



Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday October 11, 2016

- 1. Bond Levy Results:** On Tuesday, October 4, both the elementary and high school bond levies passed by significant margins with an excellent school election turn-out of 65%. The elementary bond passed with a margin of 61.6% (12,290) yes and 38.4% (7669) no. The high school bond passed with a margin of 57.7% (11,553) yes and 42.3% (8474) no.
- 2. Thank You, Great Falls!** I want to thank all the community members that took part in the conversations about the investments needed in our schools. I especially want to thank those folks who took the time to learn the facts. Whether you read the articles I wrote for the Tribune, went on a bus tour, attended a community forum, read the entire facility website, spoke with a volunteer, or attended one of more than 50 small group presentations, thank you for taking the time to become informed. I look forward to the next steps which we are in the process of developing. I will highlight the plans in subsequent Top Tens.
- 3. Slow Down, Please!** Just a reminder about the school zone speed limits: Most of GFPS buildings are in residential zones which have 25 mph speed limits ALL THE TIME. Exceptions to this are in front of Meadow Lark, and on 26th and 25th Streets near Roosevelt and Lincoln. These have a 30 mph limit outside of school hours. During the school day/posted hours, the speed limit drops to 25 mph and the fines are doubled. Outside of the posted hours, the speed limits return to 30 mph in these examples. I ask that whatever the speed limit, please drive slowly and carefully around our schools!
- 4. No School:** Thursday and Friday, October 20-21, are days without school in Montana and Great Falls. These days have been set aside for teacher professional development. Some teachers will attend conferences those two days and other teachers will attend evening workshops during the fall to fulfill the professional development requirements. Prioritizing professional development is what makes our teachers some of the best trained in the nation.
- 5. College and Career Planning Support for Students/Parents:** Twice per year, GFPS publishes the *Visions Newsletter*. It is chock full of information for parents and high school students as they plan for high school and beyond. The current edition includes specific information for juniors as they prepare for the ACT Test. I think you will be amazed at what there is to know! Check it out:
www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/VisionsFallfinal2016.pdf.
- 6. Fall Concert Season is Underway:** The high school music departments are proud to present the harvest of their labors at various fall concerts. All concerts are free and open to the public. Here is more information:
 - Tonight at 7 pm, CMR Bill Williamson Hall, All Choirs
 - Thursday, CMR Orchestras at 6 pm & CMR Bands at 8 pm, CMR Bill Williamson Hall
 - Thursday at 7 pm, GFHS Auditorium, All Choirs
 - Friday, October 21, FMHSA All-State Music Festival Gala Concert at 7 pm at the Mansfield Theater (\$10 ticket price-a bargain!). Come and hear the best student musicians in Montana make beautiful music in the All-State Choir, Band, and Orchestra. This will include 59 GFPS students that qualified as All-State Musicians this year!
 - Monday, October 24 at 7 pm, GFHS Auditorium, Blue Notes Jazz Band (pre-concert prelude), Concert Orchestra, and Varsity and Symphonic Bands
 - Tuesday, October 25 at 7 pm, GFHS Auditorium, Blue Notes Jazz Band (pre-concert prelude), String Ensemble, Concert Band, Chamber Orchestra

7. **GFPS Fall Giving Campaign:** In conjunction with United Way and Montana Shares, GFPS employees will give back to the community that has given them so much. GFPS hopes to pledge over \$55,000 during the annual giving campaign. Last year, GFPS employees gave \$53,000 so we are confident we will reach our goal and help so many in our community!
8. **Truck Raffle:** The GFPS Foundation Truck Raffle is in full swing with the drawing to be held at halftime of the crosstown football game on October 28. The Toyota truck was donated by City Motors and all proceeds go to funding activities and programs for GFPS students. This year, there is also a 2nd place prize of a \$1000 gift certificate to North 40. For more information, click here: <http://www.gfpsfoundation.org/support-us/truck-raffle/> or stop by my office to purchase a \$10 ticket.
9. **Scholarship Night for GFHS Seniors:** Given the large amount of money awarded each year to graduates via a variety of scholarships, it behooves parents and students to understand the process. The GFPS Foundation and High School Counselors are holding scholarship information nights for seniors and their parents. Last week, 225 people attended CMR's. Tonight is GFHS's at 6:30 in the Auditorium. They will cover such things as what reviewers are looking for, what documents are required, timelines and deadlines, and the dos and don'ts of applying. Please help spread the word about this important event!
10. **Board Meetings:** There is only one Board meeting in October and it is next Monday, October 17 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on this Thursday at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/school-board>.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for October 25, 2016.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.
Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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