



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – February 18, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- MOY (Middle of Year) NWEA/MAP testing in Reading and Math is complete for students in grades K-8 and mid-year growth data indicates high levels of attainment and growth in both subject areas ([Appendix A](#))
- The 2020 Blue Stem & Caudill Challenge at GM included students and staff reading a total of 486 books at GW and 781 books at GM, with 13 GW students and 11 GM students finishing all 20 nominated titles
- Science Showcase participants in grades 5-8 will compete in the [WSCAE Brookfield Zoo Science Fair](#) on 2/20 and five 8th grade students will compete in Regionals on 3/7 at North Central College in Naperville
- 6th gr. students completed Robert Crown's "[Life Begins](#)" program (2/14) as part of the Health Curriculum
- Summer Step Up and ESY Programs for targeted Gower Middle and Gower West students are being planned for June 1-25. Parents will receive a letter and registration information in the next few weeks

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): 95.8% (95.9%) for our 886 (873) students; 96.0% (96.6%) for our 84 (80) Certified Staff and 97.0% (97.0%) for our 62 (60) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Required staff trainings held during February faculty meetings were focused on State Testing Protocols/schedules (the Illinois Assessment of Readiness; CogAT) and led by building principals
- [Gower Cares](#) launched for students, parents, and staff to identify student/family needs (additional support, clothing or school supply items from the Gower Cares Closet, recommendations for community resources)
- Facilities Update: The results of the 2018 Facility Assessment Report and the feedback from the GW and GM Campus Facility and Projects Survey are included in a Capital Improvement Update ([Appendix B](#))

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 39% at GW and 23% for GM approaching our standing goal of 35%. Full report forthcoming as we await data set from Univ. of Chicago
- The [Gower PTO](#) Sweetheart Dance (2/7 at GW) was a hit! Save the Date for their Fun Fair on 3/6 at GM
- District Multicultural Night will be held on February 28th at Gower West (note the location change) - join us for food and music from different countries of the world and a passport contest for the students
- The [Gower Foundation Speaker Series](#), *Continuing to Invest in Gower*, focused on the ongoing investments made across our school facilities, student supports, and instructional programs - [View presentation here](#)
- The District's Campus Projects & Referendum Committee is being developed to explore the campus needs & wants and develop an appropriate plan - please contact the District Office if you are interested in joining

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

- The District Calendar Committee met on Jan. 21 and posted draft 2020-21 and 2021-22 calendars on the district website for community feedback and Board approval ([Appendix C](#))
- Early Release Day (2/14): Parent Teacher Conferences as needed; the 2/27 Lead & Learn will focus on the new interactive panels and Smart Learning Suite Online
- 2019-20 District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team Meeting, District Threat Assessment, District Mentoring, Academically Talented, ELA, and Professional Development
- GW Staff presenting the topic of STEAM Lab Collaboration at the [NAEA Natl. Convention](#) in MN (3/27)

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

- Gower administrators and staff hosted a site visit for administrators of D107 to learn more about our expanded Foreign Language blended learning program
- Gower Admin completed the [EL - Title III](#) Intent to Apply application with local partners by Feb. 7
- A recommendation for 2020-2021 school registration and transportation fees has been provided to the Board for approval and includes a pre-approved increase to the Bus Service fee ([Appendix D](#))
- District administrators continue to review staffing plans for the 2020-21 school year with an ongoing commitment to maximize student supports - staffing plan is expected for the March Board Meeting
- The 5th Annual High School Transition Survey was administered in collaboration with D86 and local feeder districts and the data indicate a high degree of readiness from our most recent graduates ([Appendix E](#))
- The 2019-20 Principal Evaluation Cycle has been completed ahead of the March 1st state deadline