



## Superintendent's Report - Board of Education Meeting – December 19, 2023 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Winter [NWEA MAP testing](#) and [FastBridge Screening](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 16-26 for our K-8 students and [ACCESS testing](#) has been scheduled for Jan. 29 - Feb. 29 for our English Learners
- Our English Learner Program serves the individual needs of 97 students that represent 30 different native languages spoken in Gower ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower participated in the [Hour of Code](#) Dec. 4-11 using hands-on coding activities in various class settings
- The District's Annual STEM Night/Science Showcase is scheduled for Feb. 15<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm at GW - This event is open to all families and will feature hands-on STEM activities for students in grades K-8

**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: 95.0% (95.0%) for GW (K-4); 96.1% (96.5%) for GM; 94.1% (95.9%) - Teaching Staff and 95.1% (96.7%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required staff training in December was completed on 12/12, led by Gower Social Workers, and focused Erin's Law, McKinney-Vento, Domestic and Sexual Violence; including Teen Dating Violence for GM
- The Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH) Campus Visits will be held on January 30<sup>th</sup> with a representative of CKH meeting with teachers and administrators to assess our continued implementation of the process
- *Thank You* to the GM parent community for their cooperation with the traffic flow change (right turn only) in and out of our lot each day during arrival and dismissal times. *We're in This Together!*

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

- Our eLearning Practice Day on Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup> had student participation rates of 96% for GM and 87% for GW
- The GM Winter Band & Chorus Concert on 12/7 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Music Program on 12/14 were big hits!
- The annual [5-Essentials Survey](#) opens on Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have a standing goal of 35% parent participation and encourage all of our families to help us meet it! - *Last year; 52% GW, 37% GM (state avg. 19%)*
- The [Gower PTO](#) and [Gower Foundation](#) continues to support our school community and are currently running a joint fundraiser to help support the [Gower Cares Closet](#)
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is looking for feedback through a ['Topics of Interests Survey'](#) for Season 2 of the [Gladiator Soundboard Podcast!](#) If you missed the 1st episode of Season 2, [Children at Their Best](#); listen today!!!

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

- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, District Threat Assessment Team, ELL, Innovate 62, and K-4 Science.
- Our afternoon Professional Learning on 12/22 is school-based and focused on Essential Standards, Standards Alignment, and Learning Progressions
- Gower was represented at the IL Assoc. for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (IAHPERD) [Annual Convention](#) (11/30-12/1) with our very own Ms. Jen Stankiewicz being honored as the Middle School Teacher of the Year; and presenting a session for middle school teachers, "More Than a Game"
- The Calendar Committee provided feedback on the 2024-2025 school calendar up for approval at the Dec. 19th Board meeting; and developed a draft of the 2025-2026 school calendar ([Appendix B](#)) up for review
- The GEA and Board remain on-track with the [timeline](#) for their 2023-24 Collective Bargaining Agreement and hosted an introductory meeting to initiate our Interest Based Bargaining Process on Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

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

- Gower will receive \$10,700 as part of the consortium grant with Hinsdale District 86 to support our English Language Learner program - ISBE approved the grant on 10/11
- Gower received additional allocations for Title and IDEA grants. Title I, II, and IV grants increased by a total of \$54,735 and IDEA grants increased by a total of \$23,363 - New totals for the 2023-24 school year are \$169,692 for Title grants and \$221,163 for IDEA grants
- Gower received a professional development support offset grant (\$2,200) from the Dupage ROE
- Gower is working to ensure the continuation of the [High School Transition Survey](#) given annually to all D86 9<sup>th</sup> grade students - 2023-24 would mark the 7<sup>th</sup> year of this area-wide survey
- The final report from our annual financial audit completed in Nov. by an independent auditor shows that the district is in compliance with all financial reporting requirements by the [IL State Board of Education](#)
- As part of the ongoing Gower Leadership Transition Plan, the recommendation for GW Assistant Principal, Melissa Capizzi, to begin as GW Principal effective July 1, 2024 is being presented to the Board for approval
- Winter break marks the beginning of the annual review of current instructional programs and staffing needs in preparation for the 2024-25 school year budget by school and district administrators