

**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 February, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

Roll Call:

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

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

BOARD SALUTE

The Board saluted Gower Middle's [Varsity Girls Basketball Team](#) for their IESA Regional and Sectional Championship wins. This allowed them to advance to the 8th Grade State Tournament for the first time in school history. Congratulations to the team and Coach Greg Hey! Principal Murphy presented the team with certificates to recognize their accomplishments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's Report included separate reports on the Mid-Year Student Performance Data ([Appendix A](#)), the 2026-2027 Student Fees ([Appendix B](#)), and the 2025-2026 High School Transition Student Survey ([Appendix C](#)).

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

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Correspondence

The Board received emails from two Gower parents, both of which will be shared with the Board in Closed Session as they pertain to specific students.

Freedom of Information Requests

The District received four FOIA requests: two from Owen Wang from the DuPage Policy Journal, one from CT Mills from Public Access Info, LLC, and one from the Illinois Retired Teachers Association.

Enrollment Report

As of February 11 2026, the enrollment at Gower West was 512 students and at Gower Middle 391 students for a total enrollment of 903 students.

First Reading and Posting of the Following 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

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 7 of the Board Charter and Social Contract, Board and Superintendent Communication Expectations & Relationship and determined no changes were necessary. The Board will review Section 4, Concerns from the Community, at the March meeting.

Five-Year Financial Projections

Dr. Simon and Mr. Riegler gave an overview of how the district uses the five-year projections as a tool to plan for the future and answered Board members' questions.

ACTION ITEMS

a. Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 17, 2025
- ii. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, December 17, 2025
- iii. Monthly Payroll and Approval of Bills
- iv. First Reading and Posting of Policies
- v. Second Reading and Adoption of Board 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
- vi. Personnel Action: Hiring
 - i. Ellie Van Heerde, GW Long-Term Substitute (Leave of Absence), effective January 5, 2026
- vii. Approve Occupational Therapist Contracts
 - i. Holly Pignotti, Occupational Therapist, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
 - ii. Jasmin Travis, Occupational Therapist, effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027
- viii. Personnel Action - Resignation:

- i. Melissa Capizzi, Gower West Elementary School Principal, effective June 30, 2026
- ix. Approval of the 2026-2027 Student Registration and Bus Fees
- x. Approval Final 2026-2027 School Calendar and Draft 2027-2028 School Calendar for Posting
- xi. Approval of First Amendment to the IGA between the Village of Willowbrook and Gower 62 to Provide Custodial Services

Members Jankowski motioned and Pitsoulakis 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 Authorizing and Approving the Director of Finance and Operations Contract effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2031 - B. Riegler

Members Fetouh motioned and Jankowski seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Director of Finance and Operations Contract as presented.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

- c. Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Director of Special Education and Student Services effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2029 - J. Cadard

Members Fetouh motioned and Lupo seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Director of Special Education and Student Services contract as presented.

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

Members Williams motioned and Polanco-Webb seconded to adjourn to closed session to confidentially discuss the following items. *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 9:23 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Policy Review
 - i. 6:15 - School Accountability - last action - revised 3/15/2022
 - ii. 2:260 - Uniform Grievance Procedure - last action - revised 4/26/2022
 - iii. 6:130 - Program for the Gifted - last action - revised 4/26/2022
 - iv. 6:135 - Accelerated Placement Program - last action - reviewed 4/26/2022
 - v. 7:50 - School Admissions and Student Transfers to and from Non-District Schools and Class Assignments - last action - revised 4/26/2022
- b. Statement of Economic Interest - Filing Deadline May 1st - [DuPage County Login](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. February 27: End of Trimester, Gower West
- b. March 18: Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Gower Board Room
- c. March 20: Teacher Institute Day - No School
- d. March 27: End of Quarter, Gower Middle and Early Dismissal for all Students
- e. March 30: Spring Break Begins
- f. April 6: Students Return to School

ADJOURNMENT

Members Fetouh motioned and Pitsoulakis seconded to adjourn open session at 9:23 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Schillinger
Board Recording Secretary

_____ President

_____ Member