



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – October 17, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- Ongoing evaluation of the GM [Foreign Language Program](#) indicates ([Appendix B](#))
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release final 2016-17 PARCC assessment data and individual district/school reports as part of the [IL School Report Card](#) on Oct. 31st
- Social Studies requirements for the U.S. and Illinois Constitution exams have changed from a middle school assessment to a once-in-grades 7-12 schedule. Hinsdale D86 will now administer the exams in high school
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress - parent info [link](#)

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% (97.1%) for our 891 (872) students; 98.3% (98.4%) for our 81 (83) Certified Staff and 98.3% (96.6%) for our 66 (63) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- CPR trainings were held at GM (10/10 & 10/17) and led by our certified school nurse to renew certification for PE teachers, coaches, bus drivers, custodians, and administrators.
- Required staff trainings in October (10/17) were led by Gower staff members and included Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act, Child/Domestic Abuse
- Facilities - District admin met with representatives from Green Associates, the district's selected architect firm, on 9/21 to review a draft of a 'facilities review report' to be used in our 10-year Master Facility Plan

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

- 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)
- Gower West held an open house for hundreds of guests on Oct. 1 to celebrate "50 Years of Magic"
- ~90 parents/community members attended the "Town Hall Meeting" (9/27) with Supt. Law from Hinsdale D86 to express their concerns and ask questions related to attendance boundaries and high school facilities
- "Bring Your Parents to School Day" is scheduled for Nov. 14th at Gower West and Nov. 17th at Gower Middle. Details are forthcoming and have been shaped by feedback collected from last year's event.
- The Gower PTO is coordinating a series of local 'Supt-Chats' for GW and GM parents to meet informally with our Supt. to discuss local issues and offer additional parent-perspective on school-related topics
- Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Nov. 2 from 3:30-8:30 pm and Nov. 3 from 12:30-3:30 pm at Gower West and 12-3 pm at Gower Middle.

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

- Gower hosted a site visit for District 95 from Brookfield/LaGrange on 10/3 to observe and learn about our Gower STEM course (formerly Industrial Tech) as they are considering creating a STEM program
- Teacher Institute (10/10) included curricular unit and assessment development in Atlas Rubicon, Schoology enhancement (blended) training, and a [Goose Chase](#) team-building activity (from Future Ready conference)
- 2017-18 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team, Mentors/New Teachers, K-4 Social Studies, K-8 Science, 5-8 Math, INNOVATE 62, and District RtI
- Early Release Day on October 27th will be differentiated by teacher need and focused on unit development and District RtI work in Behavior, Math, Reading/Writing, and the overall problem-solving process

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

- Gower expects to receive the following grant allotments (federal/state) to supplement our educational programs: [Title I](#) (\$70,868), [Title II](#) (\$19,538), and [Title III](#) (\$31,817) and [Title IV](#) (\$10,000)
- District admin hosted a meeting with Hinsdale 86 Foreign Language Department Chairs and Gower Foreign Language teachers on 9/28 to ensure alignment of curriculum and course placement/assessment
- D86 held a feeder district meeting on 10/5 to discuss the development of a new "Readiness Framework"
- Plans are underway for Gower to host an ESL certification cohort in partnership with the DuPage ROE and the Univ. of St. Francis to meet growing student need; Cohort is expected to begin in the winter 2018