



Superintendent's Report – Board of Education Meeting – May 20, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

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

- The Accelerated Track Curriculum Committee completed their program evaluation and is sharing the following updates for the 2026-2027 school year ([Appendix A](#))
- Gower Middle Report Card is being redesigned for the 2026-2027 school year to better align the system of grading and reporting academic achievement to students and their parents/guardians ([Appendix B](#))
- Spring NWEA/MAP testing for K-8 is nearly complete and the EOY Report will be presented in June
- Gower plans to continue the partnership with Adaptability to provide Adaptive Physical Education instruction at both Gower West and Gower Middle for the 2026-2027 school year (one class at each school)
- On May 7th, 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
- Final plans are underway for our K-7 Gower Summer Learning Opportunities beginning on June 2nd at Gower West and Gower Middle

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 (*previous year data*): 93.7% (90.0%) for GW (K-4; K-94.1% [84%]; 1st-93.8% [87%]); 95.2% (95.0%) for GM; 95.0% (95.1%) - Teaching Staff and 96.8% (96.3%) for Student Support Staff
- Required Staff Trainings held on May 12th (GM) and May 19th (GW) focused on Crisis and Emergency Plans and led by our school Principals
- All staff will take part in a Capturing Kids Hearts August 18th kick-off “Amplify Your Impact with CKH” training for the 2026-2027 school year - This is in addition to the annual training for new staff since 2013
- The Restraint & Time Out (RTO) Oversight Team of Teachers, Student Services Support Staff, and Administrators met on 5/14 to review data and processes used to ensure preparedness and consistency
- *Gower Cares* hosted a Spring Drive (May 14-15) for parents to select from donated items to meet their needs

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

- The Spring Musical (4/23-4/24) and the Gower Middle Art Show and Spring Band Concert held on 5/7 were well-attended and showcased the talent of our students and the support of our community!
- Use our [Registration Page](#) to complete the process for the 2026-27 school year - Registration began 4/10
- Kindergarten Orientation was held on April 30th and welcomed just over 50 families to Gower West in an effort to support, prepare, and help families adjust to this important school transition (*70 last year*)
- The Kindergarten Music Concert held on 5/14 brought a full-house and supportive crowd to Gower West
- The [Gower PTO](#) hosted the 8th Grade Dance on May 15th as part of a series of celebratory and culminating events for our graduates as they prepare for Graduation and their transition to high school
- Gower will hold a [Timely and Meaningful Consultation](#) Meeting on May 21st 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 October 17, 2026 in support of Gower School District programs - information regarding sponsorships can be found [here](#)

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, K-8 ELA, Accelerated Track, Technology, GM Math, and Summer School Planning
- The Parent/Student Handbook Committee met on May 7th to begin the process of reviewing, revising, and updating the 2026-2027 handbook; the draft will be presented to the Board at the June meeting
- The May 8th Early Release Day was school based and focused on the continuation of our curriculum alignment work across grade levels and departments
- The May 29th Early Release Day is school-based and focused on the End-of-Year Teacher Checklist

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 30th ([Appendix C](#))
- Hiring efforts continue with 7 of our 10 open certified positions filled for 2026-27 ([remaining 3 in progress](#))
- District and GEA union leaders have collaborated to draft a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) to respond to feedback and address unnecessary restrictions related to the reimbursement for academic coursework
- District Admin provided a professional learning opportunity throughout the year for aspiring leaders to role play different leadership case studies and further develop interest and leadership skills
- The preliminary FY27 Education Budget (~\$16.1M) is being presented to the Board for review and forecasts alignment between projected revenue and expenditure (*projected surplus of \$249,000 or 1.5%*)