



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – June 18, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- Our End-of-Year (EOY) student performance data on NWEA/MAP indicates high levels of achievement and growth for the 2023-24 school year. 8 of 10 ambitious district goals were met this year ([Appendix A](#))
- 2023-24 preliminary [IAR](#) data indicates 73% of our 3rd-8th graders 'met or exceeded standards' in Reading and 56% in Math - 68%, 59% in Reading and 55%, 51% in Math the previous 2 years (full report this fall)
- Preliminary 23-24 [ACCESS](#) scores for student performance in our English Learner Program indicate 8% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (15% in 22-23; 11% in 21-22)
- Our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities began on June 3rd at Gower West and Gower Middle - We have 184 students registered across all programs!
- Extended School Year programs are underway at GM and throughout LADSE for our qualifying special education students. Gower is hosting an elementary and middle school classroom this summer

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.*

- Our final attendance rates for 2023-24: 94.0% (93.0%) for GW (K-4); 95.3% (94.9%) for GM; 94.6% (94.0%) for our Teaching Staff and 95.3% (96.2%) for our Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- The [Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce](#) plans to host a summer backpack drive to support children in Gower 62 and area schools - Gower Cares will plan a packing event in August
- GM After School Tutoring Program during 10th Hour will continue for the 2024-2025 school year. This program is led by Gower Staff and supported by Gower Grads!
- Our Annual Safety Committee meeting held with our local Police and Fire partner agencies is scheduled for 7/15 to review our existing Emergency Operations Plan and update based on partner recommendations

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
- Plans for the 5th Grade Orientation scheduled for Aug. 8th are underway (watch for GM Parent eBlasts)
- Hold the date for our Annual Back to School Meet & Greet/Open House on Aug. 21st (details to follow)
- Hold the date for our Annual Curriculum Nights - Aug. 28th at GW and Sept. 5th at GM (details to follow)
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities/programs

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

- The GEA and Board agreed to a new, five-year [Collective Bargaining Agreement \(2024-2029\)](#) which was ratified by the Teachers' Association on 5/13 and approved by the Board on 5/14
- District Committee work continues and most recently involved our Tech Team and Special Education Teams to close out the 2023-24 school year - School Leadership Teams are expected to meet this summer
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee has provided a draft copy for the 2024-2025 school year for Board review prior to final adoption and posting in August ([Appendix B](#))
- Planning continues throughout the summer with work sessions and learning opportunities for GM SpEd Reading, GM Science, and GW grade level teams focused on standards alignment and collaborative practices
- New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for Aug. 12-13; Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 19-21; ESP Staff Institute is scheduled for Aug. 19
- The PERA Committee is scheduled to meet on July 15th to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year

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

- There have been no changes to the [2024-25 Preliminary Staffing Plan](#) presented to the Board in March and hiring is complete for 7 of our 8 open certified positions for next year (*Final vacancy in progress*)
- GW and GM Principals will incorporate their individual school feedback survey data and direct parent input with their respective 5Essentials and other local data for continuous school improvement efforts
- 2023-24 [5-Essentials Survey Data](#) indicates a 'well-organized' school district and will be used to help set annual goals - [ISBE](#) is expected to release the participating school data [here](#) by June 30th ([Appendix C](#))
- The tentative 2024-25 school budget is scheduled for BOE review at the August 20th meeting
- District grants for the 2024-25 school year will be submitted by June 30th according to ISBE requirements
- The Gower Leadership Team has reviewed the [2024-2027 ISBE Strategic Plan](#) for familiarity and to determine areas of alignment with our local school improvement plans
- Gower will represent the state of Illinois as a presenter at the CCSSO [National Conference on Student Assessment](#) held in Seattle, WA (June 24-26) - *Student Success indicators: Addressing root causes with data and action*