



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – April 18, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The K-8 Social Studies Committee recommends [Discovery Education Social Studies Techbook](#) for adoption for grades 5-8 in 2017-18; recommendation for K-4 expected in May ([Appendix A](#))
- Student course data was collected to finalize the GM bell schedule/elective course plan proposed (2/21) & revised (3/21) to recommend adoption of the [Middlebury Interactive Language Program](#) ([Appendix B](#))
- The [Illinois Science Assessment](#) will be administered to 5th & 8th grade students as part of the regularly scheduled science class on 4/25 (estimated time for completion is less than 60 minutes)
- Registration for our 2017 summer programs continues (60+ registered for [Camp Invention](#) and 40+ in our Summer Step Up Program ~ likely to be our fourth consecutive year of growing participation)

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*): 95.6% (96.0%) for our 888 (888) students; 95.9% (96.4%) for our 83 (80) Certified Staff and 96.3% (96.9%) for our 70 (67) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Our annual [CKH](#) school culture/climate student & teacher survey was launched with results expected soon
- Required staff trainings (Educator Ethics) were held during March faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities Update: [Public Act 099-0922](#) sets specific requirements for schools to test water for lead contamination and communicate results accordingly. Local testing is being finalized (results forthcoming)

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

- 2017-18 kindergarten registration school year continues with 60 new Gladiators ready to go (*April 16' = 64*)
- The [PTO](#) Celebration of the Arts is scheduled for April 26 (6-8 p.m.) at GW
- The GM Science Olympiad Team (Gr. 6-8) competed against 10 other teams at the [College of DuPage Regional Tournament](#) (3/11) and placed in 4 (of 23) events; this is the team's 2nd year
- 19 students from GM will be recognized for their achievements in the Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search ([NUMATS](#)) program at the [WSCAE Awards Assembly](#) (5/3)
- 5-Essentials Survey Data was made available to school districts 3/29 prior to the 6/30 public release date and is being reviewed by district/school staff. Early indicators suggest ongoing improvement ([Appendix C](#))

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

- Gower 62, the DuPage STEM Regional Office of Education Team, and Indian Prairie Library are partnering to host “[exSTEMganza](#)” (6/15) at Hinsdale South for students in grades 5-7 from area school
- Committee meetings continue and most recently included K-8 Social Studies, Professional Development, RTI, INNOVATE 62, and Technology in support of our 2016-17 school/district improvement efforts
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee is scheduled to meet 5/4 to review the 2017-18 Handbook
- The [PERA](#) Joint Committee met 4/10 to review the Teacher Evaluation process. Minor adjustments to current forms/rubrics are expected and the committee will meet after End of Year student data is reviewed
- The RIF (Reduction in Force) Joint Committee will meet 4/19 to clarify procedures and establish a meeting schedule as expected by [Illinois School Code](#) (105 ILCS 5/24-12) and [Collective Bargaining Agreement](#)

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

- Gower West has been selected as a [CKH National Showcase School](#) for the second year in a row ([see attached](#))
- The 2017-18 registration process for returning students is underway with no increase to student fees
- Our annual “Freshman Readiness Survey” administered in collaboration with HSD86 and feeder districts is being reviewed (81% overall student participation rate; 79% for Gower graduates 26%/24% previous year)
- Preliminary FY18 budgets have been presented to the BOE for O & M and Transportation
- District local revenue projections for FY18 were within 0.1% of the final property tax levy calculated by the [DuPage County Clerk](#). The \$12,882,618 tax extension represents more than 90% of total revenue