



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – June 20, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our End-of-Year (EOY) student performance data on NWEA/MAP indicates exceptional achievement and growth; 10/10 district-wide student achievement goals were met ([Appendix A](#))
- 2016-17 preliminary PARCC data indicates the majority of our 3rd-8th graders 'met or exceeded standards' - 59% in Math; 66% in Reading (ELA); 2014-16 avg. was 59% in Math & 66% in Reading (full report this fall)
- The scope and sequence of our newly adopted Middlebury Interactive Language program is being aligned to the respective high school foreign language curriculum in preparation for the 2017-18 school year
- Our 2017 summer programs are off and running with over 250 of our students participating across a variety of learning opportunities and experiences. A more detailed report will be available in August.

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*): 95.3% (96.0%) for our 891 (885) students; 95.7% (96.5%) for our 82 (80) Certified Staff and 96.4% (96.7%) for our 72 (67) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 4th Qtr. discipline reports show an increase in the number of infractions recorded district-wide ([Appendix B](#))
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate, has been embedded into district-wide practices; longitudinal survey data indicates a positive impact ([Appendix C](#))
- Facilities Update: The Boiler Replacement Projects at GW and GM are underway and on-schedule

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

- 2017-18 kindergarten registration school year continues with 72 new Gladiators ready to go (May 16' = 77)
- The District Parent-Student Handbook Committee met on May 4th to review the current handbook and develop a 2017-2018 draft for Board review. The final version will be posted online in Aug. ([Appendix D](#))
- A Summer Step-Up Parent Night was held at GW on June 5th and included at-home strategies for reading and comprehension presented by our district reading specialists
- Save the date for the annual Village of Willowbrook/Gower PTO Back to School Bash (location TBD) and Gower School District's Open House & Meet and Greet scheduled for Aug. 16th (details forthcoming)
- Save the dates for our 2017-18 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 24th at GW and Aug 31st at GM

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 met through the end of the school year with final meetings held by our Professional Development, PERA, and Middle School Math committees
- The District Professional Development Committee developed the following focus areas for the 2017-18 school year: Continuing differentiation strategies, reading/writing across the curriculum, utilizing technology (i³) with a focus on breakout EDUs (immersive learning games platform) and student choice in learning
- Our Summer Professional Development Program, "Oh The Things You Can Think", led by Gower staff, includes more than 40 of our teachers participating across blended, on-site and virtual programs
- New Teacher I³-Week/Orientation will be held Aug. 9-11 & Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 15/16
- GW and GM School Leadership Teams will meet this summer to review 2016-17 data (NWEA/MAP, 5-Essentials Survey, CKH Survey) and engage in the 2017-18 goal-setting process

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

- The district was awarded a grant for summer training and student programming through [IMSA](#) to continue our extra-curricular [Fusion Programs](#) for our 4th-5th graders, as well as our 6th-8th graders in 2017-18
- "Freshman Readiness" data collected from our graduates indicate learning to apply technology to support learning as a strength & learning to identify/resolve stress factors as an area of development ([Appendix E](#))
- Our Extended School Year (ESY) Summer Program for Special Education has opened as an 'in-house' classroom; saving the district an estimated \$10,000 in out-placement tuition costs
- The selection process to fill 5.0 of our 6.5 teacher vacancies in 2017-18 is complete, meeting our July 1st target date, with screening underway for our final vacancies (1.0 Industrial Tech. – GM, 0.5 Sp. Ed - GM)