



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – June 16, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our End-of-Year (EOY) student performance data on NWEA/MAP indicates exceptional achievement and growth. PARCC assessment data has not been received by school districts at this time ([Appendix A](#))
- Our Summer Program has kicked off with two of our four i³ Innovation Labs underway for ~20 students
- Our K-8 Physical Education instructional program is being enhanced to include recommendations from the Illinois State Board of Education for P.E. and Health curriculum and learning outcomes ([Appendix B](#))
- Our “Year in Review” of the i³ learning initiative indicates a successful implementation and a positive change to our teaching and learning model along with key lessons for Year 2 of the initiative ([Appendix C](#))
- The Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance awarded a Blue Ribbon, their highest honor for excellence, to the Gower Middle P.E. program (2nd consecutive Blue Ribbon at GM)

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: 95.4% for our 841 students enrolled; 96.2% for the 72 Teaching staff and 96.7% for the 65 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- 4th Qtr. Discipline Reports indicate continued improvement at GW and GM ([Appendix D](#))
- The Capturing Kids’ Hearts process will continue into its third year with our staff-based coaching model and a focus on school/grade level goals & improvement areas based on student/teacher feedback collected
- Facilities Update: The GM Locker replacement project is underway and we are conducting a full HVAC/system evaluation at both school campuses this summer in preparation for long-term planning

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

- Parent feedback collected from the annual 5-Essentials Survey is based on a 59% participation rate at GW and 43% at GM (state avg. of 10.5%) and is used in our improvement planning process ([Appendix E](#))
- Great thanks go to the PTO and the Gower Foundation for another tremendous year of fundraising effort in support of our students. The district looks forward to tackling the “GM Courtyards” beginning next year
- Hold the dates for our Curriculum Nights beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 26th at GW and Sept. 2nd at GM
- The PTO is working with village officials to organize the 3rd annual Back to School Bash (~Aug 21st)
- The BOE welcomes Mr. Rich Styczynski who is expected to be sworn in at the June Board meeting

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

- The District Parent-Student Handbook Committee met on April 30th to review the current handbook and develop a 2015-2016 draft for Board review. The final version will be posted online in August ([Appendix F](#))
- The District Professional Development Committee has developed a list of agenda items/topics for the 2015-2016 school year: PERA, i³ Learning, writing across the curriculum, new curriculum integration
- The District PERA Committee met on May 27th and made progress on our local district model and established summer meeting dates in an effort to finalize our PERA model prior to the Oct. 9th deadline
- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association met on June 3rd and scheduled to meet again on June 22nd in an attempt to get back “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#)

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

- Gower was represented at the 9th Annual Celebration for Chicago Public School Counselors and Coaches on June 5th by delivering a keynote address promoting the importance of advocates in our students’ success
- Gower administrators have initiated the improvement planning process for the 2015-16 school year
- The 5 Essentials Survey data collected in 2014-15 indicates improvement in the district’s overall, total performance in the essential areas for school effectiveness, as well as in targeted areas ([Appendix G](#))
- Gower’s “Year in Review” includes highlights from the 2014-15 Superintendent’s Reports ([Appendix H](#))

Children at their best!