



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

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

- The Illinois State Board of Education released 2015-16 School Report Card [here](#). Student [PARCC](#) data is included. 66% of Gower students tested at or above the proficiency level; 60% previous year ([Appendix A](#))
- GM served as the host site for the annual [WSCAE Civic Action Weekend](#) in partnership with Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development on Nov 4-5. 100+ students from various districts participated
- College and Career Spirit Days continue for the 2016-2017 school year with a focus on STEM. Career representatives visited Gower on October 14 and are scheduled for Dec. 9, Feb. 10, and April 21
- Gower students will participate in the international "Hour of Code" program during the week of Dec 5-11 to generate more experience around computer coding and a digital environment (www.hourofcode.com)

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*): 96.6% (96.8%) for our 873 (874) students; 96.6% (96.8%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 96.6% (96.6%) for our 64 (64) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 1st Qtr Discipline Reports indicate an increase in student referrals at GW & a decrease at GM ([Appendix B](#))
- CPR training was held on 10/28 & 31 for our coaches & various staff and led by our Certified School Nurse
- Required staff trainings (Anaphylactic Shock & Allergies, Diabetes and Student Chronic Health Conditions) were held during Oct. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by our own registered nurses
- Facilities Update: The GW Drainage/GM Boiler Projects are being scheduled for the 2017-18 school year

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) will open on Nov. 16th 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)
- Parent-Teacher conferences were held on Oct. 27-28 with 90% (89%) of GW parents and 41% (50%) of GM parents attending face-to-face conferences with several families opting for email/phone check-ins
- Dan Hampton ([NFL Football HOF](#)) visited the Flag Football Team on 10/26 after their inaugural year
- GW and GM middle hosted Author Visits on 11/3 ([Amy Logan](#)) and 11/11 ([Johnathan Stroud](#))
- Students & staff saluted our Veterans (11/11) with an assembly, class activities, honor wall, & Skype session
- "Bring Your Parents to School Day" is scheduled for Nov. 15 at GW and Nov. 18 at GM

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

- Gower Teachers/Admin are completing a district-wide book study: Maximum Tier One: Improving Full Class Instruction in alignment with the Professional Development Committee's focus on differentiation
- Our after-school committee meetings continue and most recently included the Art, Math, Science, English Language Learners, Music, and Technology in support of our 2016-17 school/district improvement efforts
- Professional Development (11/18) will include staff-led training related to differentiation with a focus on questioning and discussion strategies and modeled after the use of our LMS ([Schoology](#)) platform
- Gower staff hosted site visits for West Aurora SD129 on 10/20 for our i³ initiative and for Center Cass SD66 on 11/9 for our efforts in creating more flexible learning spaces as well as LRC-related programs

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

- Plans to replace our current, server-based point of sale (POS) software used in our school cafeterias with a web-based solution are underway. Deployment of [Mealtime](#) is expected 1/9 with parent info. Forthcoming
- The district has received a federal E-rate (technology) funding commitment of nearly \$28,872 for 2016-17
- The WSCAE IMSA Fusion professional development and materials grant supports new extra-curricular STEM offerings in Gower: The 4th/5th and 6th-8th grade sessions are led by Gower staff trained at IMSA
- Admin. Team is reviewing current practice and working with Hinsdale H.S. and associated feeder districts to explore effective digital learning strategies used to meet student needs and as employed across core and elective course offerings