



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – May 19, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The District English Language Learner Committee completed the program review and recommends the addition of [Ellevation](#), a new platform for data, instructional strategies, and monitoring ([Appendix A](#))
- The District English Language Arts Committee will extend their work to make a final recommendation into the 2020-2021 school year due to the extended school closure ([Appendix B](#))
- The 5th-8th grade Course Selection Process at GM for 2020-21 is in its final stages and illustrates a continued interest in our expanded student choice and electives program implemented in 2017 ([Appendix C](#))
- ISBE released 19-20 ACCESS scores as a measure of student performance in our English Learner Program 13% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (19% in 18-19 and 17-18)
- Summer Step Up and ESY are being offered remotely from June 1-25. While on-site camps are cancelled, Camp Invention is being offered as a virtual Camp Invention Connect option from June 15-19

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.*

- Student Enrollment is 892 for PreK-8; Average K-8 Student Participation/Engagement Rate since 3/16 is 93.9%; improving from 93.5% reported in April (Avg. K-8 Attendance Rate from 8/16 - 3/13 was 95.6%)
- The [Breakfast & Lunch Grab n' Go Program](#) continues to be available at Door #1 at Gower West Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through May 22nd; and will continue Tuesdays and Thursdays starting on May 26th
- Required staff trainings for the 2019-20 school year were completed with the last topic held virtually
- Facilities Update: Revised drafts of the proposed addition at GW, developed from our Campus Facility and Projects Survey, are available for review along with the Prototype Classroom Furniture design ([Appendix D](#))

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

- Registration Information for 2020-21 was sent home on 5/15 through our school principals. Electronic Forms will be sent to parents/guardians through Gower Docusign on 5/18 to begin the new process
- The [Gower PTO](#) created a student video of the new Gower Greeting as a tribute to teachers and staff for their hard work and dedication during the school closure
- [Kindergarten Orientation](#) was held remotely on 5/12 (7-8:30 p.m. on Zoom) to welcome the Class of 2029
- Gower held a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) meeting (5/18) for private and home-schooled students in our District as part of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([IDEA](#)) requirements
- The [Gower Foundation](#) held a virtual eLearning 101 Parent Session on 5/7 with the teacher eLearning teams. Thank you to all of the parents and staff that made the event a hit!

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

- The IL Assoc. for Health, Physical Ed., Recreation and Dance awarded a Blue Ribbon - their highest honor for excellence - to GW ([The only school in Illinois with 6th consecutive Blue Ribbons from IAHPERD](#))
- The Calendar Committee developed additional plans or options as we await guidance from the DuPage Health Department, the Governor's Office, and the CDC ([Appendix E](#))
- The Professional Development Committee developed a new survey for teachers to indicate summer PD needs in light of current school closure status.
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee worked virtually to draft the new 2020-2021 handbook for Board review ([Appendix F](#))
- Curriculum committee meetings continue virtually and most recently included Tech Team, Parent Student Handbook Special Education ECE-8th grade, Covid-19 Transition, Summer Step Up, and ESY
- The [PERA Committee](#) worked together virtually on language for tenured teacher evaluations based on the available guidance from the Illinois State Board of Education and Illinois Education Association

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

- GW was nominated as a '[Capturing Kids' Hearts Showcase School](#)' for the 5th straight year. Congratulations!
- The selection process to fill our (4) anticipated teacher vacancies in 2020-21 is complete including a recommendation for the new District Math Specialist position ahead of our July 1st target
- The District Covid-19 Transition Committee convened on May 8th and again on May 14th to set a committee work schedule for the summer and begin planning for the opening of the 2020-21 school year
- Gower's SpEd Program received the highest rating in each of the (7) measures in the [annual state review](#)
- The preliminary FY21 Education Fund budget has been presented to the BOE for review