



Gower School District 62
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Superintendent's Report

Board of Education Meeting – August 18, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- 208 of our students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs ([Appendix A](#))
- Our i³ Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) is entering its second year of implementation and will continue to infuse technology into our teaching-learning model with iPads assigned to each of our K-2 students and Chromebooks assigned to each of our 3-8 students
- The Math text materials chosen last year (*Math Expressions*) have been received and ready to use in grades K-5 to start the school year (6-8 Math materials – *Big Ideas* – was implemented in the 2013-14 school year)

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.*

- Our GW and GM campuses have been prepared for the start of the school year with our annual Regional Office of Education safety inspection scheduled for October 14th
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 19th and will include district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) process will continue into its third year with our staff-based coaching model and a focus on school/grade level goals & improvement areas based on student/teacher feedback
- Facilities Update: The GM Locker replacement project is complete and our HVAC/system evaluation for both school campuses is also complete. HVAC repair/replacement recommendations are forthcoming

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

- We will open the school year with 443 students at GW and 400 students at GM (458 GW/383 GM last year)
- 5th Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 4th & Kindergarten New Student/Bus Orientation was held on Aug. 5th
- Our Open House/Meet & Greet is scheduled for Aug. 18th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at GW and GM with fun “Back to School” activities and treats at GW sponsored by the Gower Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)
- Hold the dates for our Curriculum Nights beginning at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 26th at GW and Sept. 2nd at GM with i³ Parent Presentations scheduled for 6:30 for parents new to the i³ Learning initiative

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

- Summer PD for teachers was held Aug. 3-7 and included digital resources & i³ classroom strategies
- New Teacher Orientation was held Aug. 10-12 for our 8 new teachers and included district expectations and professional development around Capturing Kids Hearts, i³, Curriculum Resources, & Mentor Program
- The District PERA Committee met on Aug. 10th to finalize our Performance Evaluation Plan ahead of our Oct. 9th deadline to allow for pilot-implementation this school year ([Appendix B](#))
- Teacher Institute Days (Aug. 17-18) are scheduled to include PERA training, Team Building, writing and other curriculum sessions, district and school orientation, and grade level/departmental planning
- Educational Support Personnel (ESP) Orientation is scheduled for Aug 19th. We will welcome our 10 new ESP and carry out a CKH professional development session along with a variety of required trainings
- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association have reached a Tentative Agreement for a Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). Teacher ratification is scheduled for Aug 17th and Board action is scheduled for Aug 18th. The CBA can be found on the district website using this [link](#) after Board approval

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

- Hiring is expected to be completed for the 8 teacher and 10 ESP positions for the start of the school year
- The 2015-2016 (FY16) district budget is available for public viewing and prior to Board approval (Sept. 22)
- The district has been awarded an ICE grant (Illinois Clean Energy) valued at \$10,820 in an effort to upgrade older and less efficient interior and exterior lighting at Gower West and Gower Middle
- The district has received a federal E-rate (technology) funding commitment of nearly \$67,000 for 2015-16

“Children at their best!”