



Superintendent's Report  
Board of Education Meeting – April 15, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

**Ambitious Instruction** – *Classes are academically demanding and engage students by emphasizing the application of knowledge.*

- The English Language Arts Committee proposed a curriculum adoption for grades 6-8 with a follow-up recommendation for grades K-5 expected in May ([Appendix A](#))
- 2014 Summer School Program options have been expanded and aligned to the District's i<sup>3</sup> Initiative: Innovate, Integrate, Inspire with an expressed goal of increasing student engagement ([Appendix B](#))
- Some of our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders – and teachers – participated in the PARCC (Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers) in an effort to build our level of readiness for this assessment and to add to our overall assessment program in Gower Schools ([Appendix C](#))
- Teachers have accessed/assigned over 350 student tasks/videos through the Defined STEM program

**Supportive Environment** – *The school environment is safe, clean and conducive to student learning. Teachers have high expectations for students. Students have the support of their teachers as well as their peers.*

- Year to Date attendance rate is 95.5% for the 871 students enrolled in the District and 96.1% for the 137.5 staff employed by the District. Student Attendance Goal = 96%+; District Staff Goal = 97.0%+
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. Discipline Reports show an increase in the number of referrals for misconduct at GM and GW from last quarter. Misconduct rates are higher at GM and lower at GW compared to last year ([Appendix D](#))
- The Parent/Student Handbook annual meeting is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> at Gower West for school administrators, teachers, and parents to review and update current practice/protocol
- The preliminary Operations and Maintenance budget for 2014-2015 reflects a commitment to ongoing investments in capital outlay and expenditures to support ongoing safety and technology initiatives
- Facilities Update: Security camera upgrades at GM are complete for the school year with plans being drafted for continued expansion at both school campuses

**Involved Families and Community** – *Strong relationships are built across the community to support learning.*

- The Illinois 5 Essentials Parent Survey opened for schools across the state on March 17<sup>th</sup> and will close on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Please take the survey here <https://survey.5-essentials.org/illinois/survey/parent/login/>
- Our second STEM Night is scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> at Gower Middle from 6:30-8:45 p.m.
- Our Spring Musical is scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> at Gower Middle at 7:00 p.m.
- The Gower PTO / Gower Foundation sponsored Spring Band Concert (7:00 p.m.) and the Celebration of the Arts event (5:00 – 9:00 p.m.) are scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> at Gower Middle
- Kindergarten Registration was held on March 19<sup>th</sup> and resulted in 59 new Gladiators – to date – expected to join our student body at Gower West; K enrollment at this time last year was 44 students

**Collaborative Teachers and Staff** – *The staff is committed to the school, receives strong professional development, and works together to improve the school.*

- The Calendar Committee proposed the 2014-2015 school calendar for Board Action ([Appendix E](#))
- The Professional Development Committee meeting scheduled for April 15<sup>th</sup> will focus on plans for continuous training in Capturing Kids' Hearts, the i<sup>3</sup> Initiative, and ELA/other Curriculum upgrades
- The iNNOVATE 62 Committee met 4/10 to plan professional development/support for the i<sup>3</sup> Initiative
- Teachers will participate in the 5-Essentials Survey and administer to students in grades 4-8 this school year

**Effective Leaders** – *School leaders work with staff to implement a clear and strategic vision for school success.*

- Our registration process has been redesigned and eliminates the need for a Summer Registration Day. Registration (take-home) Packets are expected to be sent home during the week of April 21<sup>st</sup>
- District/School staffing plans for 2014-15 continue with current plans proposed to the Board ([Appendix F](#))
- FY15 (2014-15) school/district preliminary budgeting continues with proposed budgets for Transportation and Operations and Maintenance Funds completed (the Education Fund is scheduled for proposal in May)