



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – Sept. 20, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- NWEA/MAP Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning (Report forthcoming)
- Our 6th grade Outdoor Education Program is scheduled for Sept. 22-23 at [White Pines Ranch](#) in Oregon, IL
- Gower Middle will serve as the West Suburban Consortium for Academic Excellence ([WSCAE](#)) host site for Northwestern University's "Civic Education Weekend" scheduled for Nov. 4-5 for select 8th graders
- The [Illuminate Parent Portal](#) is available for GM parents to monitor student grades and progress
- Gower continues to use [Schoology](#) as the Learning Management System (LMS) for teachers and students to connect and interact in classes digitally. Schoology has replaced the Homework Hotline at GM

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*): 97.1% (97.5%) for our 870 (857) students; 98.4% (99.8%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 96.6% (99.8%) for our 63 (62) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (4 reports were submitted in 2015-16 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- Classroom Contracts are established on an annual basis in each of our classrooms as a component of our deliberate and ongoing strategy to build productive learning environments through positive relationships
- Required staff trainings (Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Child/Domestic Abuse) are scheduled for Sept. 20 faculty meetings and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities Update: The GM Courtyard Renovation Project is complete. GW Door Replacement project is underway, and the GW Drainage/GM Boiler Projects are being scheduled for 2017 ([Appendix A](#))

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

- The Back to School Bash and Open House (8/17), along with our Curriculum Nights at GW (8/23) and GM (8/25) were well attended and informal feedback collected from parents and teachers was positive
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade will be invited to join the YWCA on Oct. 24th at Gower West for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum (www.erinlawillinois.org)
- Parent feedback collected from the annual 5-Essentials Survey is based on a 46% participation rate at GW and 26% at GM (state avg. of 16.3%) and is used in our improvement planning process ([Appendix B](#))
- Legislative Update: ESSA ([Every Student Succeeds Act](#)) became federal law in Dec. 2015 and updates regarding state and local school district impact are being monitored closely ([link for general information](#))

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

- Teacher in-service on Sept. 14th focused on Student Learning Objective (SLO) development as part of the district's Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) plan ([link for more information](#))
- 2016-17 District Committee work is underway involving teachers from both campuses
- Teacher Institute on Oct. 11th will focus on maximizing differentiated instruction, curriculum alignment and classroom strategies related to i³ Learning and individual student performance data
- The District Professional Development Committee has developed a list of agenda items/topics for the 2016-17 school year based on teacher survey data: differentiation strategies, infusing technology (i³), and NWEA/MAP data reporting/analysis

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

- The 2016-2017 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- District [Policy](#) 7:190-Student Discipline, is being updated to reflect requirements of [Senate Bill 100/P.A. 099-0456](#) and [Policy](#) 7:10-Equal Educational Opportunities is also being revised with minimal change
- Gower received five scholarships (\$2,750) for new staff to be trained in Capturing Kids' Hearts Sept. 29-30
- Gower will participate in the [IASA conference](#) (9/28-30), along with Dist. U-46 (Elgin) and Dist. 204 (Indian Prairie) to lead a panel discussion related to best practices for using the 5-Essentials framework