



Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – March 17, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our 7th grade Civic Action Experience (via Northwestern) moves into its 2nd year and is scheduled for 4/17
- Plans for Year 2 of our i³ Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) are underway and are expected to result in 350 additional Chromebooks (grades 3-8) and 120 additional iPads (K-2) for student use in 2015-16
- The Illinois PARCC testing window opened for our 3-8 grade students on March 9 ([Appendix A](#))
- The report from the ELL Program Compliance visit (Jan 14th) includes high marks for Gower ([Appendix B](#))

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: 95.9% for our 825 students enrolled; 96.5% for the 72 Teaching staff and 96.6% for the 65 Educational Support Personnel. Student/Staff Attendance Goal = 97%+
- March (GM) faculty meetings will focus on Educator Ethics training and will be led by Gower staff. This training will complete the annual series of required trainings for staff. GW completed this training earlier.
- The active shooter drill held at GW (Feb 27th) was well-received by staff as well as local emergency agencies and plans are underway for a similar drill to be held at GM
- Facilities Update: GW HVAC project is scheduled for spring break, GM corridor locker replacement project planning underway, and one of our two district-operated vehicles was replaced via purchase (pick-up truck)

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

- The annual Illinois 5-Essentials Survey window is open for our parents until March 20th and can be taken [here](#). Our goal is to approach 40% parent participation this year. Current rates: 39% at GW & 27% at GM
- Kindergarten Registration for 2015-2016 is being held at Gower West on March 18th (“Early Registration” packets for returning students in grades 1-8 will be sent home during the week of April 7-10)
- The annual Gower PTO Fun Fair (held March 13th at GM) highlighted the tremendous level of support for our students by including such a large number of parent and teacher volunteers to make the event possible
- The 1st Annual WSCAE Science Fair was held on Feb 26th at Brookfield Zoo and included 93 student participants from eight local school districts. Gower students were recognized for their achievements.
- BOE elections are to be held on April 7th and will include two candidates running for three vacancies. After new members are officially seated, the BOE will begin the process of filling the remaining vacancy

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

- The Feb 27th Teacher Institute training focused on Year 2 implementation of the i3 Learning Initiative
- GM hosted staff from Bednarcik JHS (Oswego School District 308) for a (CKH, i³) site visit on Feb 20th
- The Innovate 62 Committee is scheduled to meet 3/19 to finalize Year 2 plans for the i3 Learning Initiative
- The Technology Committee is schedule to meet 3/20 to initiate the #FutureReady District Assessment
- The District Calendar Committee met on 2/23 to develop a 2015-16 & 2016-17 calendar ([Appendix C](#))
- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association report that they are “on-track” in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) with five meetings held to date – Next meeting scheduled for March 19th

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

- Gower is registered to participate in the #FutureReady Regional Summit scheduled for June 15/16
- Gower admin. presented local findings related to Capturing Kids Hearts implementation strategies at a Chicago Public Schools-led training on Feb 18th for district leaders/staff from across the Chicagoland area
- District staff have worked to re-establishing our federal E-rate funding stream resulting in a savings of more than \$32,000 to date for tech-related services, with additional savings expected in the current fiscal year
- FY16 (2015-16) school/district preliminary budgeting is underway with drafts expected in April & May