



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 16, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

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

- Over 400 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs. Summer program participation more than doubled from the 208 participants in 2015 ([Appendix A](#))
- Preliminary 2015-16 [PARCC](#) assessment data for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr. students indicates continued improvement; ~66% of student tests “met or exceeded” expectations compared to 60% in the previous year
- Our i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) moves into its third year of implementation and continues to shape our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- The Family and Consumer Science text materials chosen last year (*Adventures in Food and Nutrition*, 2016) have been received and ready to use in grades 6-8 to start the 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 being scheduled for the fall
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 29<sup>th</sup> 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, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate, has been embedded into district-wide practices; longitudinal survey data indicates value-added ([Appendix B](#))
- Facilities Update: The GM Courtyard Renovation Project is near completion, the GW Door Replacement project is underway, and the GW Drainage/GM Boiler Projects are being scheduled for 2017

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

- Enrollment as of Aug. 12<sup>th</sup> is 473 students at GW, including 80 Kindergarten students, and 387 students at GM, (452 GW/401 GM at the start of last school year).
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 4<sup>th</sup> & Kindergarten/New Student Orientation was held on Aug. 11<sup>th</sup>
- The 2016-17 Parent-Student Handbook has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- Join us on Aug. 17<sup>th</sup> for Gower's Open House & Meet and Greet from 4:30-6:30 p.m. as well as the Village of Willowbrook/Gower PTO Back to School Bash at Borse Park beginning at 6:00 p.m.
- Save the dates for our 2016-17 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> at GW and Aug 25<sup>th</sup> at GM
- Legislative Update: The Illinois Legislature passed a 2016-17 budget for elementary and secondary education. The current State-Aid funding formula is expected to be a topic at the Capitol in the fall

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

- Mentor Training for five new teachers took place on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> for 10 Gower teachers
- On-site professional development on iPad apps for the classroom (6) and the 4 C's: Communication (11), Collaboration (12), Creativity (13), Critical Thinking (12), held July 26-28 was well attended by our teachers
- Gower science teachers continued to develop [NGSS](#) units with additional professional development activities on June 17<sup>th</sup> and August 5<sup>th</sup>
- School Leadership Teams & CKH Process Coaches met over the summer to review data/plans for 2016-17
- Virtual summer learning opportunities for teacher professional development were launched this summer - Choose Your Own Adventure and a Google Certification Cohort that included 20+ teachers

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

- 5-Essentials Survey data collected in 2015-16 indicates ongoing improvement across measures ([Appendix C](#))
- The 2016-17 district budget will be available for public viewing 8/19 and prior the Board meeting on 9/20
- Fed. Title I, II, and III grants have been applied for and are currently pending approval
- Hiring is expected to be completed for (5) teacher and (7) ESP vacancies for the start of the school year
- New Teacher Orientation was held Aug. 10-12 and led by Gower Admin. and Staff
- Back to School Teacher Institute Days are being held on Aug. 16-17 for certified staff and Aug. 18 for ESP