



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – May 14, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Spring NWEA/MAP testing for K-8 is nearly complete and the EOY Report will be presented in June
- Our 5th and 6th grade students participated in an [Erin's Law](#) lesson on 4/16 through programming led by Gower Staff (The 7th and 8th grade student presentation was held on 3/19)
- Our 7th and 8th grade students participated in Teen Depression lessons on 4/30 through programming from [Erika's Lighthouse](#) and led by Gower Staff
- Final plans are underway for our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities beginning on June 3rd at Gower West and Gower Middle - Registration was extended from 5/3 to 5/10 to encourage enrollment
- On May 3rd, Gower Middle hosted a Step Up Day for the Gower West 4th grade students; students went on a tour and participated in various activities to prepare for an effective transition to 5th grade

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: 94.2% (93.0%) for GW (K-4); 95.1% (94.9%) for GM; 94.5% (94.0%) - Teaching Staff and 95.2% (96.2%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- Required Staff Trainings held on May 7th focused on Crisis and Emergency Plans and led by Principals
- All staff will take part in a Capturing Kids Hearts kick-off “Winning Culture” training for the 2024-2025 school year - This is in addition to the annual training for new staff since implementation began in 2013
- Our Student Services and *Gower Cares* program has been expanded to include a joint [PTO](#) and [Foundation](#) grant (\$1,800) to support families in crisis and living in transitional housing ([ROE McKinney-Vento](#))

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

- Use our [Registration Page](#) to complete the process for the 2024-25 school year - Registration began April 5th
- Kindergarten Orientation was held on May 2nd and welcomed ~70 families to Gower West in an effort to support, prepare, and help families adjust to this important school transition
- The Spring Musical held on April 25th & 26th and the Gower Middle Spring Band Concert held on May 2nd were all well attended and showcased the talent of our students as well as the support of our community!
- The Gower Foundation [Art Symposium](#) was held on May 9th and a great reminder of how important the investment of the Gower West Addition has been to our school community
- Gower will hold a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) Meeting on May 23rd for private and home schooled students in our district as part of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requirements
- The [Gower Foundation](#) is excited to host their Biannual Charity Gala on September 28, 2024 in support of Gower School District programs - information regarding sponsorships can be found [here](#)
- The [Gower PTO](#) hosted the 8th Grade Dance on May 10th as part of a series of celebratory and culminating events for our graduates as they prepare for Graduation and their transition to high school

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

- The GEA and Board remain on-track with the Collective Bargaining Agreement [timeline](#) with our most recent meeting held on May 2nd to continue the bargaining process and move towards final agreement
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Special Education Teams, Professional Development, Accelerated Track, Leadership Development, and Summer School Planning
- The May 24th Early Release Day is school-based and focused on End-of-Year Teacher Checklist
- The 2024-2025 Parent/Student Handbook is in the process of being revised and updated and will be presented to the Board at the June meeting with final publication/posting in early August
- The Professional Development Committee is offering Sizzlin' Summer PD Sessions both in person and virtually featuring learning about various tech tools, AI, Canva, and an Ultimate Summer Podcast Playlist

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

- Gower West and Gower Middle School were recognized as [Capturing Kids' Hearts National Showcase Schools](#) for the 2023-2024 school year! This is the 9th consecutive year for Gower West and the 3rd year for Gower Middle! Congratulations! Gower continues to be recognized as a National CKH Showcase District
- The preliminary FY25 Education Budget (~\$14.8M) is being presented to the Board for review and forecasts alignment between projected revenue and expenditure for 2024-25 (*projected deficit of \$283 or .002%*)
- There have been no changes to the [2024-25 Preliminary Staffing Plan](#) presented to the Board in March and hiring is complete for 5 of our 6 open certified positions for next year (*Final vacancy in progress*)
- [Gower West](#) and [Gower Middle](#) Principals have launched their individual school feedback surveys as a way to generate direct parent input that will be used by School Leadership Teams for ongoing improvement