes will be made on an as-needed basis.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, June 25, 2025
 - ii. Monthly Payroll and Approval of Bills
 - iii. Acknowledge Posting of Fiscal Year 2026 Budget for Public Viewing
 - iv. First Reading and Posting of Policies
 - v. Second Reading and Posting of Policies
 - i. 1:30 - School District Philosophy
 - ii. 4:50 - Payment Procedures
 - iii. 4:55 - Use of Credit Cards
 - iv. 4:70 - Resource Conservation
 - vi. Acceptance of Donation
 - vii. Personnel Action: Resignation
 - i. Beth Nicholson, GM SpEd Teachers Assistant, effective July 31, 2025
 - ii. Thomas Holmgren, GW Primary Instructional Assistant, effective August 4, 2025
 - iii. Kimberly Huether, GW SpEd Self-Contained Teacher, effective August 6, 2025
 - viii. Personnel Action: Hiring
 - i. Malcom Brown, GM SpEd Teachers Assistant, effective August 22, 2025
 - ii. Corinne Farrey, GW SpEd Teachers Assistant, effective August 22, 2025
 - iii. Janet Hubacek, GM SpEd Teachers Assistant, effective August 22, 2025
 - iv. Shanna Shirokov, GW Primary Instructional Support Aide, effective August 22, 2025
 - v. Kelly Schaefer, GM Long-Term Substitute (Leave of Absence), effective August 19, 2025
 - vi. Carolynne Ozanich, GW SpEd Self-Contained Teacher, effective August 19, 2025

Members Fetouh motioned and Polanco-Webb seconded to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

b. Resolution NO. 26-01 Categories of Positions of Educational Support Personnel

Members Fetouh motioned and Pitsoulakis seconded to approve the Resolution NO. 25-01 as presented.

Victor - standing resolution, get it started in March and then we assess if we need to increase any starting pay to be competitive for new employees and retain employees

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

Following the approval of the Consent Items, the Board continued their open session review of the Board Charter and Social Contract. A draft will be shared publicly for feedback before it is formally adopted at the September 24, 2025 board meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board did not enter into Closed Session.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Policy Review
 - i. 5:110 - Recognition for Service - last action - reviewed 9/21/2021
 - ii. 5:130 - Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information - last action - reviewed 9/21/2021
 - iii. 5:140 - Solicitations By or From Staff - last action - revised 9/21/2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. August 20 - Meet & Greet (4-6 p.m.) and Back to School Bash (4:30-6:30 p.m.)
- b. August 22 - First Day of School for Kindergarten through 8th Grade - *First Day Friday*
- c. August 27 - First Day of School for Pre-K
- d. September 1 - No School - Labor Day
- e. September 4 - Curriculum Night Gower West
- f. September 11 - Curriculum Night Gower Middle
- g. September 13 - Illinois Association of School Boards - Super Saturday New Member Training Session
- h. September 19 - Early Dismissal
- i. September 24 - Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- j. September 25 - *Health & Wellness Expo for Children at their Best* - 6:00-7:30 pm at Gower Middle

ADJOURNMENT

Members Fetouh motioned and Williams seconded to adjourn open session at 9:57 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Schillinger
Board Recording Secretary

President

_____ Member