

**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 24th day of September, 2025

PUBLIC HEARING

President Fetouh convened the Adoption of the 2025-2026 Budget Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

The following board members were present: Akhter, Fetouh, Jankowski, Lupo, Pitsoulakis, Polanco-Webb and Williams. Also present: Superintendent Simon, Assistant Superintendent Laratta, Principals Capizzi and Murphy, CSBO Riegler and guests.

President Fetouh opened the hearing to public comment and there was none. Dr. Simon gave an overview of the process to create the budget and the proposed 2025-2026 budget.

Members Fetouh motioned and Pitsoulakis seconded to adjourn the public hearing. Motion passed on a voice vote.

REGULAR MEETING OPEN SESSION

President Fetouh convened the regular meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Also present: Superintendent Simon, Assistant Superintendent Laratta, Principals Capizzi and Murphy and guests.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Parent and Gower Foundation member Amy Arealis provided an update on what the Gower Foundation is working on in regards to digital literacy and media, as well as resources that will be rolled out around digital safety.

BOARD SALUTE

The Board saluted the Gower teachers who achieved [tenure](#) this year. Principals Capizzi and Murphy spoke about the group and how great it is to work alongside them. The teachers were congratulated by the Board and those in attendance. Congratulations to them on this career milestone!

The Board also saluted the Gower Middle SDEAA Junior Varsity and Varsity golfers. Coach Linda Cusick and Athletic Director Scott Dunning congratulated the students on a great season and the golfers received certificates from Principal Murphy for their accomplishments.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's Report included a separate review of the annual Student Enrollment and Class Size Report ([Appendix A](#)).

A full copy of the [Superintendent's Report](#) may be found in the Board materials of the September 24, 2025 meeting as posted online.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Correspondence

Two correspondences were received: one from Liz Mitha, a Board Member from Hinsdale 86 and the second from Catherine Greenspon, the Hinsdale 86 Board President.

Freedom of Information Requests

The District received four FOIA requests, three from Owen Wang from the DuPage Policy Journal, and one from Jamie Bailey with DG Counseling, Inc.

Enrollment Report

As of September 17, 2025, the enrollment at Gower West was 497 students and at Gower Middle 391 students for a total enrollment of 888 students.

First Reading and Posting of the Following Policies

- i. 5:110 - Recognition for Service
- ii. 5:130 - Responsibilities Concerning Internal Information
- iii. 5:140 - Solicitations By or From Staff
- iv. 6:235 - Access to Electronic Networks

There was a brief discussion about Hinsdale 86's new cell phone policy and how it compares to Gower's Silent and Out of Sight practice that has been in place since 2014, with the principals commenting on their experiences in the schools related to cell phones.

Board Charter and Social Contract - Self-Evaluation

The [Board Charter and Social Contract](#) will be formally recognized and approved later in the meeting. Once approved, each board meeting a number will be randomly selected and the Board will discuss that section of the charter and determine if there are any changes they would like to make in the interest of keeping the charter and contract relevant and effective.

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.

Administrator, Teacher Salary and Benefits Report

The Board reviewed the report and there were no questions. The report will be made available for the public on the district's website.

Library Grant

The Board reviewed the Library Grant report. It has not yet been announced which districts will receive the grant for the 2025-2026 school year. Gower has received the grant the last 7 years in a row.

District School Bus Transportation Overview

The Board reviewed the [School Bus Transportation Overview](#) and highlighted an audio summary in the form of a podcast that will be made available for parents in the Community Update.

IASB 2025 Resolutions Committee Report

The 2025 Resolutions Committee will convene on Saturday, November 22nd as part of the Joint Annual Conference in Chicago. Board member Pitsoulakis will attend on behalf of the Gower 62 Board of Education. At the regular November board meeting, the Board will review the items that will be voted on at the Resolutions Committee's meeting and determine how the Board would like Mrs. Pitsoulakis to vote.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, August 19, 2025
 - ii. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, August 19, 2025
 - iii. Monthly Payroll and Approval of Bills
 - iv. First Reading and Posting of Policies
 - v. Second Reading and Adoption of Board 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
 - vi. Personnel Action: Hiring
 - i. Kiki Kalomas, GW SpEd Teachers Assistant, effective September 11, 2025

Members Fetouh motioned and Williams 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. Adopt 2025-2026 Budget

Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to approve the 2025-2026 Budget as presented.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

c. Resolution NO. 26-02 Board Charter and Social Contract

Members Fetouh motioned and Jankowski seconded to approve the 2025-2026 Budget as presented.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Members Fetouh motioned and Polanco-Webb seconded to adjourn to closed session to confidentially discuss “Security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property.” 5 *ILCS 120/2(c)(8)*.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a voice vote.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 10:01 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Policy Review
 - i. 5:150 - Personnel Records - last action - revised 10/19/2021
 - ii. 5:70 - Religious Holidays - last action - revised 10/19/2021
 - iii. 5:80 - Court Duty - last action - reviewed 10/19/2021

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. September 25 - Health & Wellness Expo at Gower Middle, 6-7:30 p.m.
- b. October 10 - Early Dismissal
- c. October 13 - No School - Columbus Day & Indigenous Peoples Day
- d. October 15 - Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- e. October 23 - Multicultural Night at Gower Middle, 6-7:30 p.m.
- f. October 31 - Early Dismissal
- g. November 19 - Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to adjourn open session at 10:05 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Schillinger
Board Recording Secretary

_____ President

_____ Member