



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – September 19, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Ongoing evaluation of the [Middlebury Interactive Language Program](#) indicates that Gower staff have been responsive to individual student needs and have taken action to make adjustments as needed ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower has moved from AIMSweb to FastBridge as the universal screener in Math and Reading from PreK-8th grade as part of the District's Response to Intervention (RtI) Plan
- One District, One Book Project, "Gower Reads Together" engages our PreK-8th grade students around the global issue of access to clean water. The texts being used include: *Water Princess* for PreK-1st grade, *Just Add Water* for 2nd-4th, and *A Long Walk to Water* for 5th-8th
- Our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Outdoor Education Program took place on Sept. 7-8 at [White Pines Ranch](#) in Oregon, IL (99% overall student participation; 23% choosing the 1-Day option)

**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*): 96.2% (97.1%) for our 888 (870) students; 98.4% (98.4%) for our 81 (83) Certified Staff and 95.7% (96.6%) for our 65 (63) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings in September (9/12) were completed by school nurses on the following health topics: diabetes, food allergy, and anaphylactic shock guidelines
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (2 reports were submitted in 2016-17 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- Facilities Update: Gower has completed the Lead Testing in Drinking Water requirements in accordance with Public Act 99-0922 and updated the district website, [here](#), to share the information ([Appendix B](#))

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

- Hinsdale High School Dist. 86 hosted two community meetings on 9/6 and 9/12 to collect feedback on student enrollment ([see attached](#)) - Gower admin. has worked directly with D86 admin. to set a date for a follow-up Gower parent Q & A session, contingent upon D86 Board meeting/action on 9/18 (TBA)
- The exSTEMaganza event will be held at Hinsdale South on 10/13 for students in grades 5-8. This STEM event is being hosted by the Indian Prairie Library, DuPage ROE STEM team, and Gower 62 ([see article](#))
- Parents of students from PK-8 grade will be invited to join the YWCA on Oct. 23rd at Gower West for an opportunity to learn more about Erin's Law and its impact on school curriculum ([www.erinlawillinois.org](http://www.erinlawillinois.org))
- Legislative Update: Gower receives ~95% of total revenue from local funding & property taxes. Our 'Local Capacity' to reach the '[State Adequacy Funding Target](#)' will be determined by ISBE and is expected this fall

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

- Teacher in-service on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup> focused on Student Learning Objective (SLO) development as part of the district's Performance Evaluation Reform Act (PERA) plan ([link for more information](#))
- 2017-18 District Committee work is underway and most recently involved our Tech Team, Annual Crisis Meeting, Gower Reads Together (New Committee), and Innovate 62
- The Gower Education Association (GEA) and our Board of Education worked collaboratively to draft an anticipated timeline for our upcoming collective bargaining process ([Appendix C](#))
- The District Professional Development Committee has developed a list of agenda items/topics for the 2017-18 school year: differentiation strategies infusing technology (i<sup>3</sup>), District RtI Plan, Research/Writing across grade levels, unit and assessment development in Atlas Rubicon (online curriculum mapping tool)

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

- The 2017-2018 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and resulting class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix D](#))
- The 5 Essentials Survey is scheduled for statewide implementation (Nov 15 - Jan 18) for grades 6-12 and now includes an option for all districts to survey their 4th and 5th grade students - *Gower led the way!!!*
- The District received \$11,837 in an IDEA Flow-Through Grant to support our Early Childhood Program