



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – February 20, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades K-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([Appendix A](#))
- 2016 and 2017 Illinois Science Assessment results (grades 5 and 8) have been received and are being reviewed for program evaluation ([Appendix B](#))
- An update of the GM foreign language program and student course selection process is being provided to the Board with a recommendation to continue the current student choice/elective model ([Appendix C](#))
- Invites for Summer Step Up will be sent home next week for targeted support in Reading and Math (K-7)
- The 2018 Caudill Challenge at Gower Middle included students (and staff) reading a total of 1,051 books from the list, and 16 of our students (plus 3 staff members) finished all 20 of the nominated titles.

**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*): 95.3% (95.6%) for our 898 (874) students; 96.5% (96.4%) for our 81 (83) Certified Staff and 96.3% (97.0%) for our 68 (72) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (Testing Protocols for PARCC and CogAT) were held during Feb. faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower principals
- Special Education staff at both schools hosted a Lunch and Learn (GM: 2/8 and GW: 2/15) on Autism and best practice strategies to support our autistic students in the classroom
- Facilities - with the anticipated retirement of our Buildings Grounds & Transportation Director on 6/30 the position was posted on our school website ([link](#)) - The district is also looking to hire bus drivers ([link](#))

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

- Based on parent feedback collected a recommendation to leave the current start times for our schools unchanged for 2018-19 is being made to the Board for approval at the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting ([Appendix D](#))
- The annual 5-Essentials Survey closed 1/31 and we appreciate the parent involvement and feedback. You helped us close in on our standing goal of 35% parent participation with a rate of 33% - Report to follow
- Gower has led the effort to hold the 4th Annual [WSCAE](#) Brookfield Zoo Science Fair (2/22) and will participate along with 12 local school districts from West Suburban Consortium of Academic Excellence
- The District's Annual Science Showcase and STEM Challenge (gr. 4-8) is rescheduled for March 1 at GM
- The [Gower PTO](#) Winter Family Dance held at GW on Feb 2 was a success and attended by ~350 people
- The PTO Fun Fair is scheduled for March 9th (5:30 – 8:30) at GM – Please join us for some fun!

**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](#) and continue to negotiate current [CBA](#) issues
- After-school committee meetings continue to meet and most recently include District Mentoring, STEM Challenge/Science Showcase, Multicultural Event Planning, INNOVATE 62, Gower Reads, and K-8 Art in support of school/district improvement efforts
- Gower staff will present at the upcoming conference at ICE (Illinois Computing Educators) and members of the INNOVATE 62 Committee will also attend the conference for professional learning
- Gower teachers and administrators are hosting monthly Lunch and Learns utilizing Title II grant funds on topics such as Tech Integration, Best Instructional Practices, Special Education, and Innovator's Mindset

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

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Freshman Readiness Survey” was administered in collaboration with D86 and local feeder districts and the data indicate a high degree of readiness from our most recent graduates ([Appendix E](#))
- A recommendation for no increase in school registration fees has been provided to the Board ([Appendix F](#))
- The district's application for \$23,040 in [federal E-rate](#) (technology) funding in 2018-19 has been approved
- Gower remains in the highest category of financial strength (3.65/4.0) on the 2018 [ISBE Financial Profile](#)
- A preliminary staffing plan for 2018-19 certified teaching needs is expected in March