

**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 22nd day of April, 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, Jankowski, Lupo, Pitsoulakis, Polanco-Webb, and Williams.

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 the Gower Middle Varsity Girls Volleyball team on their Regional Championship win. Mrs. Murphy presented the team with certificates to recognize their accomplishments and the team was congratulated by the Board members.

The Board also saluted Ms. Jen Stankiewicz, PE Teacher at Gower Middle. Ms. Stankiewicz received the Midwest SHAPE Teacher of the Year award and attended the National Conference in Kansas City as a national nominee. Mrs. Murphy highlighted the creative PE activities she brings to the classroom to bring PE to life for the students and congratulated Ms. Stankiewicz. Next year, she'll attend the national conference in Charlotte, NC and be a presenter.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING & BEGIN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Members Fetouh motioned and Pitsoulakis seconded to adjourn the regular meeting and begin the organizational meeting at 7:13 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Appoint President Pro Tem

Melissa Pitsoulakis nominated Nagla Fetouh as President Pro Tem for the Organizational Meeting.

ORGANIZATIONAL ITEMS

Nomination of Election of Board Officers

Melissa Pitsoulakis nominated Nagla Fetouh for Board President. Members Pitsoulakis motioned and Polanco-Webb seconded to appoint Mrs. Fetouh as President for a one year term. Motion passed on voice vote.

Nagla Fetouh nominated Evan Williams for Board Vice President. Members Fetouh motioned and Lupo seconded to appoint Mr. Williams as Vice President for a one year term. Motion passed on voice vote.

Nagla Fetouh nominated Melissa Pitsoulakis for Board Secretary. Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to appoint Mrs. Pitsoulakis as Secretary for a one year term. Motion passed on voice vote.

Appointment of Board Recording Secretary

Members Fetouh motioned and Williams seconded to appoint Kate Schillinger as Board Recording Secretary for a one year term. Motion passed on voice vote.

Appointment of Treasurer

Members Fetouh motioned and Lupo seconded to appoint Brian Riegler as Treasurer for a one year term. Motion passed on voice vote.

Establish Times, Dates and Location of Monthly Meetings of the Board of Education

Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to establish the times, dates and location of the monthly meetings as [presented](#).

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

Nays: None.

Motion passed on a roll call vote.

Board Member Committee Representation

The Board members discussed and decided who will represent the Board on various committees for the coming school year.

Review of the Board Charter as Adopted in September 2021

The Board reviewed and affirmed the Board Charter as Adopted in September 2021 on a voice vote.

ADJOURNMENT OF ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING & RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING

Members Polanco-Webb motioned and Akhter seconded to adjourn the organizational meeting and return to the regular meeting at 7:23 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Roll Call:

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

The Superintendent's Report included a review of the Grades K-8 Art Curriculum Recommendation ([Appendix A](#)) and a Gower Middle School Report Card Update - Standards-Based and Traditional Grading ([Appendix B](#)).

A full copy of the [Superintendent's Report](#) may be found in the Board materials of the April 22, 2026 meeting as posted online.

REPORTS/DISCUSSION ITEMS

Correspondence

The Board received one correspondence, a notice of intent to retire letter from Mrs. Pamela Salutric, effective at the end of the 2028-2029 school year.

Freedom of Information Requests

The District received and responded to three FOIA requests.

Enrollment Report

As of April 15, 2026, the enrollment at Gower West was 517 students and at Gower Middle 392 students for a total enrollment of 909 students.

First Reading and Posting of the Following Policies

- i. 4:80 - Accounting and Audits
- ii. 4:140 - Student Fees and Waiver of Student Fees
- iii. 6:70 - Teaching About Religion
- iv. 6:120 - Education of Children with Disabilities

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 8 of the Board Charter, the Social Contract. The Board and Dr. Simon discussed if any changes are necessary and reached consensus that it would remain as is. The Board will review Section 1 of the Board Charter, Unity of Purpose, at the May meeting.

Preliminary FY27 Transportation and Operations & Maintenance Budgets

Mr. Riegler provided a highlight of the preliminary FY27 budgets, noting the district will be conservative in the next few years due to economic uncertainty and focus on rebuilding the district's balances. There were no questions from Board members.

Final 2025 Tax Levy Rate & Allocation

Mr. Riegler stated that the levy rate and allocation came in as expected and there are no concerns or issues to report. There were no questions from the Board members.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Consent Agenda
 - i. Approval of the Open Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 18, 2026
 - ii. Approval of the Closed Session Minutes of the Regular Meeting, March 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. 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
- vi. Personnel Action: Resignation
 - i. Kyle Mengarelli, GM School Counselor, effective May 29, 2026
 - ii. Kate Schillinger, District Office & Board Recording Secretary, effective July 2, 2026
- vii. Personnel Action - Hiring
 - i. Kyle Jannenga, Temp Summer Custodial Help, effective June 1, 2026
 - ii. Shannon Ahern, Internal Transfer, 8th Grade ELA to GM SpEd Resource Teacher, effective August 18, 2026
 - iii. Mia Baumgartner, Internal Transfer, GW to GM SpEd Resource Teacher, effective August 18, 2026
 - iv. Josie Ingolia, Internal Transfer, 4th Grade to 2nd Grade Teacher, effective August 18, 2026
- viii. Approval of 2026-2027 Consolidated Grant District Plan
- ix. Approval of the Agreement for Consultation Services with Adaptability, LLC for the 2026-2027 School Year
- x. Approval of Landscaping Services Contract

Members Fetouh motioned and Jankowski 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. 26-07 Authorizing and Approving the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Programs's Contract effective July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027 - K. Hess

Members Fetouh motioned and Pitsoulakis seconded to approve the Resolution Authorizing and Approving the Director of Curriculum & Instruction's 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 Jankowski 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 8:44 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS (continued)

- c. Collective Bargaining Agreement - Section XV. B. Retirement - Major Life Change Provision
Withdrawal Request - C. Wander

Board members thanked Mrs. Wander for her service and spoke highly of her and the value she's brought to Gower during her career.

Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to approve the Retirement Withdrawal Request.

Ayes: None.

Nays: Akhter, Fetouh, Jankowski, Pitsoulakis, Polanco-Webb, Williams

Abstain: Lupo

Motion did not pass on a roll call vote.

CLOSED SESSION

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

- b. Other matters relating to individual students. *5 ILCS 120/2(c)(10)*.
- c. 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 10:13 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Board Policy Review
 - i. 4:175 - Convicted Child Sex Offender; Screening; Notifications - last action - reviewed 6/14/2022
 - ii. 6:40 - Curriculum Development - last action - reviewed 6/14/2022
 - iii. 6:145 - Migrant Students - last action - revised 6/14/2022
 - iv. 6:190 - Extracurricular Activities - last action - revised 6/14/2022
- b. Statement of Economic Interest - Filing Deadline May 1st - [DuPage County Login](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. May 8 - Early Dismissal
- b. May 20 - Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.
- c. May 25 - No School, Memorial Day
- d. May 26 - 8th Grade Graduation, Gower Middle School, 7 p.m.
- e. May 29 - Early Dismissal and Last Day of School
- f. June 2 - Summer School Begins

ADJOURNMENT

Members Fetouh motioned and Akhter seconded to adjourn open session at 10:13 p.m. Motion passed on voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Kate Schillinger
Board Recording Secretary

President

Member