



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – August 21, 2018 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Over 400 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs for the third year in a row! Evidence of achieving the goal of expanding program offerings set in 2016 ([Appendix A](#))
- 2018-19 marks the 5 year anniversary of our [i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a 5-year timeline ([Appendix B](#))
- The [Middlebury Interactive Language Program](#) enters Year 2, continuing to offer Spanish, French, German, and Mandarin as language options. Our first year review indicates program goals were met ([Appendix C](#))
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades K-8 is scheduled to begin the week of Aug. 27
- 2017 Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS) data has been shared [here](#) by [ISBE](#) (The average 'K Readiness' level for Gower was 78% across observed measures compared to 41% statewide)

**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.*

- Enrollment as of Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> is 493 students at GW, including 92 (79 previous year) Kindergarten students, and 394 students at GM, (486 GW/397 GM at the start of last school year)
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 21<sup>st</sup> and will include district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and [Social Emotional Learning](#) framework remains a focus for ongoing improvement efforts & teacher training
- Facilities Update: Parking lot upgrades are complete at both campuses. The draft of Gower's Master Facility Needs/Plan developed in partnership with the district's architect is approaching final form

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

- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> & Kindergarten/New Student Orientation was held on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>
- The annual Village of Willowbrook/Gower PTO Back to School Event and Gower School District's Open House/Meet and Greet were held on Aug. 15<sup>th</sup> and attended by hundreds of Gower families
- Save the dates for our 2018-19 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> at GW and Aug 30<sup>th</sup> at GM
- The 2018-19 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- 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.*

- Our Summer Professional Development Program, "Summer PD It's Easy as 1, 2, 3", led by Gower staff, included more than 40 of our teachers across blended and virtual programs (including six additional teachers certified as Level I [Google Certified Educators](#) (now 19) and two teachers certified at Level II (now 10)
- New Teacher I<sup>3</sup>-Week/Orientation was held Aug. 8-10 & Back to School Teacher Institute Days were held Aug. 14-15 for certified staff and Aug. 16<sup>th</sup> for ESP - We're off to a great start!
- GW and GM School Leadership Teams met this summer to review 2017-18 data (NWEA/MAP, 5-Essentials Survey, CKH Survey) and engage directly in the continuous improvement process
- The District Professional Development Committee developed the following theme for the 2018-19 school year: #GowerLEARNS---LaugH, Engage, Affirm, Reflect, Nurture, Share

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

- Hiring is completed for our (6) teacher vacancies for the start of the school year; ESP (Education Support Personnel) positions to be filled include 2 Teacher Aide and 3 Bus Driver positions ([Employment Link](#))
- Gower hosted 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)
- 2017-18 End of Year financial reports indicate a surplus of \$640,664 with the deficit projection across all district funds of \$722,093 not realized due to cost-cutting/savings measures and early tax payments received
- The 2018-19 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/24 to the Board meeting on 9/25
- Schools can expect a final [Tier Designation](#) based on a number of accountability measures in October according to the [Illinois State Board of Education Every Student Succeeds Act \(ESSA\) Plan](#)