



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – May 23, 2019 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The P.E. Dept. has submitted student fitness data related to Enhanced P.E. requirements ([Appendix A](#))
- The INNOVATE 62 Committee, Tech Team, and Admin recommend the use of Chromebooks in K-1 beginning in 2019-20. Existing K-1 iPads will be repurposed for Classroom Centers and Art Room use
- ISBE released 18-19 ACCESS scores as a measure of student performance in our English Learner Program 19% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (19% in 17-18)
- Gower Middle awarded \$2,897.50 as part of an [IAHPERD](#) grant for smart heart rate monitors to enhance physical education units in grades 5-8
- Gower will continue to host a Summer Band program for students in grades 4-7 as well as STEM opportunities from grades K-7: Camp Invention at GW and STEM Camp at GM

**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*): 95.6% (95.2%) for our 887 (904) students; 96.3% (96.5%) for our 80 (80) Certified Staff and 97.4% (96.2%) for our 60 (68) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings (School Safety Drills) were held during May faculty meetings and led by principals
- Students in grades 4-8 were screened using [SAEBRS](#) (fall and spring) to assess social-emotional and behavior risks/concerns and to determine interventions/supports as needed
- IDEA Flow Through grant funds were used to host 5 field trips for a small group of GM special education students to Transition Town in Tinley Park to focus on IEP goals such as executive functioning skills
- Facilities - The pre-construction meeting for the Gower Middle HVAC rooftop unit replacement and mechanical work (\$129,000) was held with work expected to begin on June 4<sup>th</sup>

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

- Our Annual Spring Musical (4/25-26) and the Annual Band Concert (GM-5/2 and GW 5/9) were well-attended and demonstrated the high value placed on our music/band program
- Kindergarten registration for 2019-20 continues with 69 new Gladiators ready to go (*May 18'=83; 17'=69*)
- Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for 5/16 (7-8 p.m. @ GW) to welcome the Class of 2027
- Gower will host a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) meeting (5/21) for private and home-schooled students in our District as part of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)) requirements
- Close to 100 parents/students participated in Gower's Prevent the Summer Slide event held on May 7th and resulted in the sharing of ideas for families in the areas of fitness, reading, math, STEM, healthy snacks, music, art, making a positive difference, and social emotional learning.

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

- The 2019-20 Parent Student Handbook draft is expected as part of the June 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting
- Our [PERA Committee](#) reviewed the Teacher Appraisal Process and updated the handbook for 2019-2020
- *#Gower Learns* "Continuing Summer Vacation" is the theme for our virtual summer teacher professional learning program. 'Excursions' include Google Certification, *Front Desk (global learning focus)*, and on-site Global Learning Action Plan, Mentor training, Defined STEM, Co-Teaching, and Hitting the CKH Turbo Button
- 2018-19 committee meetings continue and most recently included the Camp Invention, Summer Step Planning, Mentoring, Tech Team, GM Math, Parent/Student Handbook, Innovate 62
- GM Social Studies teachers and admin continue to monitor [HB2265](#), which has implications for a required middle school Civics Class in grades 6, 7, or 8 by 2020-21 awaits 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and final vote in the IL Senate

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

- The selection process to fill our (5) anticipated teacher vacancies in 2019-20 is complete including a recommendation for the new School Counselor position ahead of our July 1<sup>st</sup> target (*0.5 position remaining*)
- Gower's SpEd Program received the highest rating in each of the (7) measures in the [annual state review](#)
- The preliminary FY20 Education Fund budget has been presented to the BOE for review
- District [Federal Grant Plans](#) for FY20 have been submitted according to new ISBE requirements
- GM has applied to be selected as an [IL EMPOWER](#) Peer to Peer Learning Partner