



Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – April 21, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our Summer School Programs have been scheduled for students across grade levels (K-7) and are aimed at meeting many of the unique interests of our students (Appendix A)
- Students will have an opportunity to provide their feedback on the first year of our i³ Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) and influence our approach to completing the roll-out in 2015-16
- Schedules for the second and final component of the annual Illinois PARCC assessment (3-8 grade) as well as the third and final NWEA-MAP assessment (K-8) have been designed to balance the estimated total completion time (~4-5 hrs) for students across the 4-week testing window.
- The Division of English Language Learning of the Illinois State Department of Education officially certified our ELL program on April 15th as 100% compliant across 50 specific areas of review. Great work!

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: 95.6% for our 842 students enrolled; 96.1% for the 72 Teaching staff and 96.4% for the 65 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- Results from the CKH student survey administered in March were positive and indicate that the district-wide initiative continues to play a role in the improvement of school culture/climate (Appendix B)
- 3rd Qtr. Discipline Reports show an increase in student referrals at GW and a decrease at GM (Appendix C)
- Additional technology infrastructure upgrades (subsidized by E-rate funding) will continue in FY16 and will include: increased bandwidth, additional WAPs, updated POE switches, and cloud-based servicing
- Facilities Update: The GW HVAC project (chiller) is complete and awaits a system switch from “heating” to “cooling” (~early/mid May). Bids for the GM corridor locker replacement project have been collected

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

- 41% of Gower parents completed the annual Illinois 5-Essentials Survey helping us meet our goal of 40% ☺
- Registration for students returning in 2015-2016 is underway. Complete your packet today! Kindergarten registration was held on March 18th and continues for our newest Gladiators as well as transfer students
- The 1st Annual WSCAE Young Artist Show (May 2nd at Cheney Mansion) will feature over 550 pieces of artwork created by K-8 students representing 13 school districts (<http://wscoya.weebly.com/>)
- BOE elections were held 4/7. Thank you to resigning members Mark Timko & Richard Grunsten for their service to our district and welcome to Cynthia Hanson who will officially be seated on our Board on May 5th

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

- The District Professional Development Committee met on April 9th to discuss teacher feedback collected this school year and initiated plans for the upcoming school year
- The District PERA Committee met on 4/14 to establish a common understanding of Assessment Types, set a completion date by 10/9/15, assessed committee training needs, and set our next meeting for May 27th
- The District Parent-Student Handbook Committee will meet on April 30th to review the current handbook and develop a 2015-2016 draft for Board review in June
- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association report that they are “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) with seven meetings held to date – Next meeting scheduled for April 28th

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

- District administrators recommend adopting AESOP in 2015-16 as a change to our current substitute teacher calling system and to shift to an automated, web-based program (use this [link](#) for more information)
- The selection process to fill our seven (7) anticipated teacher vacancies in 2015-16 is well underway with final recommendations for new candidates expected in May (ahead of our target date of July 1st)
- Preliminary FY16 budgets have been presented to the BOE for O & M and Transportation

Children at their best!