



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – May 17, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grade F.A.C.S. (Family and Consumer Science) course curriculum review is complete. Recommendation for updates/support material adoption have been provided to the Board ([Appendix A](#))
- End of Year (EOY) NWEA/MAP testing is complete for grades K-8. District and school level data for the 2015-16 school year will be reported in June
- The Illinois State Board of Education Science Assessment will be administered to our 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on May 18<sup>th</sup> as part of the regularly scheduled science class (estimated time for completion is less than 1 hr)
- On May 5<sup>th</sup>, our 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grade students participated in [Google Expeditions](#) led by our GM Science Teachers. Expeditions varied by grade level and included “journeys” to the ocean, Antarctica, and even Mars!
- GW & GM will host summer contests for their students through [Stride Academy](#). Students will be able to earn “badges” for a chance to win prizes. Details will be sent home through our school offices

**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): 96.1% (95.7%) for our 885 (843) students; 96.4% (96.1%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 96.8% (96.6%) for our 67 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Our annual CKH student and teacher survey was launched (results will be analyzed this summer)
- On April 26<sup>th</sup> GM students took part in a presentation by [Imagination Theater](#) as part of [Erin's Law](#)
- Facilities Update: Plans continue for the GM Courtyard Renovation Project 2016

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

- Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-2017 continues (73 new Gladiators have registered to date😊)
- Gower is partnering with [Indian Prairie Public Library](#) and our Teachers will lead five unique summer learning opportunities for students as part of the library's summer theme, “Better Together”
- A Team of 15 of our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders competed in the Elementary Science Olympiad on May 7<sup>th</sup> and placed (6<sup>th</sup> or better) in 5 of the 10 events held. This was Gower's inaugural year in the competition
- Several of our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade students were recognized at the [WSCAE Award Ceremony](#) on May 4<sup>th</sup> for their performance on the ACT and/or SAT (students scored a 20+ on ACT and/or a 500+ on SAT exams)
- The [Gower PTO](#) hosted a Volunteer Appreciation Night on May 17<sup>th</sup> for our hardworking volunteers
- Kindergarten Orientation (May 10<sup>th</sup>) was well attended with 47 members of the Class of 2025 represented
- Legislative Update: We are monitoring the progress of state school funding reform legislation. In FY16, \$584,697 or ~4% of our total district budget was state funded

**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 Innovate 62, Mentoring, K-5 Math, and ELL in support of our improvement efforts
- Our [PERA Committee](#) will meet 5/23 to review pilot data and final edits for full implementation in 2016-17
- The theme for our Summer Professional Development Program is “Choose Your Own Adventure” and will be lead by Gower staff and include a variety of technology integration as well as a path to [Google](#) Certification
- The 2016-17 Parent Student Handbook draft is expected as part of the June 21 Board meeting

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

- Preliminary review of 5-Essential Survey data indicates district-wide improvement across measures
- The preliminary FY17 Education Fund budget has been presented to the BOE for review
- The district was awarded a grant for summer training and student programming through [IMSAs](#) to implement extra-curricular [Fusion Programs](#) for our 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders, as well as our 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders in 2016-17
- GM hosted visitors from School District 96 interested in our Industrial Tech/STEM program (April 27<sup>th</sup>)
- GW hosted visitors from School District 181 interested in our Capturing Kids Hearts Process