



## Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – August 20, 2024 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- More than 180 students across various grade levels participated in our summer learning programs
- 2024-25 marks the 11 year anniversary of our [i<sup>3</sup> Learning Initiative](#) (Innovate, Integrate, Inspire) that has reshaped our district learning environment through the responsible incorporation of technology
- [NWEA/MAP](#) testing in ELA and Math for grades 1-8 is scheduled to begin the week of August 28<sup>th</sup> for GW and September 2<sup>nd</sup> for GM
- Our curriculum review cycle has been updated and reflects a rolling 5-year timeline ([Appendix A](#))
- Our [Public Suggestions and Concerns \(8:110\)](#) and [Equal Educational Opportunities \(7:10\)](#) policies help promote equity, cultural competency, and maximum involvement across our community ([Appendix B](#))

**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.*

- Enrollment on Aug. 19<sup>th</sup> is 519 at GW, including 85 K students (79 & 112 previous two years), and 407 at GM, (539/522 GW & 377/380 GM at the start of the previous two school years)
- The [Capturing Kids' Hearts](#) process, introduced in 2013-14 to enhance our school culture/climate and [Social Emotional Learning](#) framework remains a focus for ongoing improvement efforts & teacher training
- The Gower Cares school supply packing event was held on August 15<sup>th</sup> at GM from 2:00-4:00 pm and 45 backpacks are ready for pick-up on August 20<sup>th</sup> ahead of the Meet & Greet
- Our annual Safety Committee/Crisis Response Meeting was held on July 15<sup>th</sup> and included input from district staff as well as the Willowbrook and Burr Ridge Police Dept., and Tri-State Fire District
- In accordance with the [Student Online Privacy Protection Act](#) parents can make student privacy related requests/inquiries by emailing [DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com](mailto:DataPrivacyOfficer@gower62.com)
- Facilities Update: Both school campuses are ready for the start of the 2024-25 school year with some additional traffic safety upgrades around the Gower West campus

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

- The 2024-25 [Parent-Student Handbook](#) has been posted on the district website under the Parent Info tab
- The annual Gower Back to School Meet and Greet is scheduled for Aug. 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-6 p.m. at GW and GM
- The [Gower PTO](#) is hosting a Back to School Bash at Gower West from 5:30-7:30 p.m. as part of our Meet and Greet Event! - Be sure to stop by and meet your Teachers and stick around to enjoy the festivities!!!
- Save the dates for our 2024-25 Curriculum Nights at 7:00 p.m. on Aug. 28<sup>th</sup> at GW and Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at GM
- Save the date for Gower's Multicultural Extravaganza 2024 on October 17<sup>th</sup> at GW; more details to come
- 5<sup>th</sup> Gr. Orientation was held on Aug. 8<sup>th</sup> for parents and students to learn more about the middle school
- Parents and families are encouraged to visit the [Gower PTO](#) and the [Gower Foundation](#) websites for updated information on ongoing activities - Save the date for the [Foundation Gala](#) - Sept. 28, 2024

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

- Our Virtual Summer 2024 professional learning program for certified staff included a summer educational podcast playlist, AI, Google Apps, and Organizational Tips and Tricks; with about 40 teachers participating!
- New Teacher Orientation was held Aug. 12-13; Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 19-21 with an *All Staff Institute* on Aug. 19 featuring a CKH Winning Culture Professional Learning Experience
- District Committee work continued throughout the summer and involved our GM Science; grade level and subject area departments curriculum work, whole child support, and School Leadership Teams
- The District's PERA Committee aligned and updated the summative rating formula and made the adjustments to the [Professional Appraisal Plan](#) based on Illinois [Public Act 103-0500](#)

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

- Hiring is completed for the 8.0 certified Teacher vacancies (new hires). We encourage applicants for our remaining ESP (Education Support Personnel) vacancies; ([Link](#) to apply for remaining vacancies)
- District grants for the 2024-25 school year, including the Consolidated District Plan, Title I, II, III, IV, and IDEA Consolidated Grant, have been submitted according to ISBE requirements
- The 2024-25 district budget will be available for public viewing from 8/21 to the Board meeting on 9/25
- Our [Strategic Planning](#) effort will begin this fall and call for engagement across the Gower Community
- The [Board Charter](#) is an excellent reminder of how the Boards of Education approaches their collective leadership role and is organized to support the Gower Community and School District
- The 2023-24 school year ended with a planned deficit of \$388,562 (budgeted deficit was \$357,051), or 2.1% of the \$18,434,382 in expenditures for the year and evidence of strong fiscal management