



Superintendent's Report
Board of Education Meeting – February 16, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Registration for our 2016 summer programs is now open. Visit www.campinvention.org to register for GW Camp Invention and www.inventionproject.org to register for GM Invention Project (GM)
- Gower is partnering with Indian Prairie Library to provide a summer reading program and several additional learning opportunities in alignment with the theme of *Community - Better Together*
- Gower to host Marching Band mini-camp from August 8-12, as well as Summer Band Program June 13-24. Gower plans to march in 2-3 parades in Fall 2016 (including the Burr Ridge Jingle Mingle)
- MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades K-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([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 (*Previous Year*): 96.3% (97.0%) for our 881 (831) students; 96.5% (96.4%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 97.0% (96.7%) for our 67 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (transgender awareness and upcoming PARCC schedule) were held during Jan. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities Update: Plans continue for the GM Courtyard Renovation Project 2016 and a recommendation for the GM Boiler Replacement Project to take place in 2018 has been proposed ([Appendix B](#))

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is open for parents. Current completion rates are low. Please click today!
- The [Gower PTO](#) is planning to launch their GM Courtyard Renovation Project fundraiser at the Fun Fair scheduled for March 11th at GM. Keep an eye out for your chance to be a lasting part of this project.
- WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair to be held Feb. 25 for all 5th-8th Science Showcase participants. Parents and guests can view projects at the zoo from 11:15 am to 12:15 pm (Discovery Center, South Gate)
- The 2nd Annual STEM Challenge and Science Showcase (2/9) included 150+ “student engineers/scientists”
- Legislative Update: Gower is in the process of making the necessary adjustments to school discipline and training schedule as required [SB100](#) - Student Discipline, or [Public Act 099-0456](#), effective date 9/15/2016

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

- After-school committee meetings continue and most recently included Technology, K-8 Social Studies, GM Family and Consumer Science, GM Industrial Technology/STEM in support of our improvement efforts
- The Calendar Committee recommends adoption of the revised 2016-17 & proposed 2017-18 school calendar - note revisions to 2016-17 Winter Break schedule ([Appendix C](#))
- The [PERA](#) Joint Committee met (2/10) as part of our PERA Model pilot plan to review templates and student growth components prior to summative evaluation conferences held this school year in trial form
- Early Dismissal schedule on Feb. 12 allowed teachers to host parent conferences on an as-needed basis

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

- Data from the 1st Annual “Freshman Readiness Survey” administered in collaboration with HSD86 and feeder districts is being reviewed (26% overall student participation rate. 24% for Gower graduates)
- A preliminary staffing plan was presented to the Board for 2016-17 certified teaching needs ([Appendix D](#))
- Gower West hosted “model practice” site visits for Lemont SD113 (1/25) and Franklin Park SD84 (1/27)
- Gower will be recognized on Feb 17th as part [Digital Learning Day \(#DLDay\)](#) for our [#FutureReady](#) efforts
- The 2015-16 Principal Evaluation Cycle is on schedule to be completed by the March 1st deadline