



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – October 20, 2020 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our [Return to School Plan](#) is the epitome of the 'Ambitious Instruction' category as our school community is engaging in simultaneous in-person and remote learning settings for students from Pre-K-8th grade
- The Illinois State Board of Education is expected to release the [IL School Report Card](#) on Oct. 31st which will not include 2019-20 IAR or other student performance data given COVID-19 cancellations last year
- 83% of our K students demonstrated 'Readiness' in at least one of the three developmental areas in the 2019 screening of the [KIDS observation protocol](#) (77% previous year). Fall 2020 screenings are underway
- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is complete for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning ([Appendix A](#))
- Our 5th grade students and families participated in our annual [Health/Puberty Program](#) led by Candor Health Education (formally Robert Crown); held virtually this year on October 8th

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): 98.0% (97.3%) for our 900 (881) students; 97.2% (98.5%) for our 83 (83) Certified Staff and 96.1% (99.4%) for our 56 (61) Non-Certified Staff. Goal = 97%+
- Student medical compliance is 97% (97%) at GW & 100% (100%) at GM prior to the 10/15 deadline
- Required staff trainings on October 6th were completed by school social workers on the following topics: Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento, Domestic & Sexual Violence
- The LED lighting project was completed across both campuses and yielded \$43,488 in ComEd energy savings rebates which was, in turn, used to purchase air purifiers for each of our classrooms
- Facilities Update: [Revised drafts](#) of the proposed addition at GW are available on our [Campus Projects & Referendum page](#) - The \$14 million/zero tax rate increase question is on the Nov. 3rd ballot ([Appendix B](#))

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

- The [Gower Foundation](#) hosted a [Superintendent Chat](#) on 10/15 to provide a 'community walkthrough' of the proposed GW addition proposal and Nov. 3rd Referendum - Use [this link](#) to RSVP for future chats
- Be sure to visit the [PTO website](#) to get involved and watch for details on a Halloween Drive-Thru at GW
- Gower PTO and Gower 62 are co-sponsoring a Northern Illinois Food Mobile Drive Thru at Gower West on Nov. 9th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. to help families in need - Informational flyer will be coming soon!
- GW & GM parents are encouraged to use the [Parent Portal](#) to monitor student progress
- Virtual Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on Nov. 23rd from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Parents will be able to sign up through an online program, PickATime - watch for more information to be shared by our schools

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

- District Committee work is underway and most recently involved our PERA Committee, GM and GW Special Education Departments, ELL, Tech Team, and District Mentoring
- The [PERA Committee](#) met on 9/29 and established a [modified process](#) for the Teacher Appraisal System to be used in Gower for the 2020-21 school year due to the COVID-19 impact on teaching and learning
- Our October 13th Institute Days included Part 2 of the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training, a Literacy training by the ELA Curriculum Committee for GW; and department meeting planning for instruction at GM; both schools using [Illinois Priority Standards](#) to guide their work
- The District Threat Assessment Committee will continue to learn more about mental health and trauma informed practices through a [DuPage NAMI](#) presentation (10/27) called *Ending the Silence*

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

- The [2020-2021 District Budget](#) was formally adopted by the Board of Education on September 22, 2020
- Gower was represented in the [Illinois Schools Step Up Webinar Series](#) for the IL Assoc. of School Leaders on Aug. 25th and is scheduled to be part of a [virtual panel](#) on Nov. 4th for the IL Assoc. of School Boards
- Gower's [Return to School webpage](#) continues to be a resource for other districts moving to an in-person learning model; of particular interest has been the self-certification card and completion of quarantine form
- The required plan for state and federal grant funding for 2020-21 was approved by ISBE and included improvement plans, a review of student data and needs, and alignment of grants to state and district goals
- Gower will receive \$98,523 for 2020-2021 in the ESEA as Amended Grant: Title I (\$71,416), Title II (\$17,107), and Title IV (\$10,000)