



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – April 30, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Illinois Science Assessment for grades 5 and 8 took place on April 24th through science classes
- The 5th-8th grade Course Selection Process at GM for 2019-20 is in its final stages and illustrates a continued interest in our expanded student choice and electives program implemented in 2017 ([Appendix A](#))
- The GM Math Curriculum Committee is recommending a curricular upgrade to the new edition of *Big Ideas: Modeling Real Life* for grades 5-8 as part of the regular curriculum review cycle ([Appendix B](#))
- Expanded Summer 2019 learning activities continue in partnership with [Indian Prairie Library](#) including: DIY Pillow (4-6), STEAM Stories (K-2), Two Online Reading Clubs (4-8), Origami Bookmarks (K-4), & Radial Name Designs (5-8) - Registration link coming soon from Indian Prairie Library

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*): 95.5% (95.1%) for our 889 (905) students; 96.4% (96.6%) for our 80 (81) Certified Staff and 97.5% (96.2%) for our 60 (68) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings held on 4/9 focused on the topic of ADHD and was led by Gower's Social Workers
- 3rd Qtr. Discipline Reports indicate that GW is on-track & GM is off-track from annual goals ([Appendix C](#))
- GM held its first 'Gower Scholars Program' (4/22) as part of a local leadership and mentoring effort - the program included a high school student panel for our current 8th graders focused on high school readiness
- Facilities - GM LED Lighting Project (Phase 1) complete with anticipated annual savings of \$3,600 (energy) and \$2,400 (maintenance). Plans for GW LED Lighting Project (Phase 1) underway for spring/summer 19'

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

- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) closed with parent participation rates of 34% at GW and 25% for GM missing our standing goal of 35%. Full report forthcoming as we await data set from Univ. of Chicago
- The [Gower Foundation](#) plans to survey the community for topics to continue the [Speaker Series](#) in 2019-20
- The Gower Board of Education held a public hearing on the topic of eLearning (4/30) - An updated report was provided to the Board as part of a 4-part eLearning report series beginning Dec. 2018 ([Appendix D](#))
- The [WSCAE Art Expo](#) will be held 4/27 at the Chaney Mansion and will feature artwork from both schools
- Gower was represented at [Sen. Curran's](#) inaugural Educational Advisory Committee meeting (4/17)
- The GM Science Olympiad Team competed at the [College of DuPage Regional Tournament](#) (3/9)
- District-wide Prevent the Summer Slide Night is being held on May 7th at GM to provide students and parents with summer at-home ideas to Grow Your Skills, Be Healthy & Safe, Make a Positive Difference

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

- After-school committee meetings continue and most recently included K-8 ELA, GM Foreign Language, GM Math, K-8 AT, Planning for Prevent the Summer Slide Night, Mentoring, STEM, GM Social Studies
- The Gower Parent/Teacher Advisory Committee is meeting on May 6th to discuss the 2018-2019 handbook
- [District PERA Committee](#) completed evaluation rubrics for the new School Counselor and Instructional & Student Support Specialist (Teacher Leader) positions being added to our certified staff roster in 2019-20
- GM Social Studies teachers and admin are watching [HB2265](#), which has implications for a required middle school Civics Class in grades 6, 7, or 8 by 2019-2020 or, by 2020-2021, per Amendment 1 to the bill

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

- GW has been recognized as a 2018-19 [Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School](#) - A 4-time winner!
- Hiring recommendations for 2019-20 teacher vacancies are complete and interviews are underway for School Counselor position - An updated Staffing Plan has been provided to the Board ([Appendix E](#))
- Final adjustments to the 2018 tax levy which will fund the 2019-20 school year was filed with the [DuPage County Clerk's Office](#) prior to the 3/27 deadline (final EAV values available 3/19)
- GW has been selected as an [IL EMPOWER](#) Peer to Peer Learning Partner (GM to apply again in May)
- Preliminary FY20 budgets have been presented to the BOE for O & M and Transportation
- District local revenue projections for FY20 were within 0.02% of the final property tax levy calculated by the [DuPage County Clerk](#) - The \$13,561,737 tax extension represents roughly 86% of total revenue