



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting - Jan. 17, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [ACCESS](#) testing for K-8 English Learners will occur 1/9 – 2/10 to measure English language proficiency
- Registration for our 2017 Camp Invention summer program for K-5 is now open. Visit this [link](#) to register
- Gower teachers and administrators are reviewing current math and reading intervention strategies and best practices as part of the ongoing development of the district's [RtI](#) (Response to Intervention) Program
- Gower will pilot a digital tool, [Skills Navigator](#), from our assessment partner, [NWEA](#), as a supplement to targeted instruction/support and determine effectiveness for possible expansion in 2017-2018
- The administrative review process of the district's curriculum design and overall organization of the instructional model (means/methods) is underway for 2017-18 staffing/program recommendations

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*): 95.9% (96.3%) for our 873 (879) students; 96.7% (96.4%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 97.0% (96.6%) for our 66 (67) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 2nd Qtr discipline reports indicate a decrease in student referrals at GW and an increase at GM ([Appendix A](#))
- Required staff trainings (Anti-bullying and Suicide Prevention) were held during Dec. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members – [Tip62](#) is our anonymous bullying prevention link
- Facilities Update: A recommendation for awarding the GM boiler project bid has been provided; work scheduled for summer. The GW drainage project continues in review. The GW Boiler project is underway.

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) remains open and we encourage all Gower parents to participate. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it! (~36% last year; ~23% this year)
- Gower 62 will host the annual district-wide STEM Challenge (K-8) and Science Showcase (gr. 4-8) on Feb. 9 at Gower Middle from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please RSVP for the STEM Challenge.
- Gower 62 will host a district-wide Multicultural Extravaganza on March 3 from 6:30-8:30 pm to celebrate our diversity. Please see the principals' email blast and the Virtual Backpack for the flyer.
- Feb. 17th Early Release schedule will allow teachers to host parent conferences on an as-needed basis
- Legislative Update: [IL Senate Bill 0550](#) (Lead Testing in Schools) has been approved by the IL General Assembly and is expected to be signed by the Governor. Gower has completed testing ahead of schedule.

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

- Our after-school committee meetings continue and most recently included the K-8 Social Studies, K-8 Music, and Technology in support of our 2016-17 school/district improvement efforts
- The Calendar Committee will meet on 3/9 to finalize the 2017-18 calendar and propose a 2018-19 calendar
- Teacher In-Service (1/25) will focus on the Capturing Kids' Hearts process and will be led by Gower Process Coaches. Mid-year student performance data will be analyzed in grade level team meetings
- Planning continues with the DuPage ROE/Indian Prairie Library to host a STEM event for area students

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

- Collaboration efforts with D86 continue as the "Freshman Readiness Survey" was launched at Hinsdale South on Jan 11th and is expected to be launched at Hinsdale Central on Jan 17th
- Gower West was selected by the [Flippen Group](#) as a 2016-2017 Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School for the 2nd year in a row – Congratulations!
- Implementation of our new cafeteria point of sale software, [Mealtime](#), was completed on 1/9 as planned
- The district's three-year Special Education Leadership Transition Plan is ahead of schedule and is expected to be complete in December 2017 with the phase-out of the part-time Sp. Ed. Director position
- The administrative review process of current class size and class/bell schedule is underway for 2017-18 staffing/program recommendations expected in Feb/March