

**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 17th day of December, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

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

Roll Call:

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

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

BOARD SALUTE

The Board [saluted](#) Gower Middle Cross Country runner Suzie Ploskonka who qualified for the IESA State Cross Country Meet this season. The JV/7th Grade Girls Basketball team was also recognized for winning both their regional and sectional championships. Principal Murphy congratulated the team and presented the girls with certificates. Finally, the Board also saluted the Gower West Physical Education teachers and program for winning the IAPHERD Blue Ribbon Award seven consecutive times. Ms. Kima Spaulding and Mr. Doug Eccarius were both congratulated by the Board and those in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's Report included an update of the English Language Learning (ELL) Program ([Appendix A](#)) and a review of the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 proposed school calendars ([Appendix B](#)).

A full copy of the [Superintendent's Report](#) may be found in the Board materials of the December 17, 2025 meeting as posted online.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Fiscal Year 2025 Financial Audit Review

Anthony Cervini from the District's auditor Sikich, LLC presented the fiscal year 2025 audit. He noted that the process went very smoothly and provided highlights of the process and audit itself, including that no weaknesses or insufficiencies were found in the District's financial management. The Board asked a few questions of Mr. Riegler and Mr. Cervini and thanked Mr. Cervini for his time.

Correspondence

The Board received one email from Gower parent Megan Lawrence.

Freedom of Information Requests

The District received one FOIA request from CT Mills from Public Info Access LLC.

Enrollment Report

As of December 10, 2025, the enrollment at Gower West was 509 students and at Gower Middle 391 students for a total enrollment of 900 students.

First Reading and Posting of the Following Policies

- i. 5:210 - Resignations & Retirements
- ii. 5:220 - Substitute Teachers
- iii. 5:230 - Maintaining Student Discipline
- iv. 5:240 - Suspension
- v. 5:250 - Leaves of Absence
- vi. 5:260 - Student Teachers
- vii. 5:265 - Tutoring

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 and discussed the sixth item in the Charter, Board Member Request for Information. No changes were recommended at this time. The Board will review the seventh item at the February meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 19, 2025
 - ii. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, November 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. 2:230 - Public Participation at School Board Meetings and Petitions to the Board
 - ii. 5:170 - Copyright
 - iii. 5:180 - Temporary Illness or Temporary Incapacity
 - iv. 7:150 - Agency and Law Enforcement Requests
 - v. 5:150 - Release of Credit Information - Rescinded
 - vi. Personnel Action: Resignation
 - i. Jen Kelly, GW Long-Term Substitute (Leave of Absence), anticipated January 30, 2026
 - vii. Authorize 2026-2027 Budget Development Calendar
 - viii. Temporary Authorization to Maintain Operational Continuity (Dec. 18, 2025 - Feb. 17, 2026)
 - ix. Board Member Expense Reimbursement

Members Fetouh motioned and Pisoulakis 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. Adoption of the 2025 Tax Levy and Resolution Authorizing Final Aggregate Tax Levy for the Year 2025

Members Fetouh motioned and Polanco-Webb seconded to approve the 2025 Tax Levy as presented.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Members Lupo motioned and Akhter seconded to adjourn to closed session to confidentially discuss the following items:

- a. Other matters relating to individual students. *5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)*.
- b. 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 9:28 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Policy Review
 - i. 5:270 - Employment At-Will, Compensation, and Assignment - last action - reviewed 1/18/2022
 - ii. 5:280 - Duties & Qualifications - last action - reviewed 1/18/2022
 - iii. 5:285 - Bus Drivers & Commercial Vehicle Drivers - last action - revised 1/18/2022
 - iv. 5:290 - Employment Terminations and Suspensions - last action - revised 2/15/2022
 - v. 5:300 - Schedules and Employment Year - last action - revised 2/15/2022
 - vi. 5:320 - Evaluation - last action - reviewed 2/15/2022
 - vii. 5:330 - Sick Day, Vacation, Holidays, and Leaves - last action - 2/15/2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. December 19: Early Dismissal/Winter Break Begins
- b. January 5: School Resumes
- c. January 16: Early Dismissal Day
- d. January 19: No School, M.L. King Jr.'s Birthday
- e. NOTE: There is no Board Meeting scheduled for January
- f. January 29: District's Annual STEM Night/Science Showcase (6:00-7:30 pm at GW)
- g. February 13: Early Dismissal Day
- h. February 16: No School, President's Day
- i. February 18: Board of Education Regular Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

j. February 27: WSCAE Science Fair at Brookfield Zoo

ADJOURNMENT

Members Jankowski motioned and Fetouh seconded to adjourn open session at 9:29 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Schillinger
Board Recording Secretary

_____ President

_____ Member