



Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – December 16, 2014 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- K-4 students at GW and 5-8 grade students at GM participated in the international “Hour of Code” program from Dec 8-14 to generate more experience around computer coding (www.hourofcode.com)
- After a bit of a slower start than expected, our 1st grade iPad deployment is underway in classrooms selected as part of our i3 Learning Initiative and commitment to a [#FutureReady](#) approach to student learning
- Preparations continue for the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) to be administered this year. Parents are encouraged to visit www.parcconline.org to review sample items
- A recommendation has been submitted to the BOE to expand our current, half-day Kindergarten program to a full-day program beginning with the 2015-2016 school year ([Appendix A](#))

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 rates: 96.3% for our 833 students enrolled; 96.7% for the 72 Teaching staff and 96.9% for the 64 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- Required staff training (Bullying, Discrimination, Peer-Counseling, Anti-Violence, Resolution) will be held during Dec. faculty meetings and will be led by Gower staff (Social Workers and Dean of Students)
- Facilities Update: A recommendation has been made for the BOE to take action on bids received for the GW HVAC project. Additional lighting at GM Door #6 is scheduled for completion by mid-January

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

- The annual Illinois 5-Essentials Survey window will be open to our parents from Jan. 12 – March 15. We are aiming to increase our parent participation from roughly 35% to 45% this year. More details to come.
- Feedback collected from “Bring Your Parents to School Day” held at GW (11/18) and at GM (11/20) is being analyzed and will impact the design of the program next year (Recommendation expected in January)
- The PTO Holiday Bazaar (12-5) and PTO/Burr Ridge Park District Pancake Breakfast (12-6), both held at GW, were a success as measured by the large number of families participating
- The GM Choir Concert (12-9) and GM Band Concert (12-11) both brought a full house of parents/guests

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

- The district’s Performance Evaluation Review Act (PERA) Joint Committee collaborated to draft and share communication with the remaining staff to detail recent changes and to begin outlining the PERA process
- Professional development on Dec. 19 will focus on mid-year curriculum alignment and grade level collaboration around English Language Arts materials adopted this school year
- Administrators and staff from GM hosted a site visit for staff from North Berwyn Elementary School District 98 (Nov. 14) to showcase our use of Chromebooks as part of Gower’s i3 Learning Initiative
- Gower Middle School was recognized by the IL Association of Regional Superintendents as a Featured School at the Raising Student Achievement Conference held Dec. 8-9 ([Appendix B](#))
- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association report that they are “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) with a preliminary meeting expected to be held in January

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

- Improvement efforts in Gower are aligned to the recent, four-part vision unveiled by the Illinois Association of School Administrators (IASA) and other partner organizations (www.illinoisvision2020.org)
- Gower has been invited to present findings related to the 5 Essentials and Continuous Improvement at the 2nd Annual 60 by 2025 Network Workshop hosted by Advance Illinois on Jan. 15 (www.advanceillinois.org)
- School and District leaders are reviewing the potential impact of pursuing participation in the National School Lunch Program at GW and/or GM (www.fns.usda.gov/nslp/national-school-lunch-program-nslp)