



Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – September 22, 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
- 2020-201 marks the 6 year anniversary of our [i³ Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- [NWEA/MAP](#) Beginning of Year benchmark testing in Reading and Math is being administered 9/14-10/2 for our K-8 students and the resulting data will be used to shape classroom instruction and student learning
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix A](#))
- Our 7th gr. Social Studies curriculum now includes additional civics instruction per ([Public Act 101-0254](#))

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.*

- The [Capturing Kids' Hearts](#) process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and [Social Emotional Learning](#) framework continues with on-site training held Sept. 17/18 for our new staff
- Our August Staff Institute Days included COVID-19 safety training, Nonviolent Crisis Intervention, and CPR/AED training as well as remote trainings for Blood Borne Pathogens and Sexual Harassment
- Our annual Crisis Response Meeting is scheduled for August 27th and will include district stakeholders as well as representatives from Willowbrook Police Dept., Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- Our anti-bullying efforts include an online reporting system – [Tip 62](#) – linked to school websites that allows for anonymous reporting (1 report were submitted in 2019-20 and investigated/resolved accordingly)
- 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.*

- [5-Essentials Survey Data](#) indicates a 'well-organized' district, improvement in targeted areas for 2019-20, and was used to help set annual goals - [ISBE](#) has shared the participating public school data [here](#) ([Appendix C](#))
- The [Gower Foundation](#) hosted a [Superintendent Chat](#) on 9/17 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 in the virtual and in-person activities they have planned throughout the school year including upcoming Fundraisers that help support our classrooms
- Virtual Meet & Greets were held this year to introduce parents/students to their teachers and classrooms - Virtual Curriculum Nights are scheduled on 9/30 for both GW and GM (more info in school eblasts)
- The [Parent-Student Handbook](#) is a useful document and can be found on the district website/Parent Info

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

- The Gower Educators Association (Teachers' Union) has been instrumental in an effective school reopening
- The Professional Development Committee completed the Virtual Summer 2020 #GowerLearns Pathways to include three options: #1: Focus on Digital Learning Tools; #2: Virtual Book Club, *Live Your Excellence*; and #3: Google I and II Certification (increasing the number of [Google Certified Educators](#) on staff)
- New Teacher Orientation was held from August 12-14 to welcome new teachers and introduce mentors
- 2020-21 District Committee work is underway and most recently involved our Annual Crisis Committee, K-8 ELA, GM and GW Special Education Departments, Transition Committee, & ELL ([Appendix D](#))
- The [PERA Committee](#) is scheduled to meet on September 29th to discuss the Teacher Appraisal System

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

- The 2020-2021 District Budget is being submitted to the Board of Education for adoption
- Our [IDEA Part B Consolidated Grant](#) was approved (\$183,618) to support our Early Childhood Program and our Special Needs (IEP) students to off-set program costs
- Gower has partnered with the DuPage ROE & Comcast to offer free Internet Essentials to families in need
- Virtual Return to School Lunch and Learns (July-Aug.) and the [10-part Return to School Weekly Update series](#) have helped keep our community informed throughout the reopening of the 2020-21 school year
- [ISBE Evidence Based Funding Calculations](#) indicate Gower's 'Percent of Adequacy' is 116% for the current school year resulting in \$598,425.63 of state funding (2019-20 values were 115% and \$598,425.63)
- The current administrative framework utilized for student placement and resulting class size meets our teaching and learning priorities and accounts for local and state budgetary guidelines ([Appendix E](#))