



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – April 19, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Teachers continue to make use of available tools to extend the classroom setting and to create new and authentic learning opportunities for our students (4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders Skyping with authors as an example)
- The Gower Admin Team recommends adoption of policy 6:185 [Remote Educational Program](#) to increase enhancement/enrichment opportunities for qualifying students in concert with our i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative
- Students in the GM Teen Leadership class have been invited to participate in an upcoming teacher training
- Registration for our 2016 summer programs continue (currently, 70+ students registered in our new STEM camps, and 35+ in our Step Up program; likely to outpace last year's participation)

**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*): 96.0% (95.6%) for our 888 (842) students; 96.4% (96.1%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 96.9% (96.4%) for our 67 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr. Discipline Reports indicate that our schools remain on pace to reduce the total number of student referrals from the previous school year despite a slight increase in referrals from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr ([Appendix A](#))
- Hinsdale students (peer leaders) met with 8<sup>th</sup> graders at GM on 4/7 to discuss the transition to high school
- Required staff trainings (School Safety & Review of Required Drills) were held during March faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff. Required annual trainings are complete for 2015-16
- 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 (64 new Gladiators have registered to date😊)
- In their first year competing in the [National History Bee](#), 7/10 GM students advanced to the Regional Finals (4/5). Four of our students qualified to compete at the National Final in Chicago (June 9-12)
- The [Gower PTO](#) Celebration of the Arts Fair was held at GM on 3/14 from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m. showcasing the tremendous talents of our students and the incorporation of art into the curriculum
- Gower will celebrate Multicultural Week from April 18-22. Please join us at GW on April 20<sup>th</sup> for our Multi-Cultural Storytelling time led by Gower students as well as a special, storytelling guest (5:30-8:00 pm)
- A number of students from GW & GM will display their work at the [WSCAE Student Art Expo](#) (4/23)
- Legislative Update: With both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly currently in session, district administrators are monitoring the progress of state school funding reform legislation as a portion of district revenues are linked to the state (in FY16, \$584,697 or ~4% of 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 PERA, K-8 Music, K-8 Social Science, Professional Development, FACS and Summer Step Up in support of our improvement efforts
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee is scheduled to meet 4/28 to review the 2016-17 Handbook
- Gower West has been selected by the [Flippen Group](#) from a pool of several hundred school campuses as 1 of 5 National Showcase Schools and a model for the effective implementation of Capturing Kids' Hearts
- Teacher Inservice on 4/20 will focus on Capturing Kids' Hearts and will be led by Gower Process Coaches

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

- The 2016-17 registration process for returning students is underway with no increase to student fees
- Preliminary FY17 budgets have been presented to the BOE for O & M and Transportation
- District local revenue projections for FY17 were within 0.1% of the final 2015 property tax levy and extension from the DuPage County Clerk. The \$12,751,504 tax extension represents ~90% of total revenue
- The selection process to fill our four (4) anticipated teacher vacancies in 2016-17 is well underway with final recommendations for new candidates expected ahead of our July 1<sup>st</sup> target date