



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 15, 2017 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Over 400 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs for the second year in a row! Expanded program offerings were first implemented in 2016 ([Appendix A](#))
- 2017-18 marks the 4th year of our i³ Learning Initiative (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that continues to shape our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- An analysis of our curriculum review cycle has been carried out and reflects a 5-year timeline ([Appendix B](#))
- The evolution of our Industrial Technology program continues as the course has been redesigned and retitled as 6th-8th Grade [STEM](#): Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math ([Appendix C](#))
- Our newly adopted [Middlebury Interactive Language Program](#) is ready for launch and adds French, German and Mandarin to our long-standing, and highly-regarded Spanish program ([Appendix D](#))
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades K-8 is scheduled for the week of Sept. 5-8

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.*

- Enrollment as of Aug. 11th is 486 students at GW, including 79 (80 previous year) Kindergarten students, and 397 students at GM, (473 GW/387 GM at the start of last school year).
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 28th and will include district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate, remains a focal point for ongoing improvement efforts and new teacher training
- Facilities Update: The Boiler Replacement Projects at GW and GM are in their final stages of completion; architect walkthroughs completed at both campuses to help shape our 10-year Master Facility Plan

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

- 5th Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 9th & Kindergarten/New Student Orientation was held on Aug. 10th
- Join us for the annual Village of Willowbrook/Gower PTO Back to School at Gower West and Gower School District's Open House & Meet and Greet scheduled for Aug. 16th
- Save the dates for our 2017-18 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 24th at GW and Aug 31st at GM
- The 2016-17 Parent-Student Handbook has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- Legislative Update: Gower receives ~4% of [total revenue](#) from the state and will have no disruption of service throughout the entire 2017-18 school year should Springfield fail to find a compromise

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

- Our second annual Summer Professional Development Program, led by Gower staff, was well-received and included more than 40 of our teachers participating across blended, on-site and virtual programs (including two teachers newly certified as Level I [Google Certified Educators](#) and six teachers certified at Level II)
- New Teacher I³-Week/Orientation was held Aug. 9-11 & Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 15/16
- Back to School Teacher Institute Days are being held on Aug. 15-16 for certified staff and Aug. 17 for ESP
- GW and GM School Leadership Teams met 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.*

- Hiring is completed for (11) teacher vacancies for the start of the school year; 3/7 ESP (Education Support Personnel) positions are filled with 3 Teacher Aide and 1 Bus Driver position remaining open (resignations)
- The Administrative Team has completed the renewal process for Teacher Evaluation Certification on 7/6
- The District Office ESP restructuring is complete (4.0 to 3.0 positions) and the District Administrative Team restructuring will be completed mid-year from 5.5 to 5.0 positions for a cost-savings to the district
- End of Year reports indicate the 2016-17 budget deficit projection across all district funds of \$549,999 was actually \$308,932 as a result of district cost-cutting/savings measures taken throughout the year
- The 2017-18 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/18 to the Board meeting on 9/19