



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – June 25, 2025 - 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 2024-25 school year. 6 of 10 ambitious district goals were met this year ([Appendix A](#))
- 2024-25 preliminary [IAR](#) data indicates 71% of our 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders 'met or exceeded standards' in Reading and 53% in Math - 73%, 68% in Reading and 56%, 55% in Math the previous 2 years (full report this fall)
- Preliminary 24-25 [ACCESS](#) scores for student performance in our English Learner Program indicate 14% of our students met the state requirements to exit dedicated support services (8% in 23-24; 15% in 22-23)
- Our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities began on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Gower West and Gower Middle - We have 208 students registered across all programs! (184 last year)
- Extended School Year programs are underway at GW and GM and throughout LADSE for our qualifying special education students

**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: 90.0% (94.0%) for GW K-4 (K-84%; 1<sup>st</sup>-87%); 95.0% (95.3%) for GM; 95.2% (94.6%) - Teaching Staff and 96.2% (95.3%) for Student Support Staff. *Previous year data*
- GM After School Tutoring Program during 10<sup>th</sup> Hour will continue for the 2025-2026 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
- Gower's Social Workers, Counselors, and Building Admin Teams will participate in a virtual training on 8/13 for student threat assessments and protocols as part of our overall District Threat Assessment work
- [Crisis Prevention Institute](#) training for our special education teams will be led by our new Director of Special Education on 8/14

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

- Use our [Registration Page](#) to complete the process for the 2025-26 school year - Registration began 4/11
- Plans for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation scheduled for Aug. 7<sup>th</sup> are underway (watch for GM Parent eBlasts)
- Hold the date for our Annual Back to School Meet & Greet/Open House on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> (details to follow)
- Hold the date for our Annual Curriculum Nights - Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at GW and Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> 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 Professional Development Committee is offering a variety of options for teachers including summer project based work focused on curriculum and instruction, on-site workshops, virtual learning on topics of choice, and the opportunity to participate in a summer online Book Club, *The Anxious Generation*
- The Parent Student Handbook Committee has provided a draft copy for the 2025-2026 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 Math, GM STEM, and District English Learner Program
- New Teacher Orientation is scheduled for Aug. 11-12; Teacher Institute is scheduled for Aug. 19-20; ESP Staff Institute is scheduled for Aug. 19
- The PERA Committee is scheduled to meet on July 15<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the 2025-2026 school year

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

- 2025-26 [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 30<sup>th</sup> ([Appendix C](#))
- The tentative 2025-26 school budget is scheduled for BOE review at the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting
- The Gower English Learner Program was recognized by ISBE and has been identified as recipient for a \$10,000 Bilingual Education Award to support Teacher Professional Development
- District grants for the 2025-26 school year will be submitted by June 30<sup>th</sup> according to ISBE requirements
- Gower has been allocated an additional \$233,181.40 for the FY26 PFA grant as a "catch-up" for districts that had not had any change in funding for a number of years
- The selection process to fill our remaining teacher [vacancy](#) for the 2025-2026 school year is nearly complete
- The Gower Board of Education will hold a training session ahead of the June 25<sup>th</sup> regularly scheduled meeting to focus on team-building and the Unity of Purpose in the [Board Charter](#)