



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – January 16, 2018 - 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 1/29 – 2/16 to measure English language proficiency
- GM student course selection will begin 1/26 and is expected to include the same variety of courses offered this year. An extended 'Homeroom/Advisory' for grades 5-8 may be added (in place of Study Hall elective)
- Ongoing evaluation of the GM Foreign Language Program indicates that targeted outcomes (e.g self-paced, responsive, academically challenging, and achievable program) are being met. Teacher and student feedback has been collected and is being reviewed for 2018-19 program adjustments (details forthcoming Feb/March)
- The District's Annual Science Showcase and STEM Challenge (grades 4-8) is scheduled for Feb 8th at GM
- Registration for our 2018 Camp Invention summer program for K-5 is now open. Visit this [link](#) to register

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% (*95.9%*) for our 889 (*873*) students; 96.9% (*96.7%*) for our 81 (*83*) Certified Staff and 96.3% (*97.0%*) for our 68 (*66*) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 2nd Qtr discipline reports indicate that GW and GM are off-pace from reaching year end goal ([Appendix A](#))
- Required staff trainings (Anti-bullying and Suicide Prevention) were held during Jan. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members – [Tip62](#) is our anonymous bullying prevention link
- Facilities - The district is reviewing the priority work schedule to identify capital improvement projects for 2018-19 and 2019-20 with an estimated budget of \$75,000/year as discussed in March, 2017 ([report link](#))

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) is open until Jan 31st! We encourage all Gower parents to participate. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and need your help to meet it! (We are currently under the 20% required threshold and in danger of not receiving a Parent Feedback Report)
- Save the Date for the District's Multicultural Night on Mar. 16th at Gower Middle - more details to follow
- Feb. 16th Early Release schedule will allow teachers to host parent conferences on an as-needed basis
- The [Gower PTO](#) continues to support parent/community involvement efforts and will take part in the 'Supt Chats' scheduled on Jan 17/18 as well as a Walk the Halls event on Sat. Jan 20
- Gower families are encouraged to review the proposed School Calendars and contact the district office with feedback as 'swapping' the start/end times for both schools is being recommended ([View Full Report](#))

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

- The Board of Education and the Gower Education Association report that they are "on-track" in terms of the [Collective Bargaining Timeline](#) with a preliminary meeting to discuss key [CBA](#) issues held on Jan. 11
- The District Calendar Committee includes administrators, teachers and parents and met on Jan. 10 to make a recommendation for the final 2018-19 calendar and a draft for 2019-20 ([Appendix B](#))
- After-school committee meetings continue to meet and most recently included GM Math, District Calendar Committee, District Process Coaches, Tech Committee in support of school/district improvement efforts
- In December, several teachers participated in a virtual professional development series called Ditch Summit
- Teacher In-Service (2/15) will focus on individual School Improvement Plans/Goals and led by the School Leadership Team. Mid-year student performance data will be analyzed in grade level team meetings

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

- The administrative review process of the curriculum design, organization of instruction, current class size and bell schedule is underway for 2018-19 staffing/program recommendations expected in Feb/March
- The District [Title III](#) (\$31,817) grant has been approved; total Title grant amount is \$151,328 for 2017-18
- The District has applied for an EnergySmart grant (Nicor) for \$85,778 after substantial completion of boiler replacement project on-time & under budget (\$763,730 vs \$774,500 awarded bid/initial estimate \$809,000)
- The district's IDEA (Special Education) [Flow Through Grant](#) (\$11,837) includes establishing (in-house) staff trainers for [CPI](#) in each building to train staff in proper de-escalation techniques and crisis prevention
- Gower continues to lead collaboration efforts with D86 and area feeder districts to implement the 3rd Annual "Freshman Readiness Survey" in Hinsdale High Schools (expected to begin next week)