



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – March 15, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- The PARCC assessment (grades 3-8) is scheduled to begin 4/7 and will include multiple tests in English Language Arts & Math. A letter to parents from our State Superintendent can be found [here](#)
- ISBE plans to have a new online Science assessment ready for April/May 2016 implementation with 5th and 8th grade Illinois students to establish baseline data of new NGSS standards
- New Social Science standards are complete pending approval of rules committee with an expected implementation timeline beginning in the 2017-2018 school year
- Gower PE teachers will be collecting fitness data using the Fitnessgram software this spring. ISBE is requiring that all districts submit their fitness data during the 2016-2017 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.*

- Year to Date attendance rates (*Previous Year*): 96.2% (95.9%) for our 889 (825) students; 96.5% (96.5%) for our 80 (72) Certified Staff and 97.0% (96.6%) for our 67 (65) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- The College Pennant Drive began March 4 and will continue throughout the month as a way to continue our celebration of college and careers. College pennant donations are being accepted at GW and GM
- Required staff trainings (Educator Ethics) were held during Feb. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- 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.*

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) closed on 3/11. Parent completion rates were 39% at GW and 24% at GM. Thank you for your participation as both schools met the reporting threshold of 20%
- The annual [Gower PTO Fun Fair](#) was held at GM on 3/11 from 5:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Approximately 200 students across 12 school districts participated in the WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair on Feb. 25; 21 students from Gower Middle participated and 2 were awarded prizes for their projects
- 20+ students from GM will compete in the [IJAS Regional Science Fair](#) and/or [Science Olympiad](#) on 3/12
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is being held on 3/16 at Gower West
- Legislative Update: Policy 7:290 (Approval on April 19) will satisfy Public Act [099-0443](#) - Suicide Awareness and Prevention Act and our Concussion Oversight Team has developed a protocol that will satisfy Public Acts [099-0245](#) and [099-0486](#) – Youth Sports Concussion Safety Act.

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 Professional Development, Technology, Process Coaches, Innovate 62, ELL, and K-8 Science, in support of our improvement efforts
- Teacher input on areas of learning and professional growth will be collected and used by the Professional Development Committee to develop plans for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years
- Teacher Institute scheduled for 4/4 will focus on Technology and English Language Learner strategies
- Gower Teachers designed and led presentations at the recent Illinois Computing Educators ([ICE](#)) and Career and Technical Education ([CTE](#)) conferences

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 will begin after spring break and a recommendation has been made for no increase to student fees (fees have not increased since 2014)
- The 2015-16 Non-Tenured Teacher Evaluation Cycle is complete and met the March 1st state deadline
- Gower West will host site visits this spring for two schools interested in our Capturing Kids' Hearts process
- 4th and 5th grade student feedback on the 5 Essentials survey has been collected for the first time allowing our schools to have unique exit/entry data regarding school climate