



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – June 19, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The [Continuous Quality Improvement Report](#) for our Preschool/Early Childhood Program indicated overall ratings of ‘Good’ (75%) or ‘Excellent’ (100%) in each of the five categories measured by ISBE
- Our End-of-Year (EOY) student performance data on NWEA/MAP indicates exceptional achievement and growth; 10/10 district-wide student achievement goals were met ([Appendix A](#))
- 2017-18 preliminary PARCC data indicates the majority of our 3rd-8th graders ‘met or exceeded standards’ - 60% in Math; 64% in Reading (ELA); 59% in Math & 66% in Reading previous year (full report this fall)
- Our 2018 summer programs are off and running with over 250 of our students participating across a variety of learning opportunities and experiences. A more detailed report will be available in August

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% (95.3%) for our 904 (891) students; 96.4% (95.7%) for our 80 (82) Certified Staff and 96.3% (96.5%) for our 68 (72) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- 4th Qtr. discipline reports show an increase in the number of infractions recorded district-wide ([Appendix B](#))
- The Capturing Kids’ Hearts process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate, has been embedded into district-wide practices; longitudinal survey data indicates a positive impact ([Appendix C](#))
- Facilities: A recommendation to hire a new Buildings, Grounds, and Transportation Director for a July 1st transition is complete. GW parking lot repairs/resurfacing and campus signage are among summer priorities

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

- 2018-19 kindergarten registration school year continues with 80 new Gladiators ready to go (May 17’ = 72)
- The District Parent-Student Handbook Committee met on May 1st to review the current handbook and develop a 2018-2019 draft for Board review. The final version will be posted online in Aug. ([Appendix D](#))
- A Summer Step-Up Parent Night was held at GW on June 5th and included at-home strategies, digital resources and games for reading and math presented by our staff and Indian Prairie Public Library
- Save the date for the annual Village of Willowbrook/Gower PTO Back to School Bash (location TBD) and Gower School District’s Open House & Meet and Greet scheduled for Aug. 15th (details forthcoming)
- Save the dates for our 2018-19 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 23rd at GW and Aug 30th at GM
- The Gower Foundation for Excellence in Education is planning a *School Topics* speaker series for 2018-19

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

- After-school committee meetings met through the end of the school year with final meetings held by our Mentoring, Tech Team, and PERA committees
- Our Summer Professional Development Program, “Summer PD It’s Easy as 1, 2, 3”, led by Gower staff, includes more than 40 of our teachers participating across blended and virtual programs
- The District Professional Development Committee developed the following theme for the 2018-19 school year: #GowerLEARNS--Laugh, Engage, Affirm, Reflect, Nurture, Share
- New Teacher I³-Week/Orientation will be held Aug. 8-10 & Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 14/15
- GW and GM School Leadership Teams will meet this summer to review 2017-18 data (NWEA/MAP, 5-Essentials Survey, CKH Survey) and engage in the 2018-19 goal-setting process in accordance with [ESSA](#)

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

- In coordination with [LADSE](#), Gower has been awarded additional, one-time funding for the Preschool for All/Early Childhood Program for the the 2017-18 school year in the amount of \$20,000
- Gower will be the host site for a series of K-12 professional learning sessions focused on essential data reports for teachers, student goal-setting, growth, and differentiated instruction led by [NWEA](#) (Aug 7-9)
- Schools can expect a preliminary ‘Tier’ designation based on a number of accountability measures in June according to the [Illinois State Board of Education Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) Plan](#)
- Gower Admin Team will attend an [ESSA](#)/School Accountability Team Training/Planning Session (6/20)
- The selection process to fill our six (6) anticipated teacher vacancies in 2018-19 is underway with final recommendations for new candidates expected ahead of our July 1st target date (6 vacancies filled last year)