



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

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

- As part of the Gower Reads Initiative, students across the district worked together on cross grade-level water projects (2/16), met with Jim Averbek illustrator for [A Long Walk to Water](#) (3/9); related article [here](#). Projects will be completed at the culminating District event on 4/28 at the Burr Ridge Park District
- [PARCC](#) testing will begin on April 4th for students in grades 3-8 in English Language Arts and Math
- Gower Middle School was selected to participate in the [TIMSS](#) (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) and a portion of our 8th grade class will complete the exam on March 16th during math
- Registration for our 2018 Camp Invention summer program for K-5 is now open. Visit this [link](#) to register. Gower is also hosting a mini-STEM Camp at GM for grades 6-8 on June 12-14. Watch for flyer 3/23.

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): 95.2% (95.5%) for our 904 (885) students; 96.5% (96.1%) for our 81 (83) Certified Staff and 96.2% (96.6%) for our 68 (72) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Gower staff who attended the ICE conference led a Lunch and Learn on March 15th to share technology integration strategies that they learned in order to support student learning
- District Culture/Climate surveys will be administered to students & staff to evaluate [CKH](#) implementation
- Required staff trainings (Multiculturalism, Cultural Competency & [Racial Bias](#)) were held during March faculty meetings at respective schools and led by Gower staff members
- Facilities: GW water heater & GM water fountain/bottle filler upgrade project scheduled for spring break

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

- Based on parent feedback collected the Feb. 20th recommendation to leave the current start times for our schools unchanged for 2018-19 is still planned for Board approval at the April 17th meeting ([Appendix A](#))
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2018-2019 school year was held on 3/14 at Gower West (32+ students)
- The District's Annual Science Showcase & STEM Challenge (3/1) and the Gower PTO Fun Fair (3/9) were both well-attended events and an opportunity to highlight our community involvement & support
- The District's Multicultural Night was held March 16th (6:30 – 8:30) at GM to celebrate Gower's diversity
- Gower Middle was represented at the [IESA State Tournament in Wrestling](#) (3/10) in DeKalb and will be represented at the [IJAS South Suburban Regional Science Fair Competition](#) in Aurora (3/17)
- GM students participated in the [IGSMA](#) Solo Contest (2/24) with a number of our musicians awarded

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
- Committee meetings continue and most recently included the Professional Development, RtI, Tech Team, INNOVATE 62, ELL, and GM Math in support of our 2017-18 school/district improvement efforts
- Early Release Day (3/23) includes guest speaker, Michele Yanong from the [Illinois Resource Center](#), who specializes in technology integration and English language development (grant funded)
- Institute Day (4/2) includes staff presentations on RtI, ESSA, and Gower Reads Water Projects; and curriculum development by subject area.

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

- Gower was represented at the NWEA External Insights Event and continue to work with local districts and external partners to build a more appropriate and inclusive model for ‘high school readiness’ ([Appendix B](#))
- A preliminary staffing plan was presented to the Board for the 2018-19 school year ([Appendix C](#))
- The 2018-19 registration process for returning students will begin after spring break
- The 2017-18 Non-Tenured Teacher Evaluation Cycle is complete and met the March 1st state deadline
- The 2017-18 Principal Evaluation Cycle has been completed ahead of the March 1st state deadline
- Final adjustments to the 2017 tax levy which will fund the 2018-19 school year will be filed with the [DuPage County Clerk's Office](#) prior to the 3/28 deadline (final EAV values available 3/19)