



Dear Community Member: You are receiving this email as part of the District's ongoing community communication efforts. If you do not wish to receive these emails, there is a place to unsubscribe at the very bottom.

Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday February 21, 2017

- 1. Community Budget Meeting Today.** As the Board continues its efforts to make the general fund budget setting process a transparent and community-based effort, the fourth of six community meetings will be held today, 5:30-6:30 pm, at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave. The agenda is here: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/2-21-17%20CommunityAgenda.pdf. The next meeting is Tuesday, March 7, same time and place. Information from previous meetings can be found here: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/2015budget.
- 2. Facility Project Update:** \$64M in bonds were sold on February 7. The proceeds from the bond sale will fund 2/3 of the Facility Plan projects that were approved by voters in October. The rest of the bonds will be sold in approximately 2 years. The sales had to be split as all project work to be paid for by a bond must be completed within 3 years of the bond sale. The GFPS Plan is too extensive to do all of it in that timeframe. The bonds sold for an interest rate of 3.17% which is well below the 4.25% rates that GFPS used to estimate how much taxes were going to be increased during the campaign. The good rate means that taxpayers will pay \$7.681M less than estimated in interest during the 20 years of payback. These amounts will be reflected on your November 2017 tax notices.
- 3. Congratulations Speakers and Debaters!** On February 10-11, Great Falls High and CM Russell High hosted the National Speech and Debate Association qualifying tournament at Great Falls High. Over 600 students from AA, A, B and C Montana schools competed in nearly 200 rounds of competition, which were judged by area volunteers. These GFPS students qualified for Nationals in Birmingham, Alabama in June: Original Oratory—Hareen Seerha; Lincoln-Douglas Debate—Kayla Slavik; Public Forum Debate—Maddi Hillis and Faith Quinlisk; Alternates—Taylor Curry and McKenna Osentowski in Programmed Oral Interpretation; and Alternates—Kye Burchard and Brandyn Ulrich in Policy Debate. GFPS has not sent this many competitors to nationals since 1995! Congratulations to all the organizers and participants!
- 4. Golden Age Pass Tailgate Party:** The GFPS Foundation is hosting a tailgate party for all Golden Age Pass Holders on Wednesday, February 22. Pass Holders are feted to good food prepared by the culinary arts students, speeches by the winter activity coaches, cheers from the high school cheer squads, and lots of prize drawings. Any Great Falls community member 62 years and older can get a Golden Age Pass. Just stop by the Superintendent's Office at 1100 4th St. S. to get yours today.
- 5. Chasing the Dragon.** In an effort to combat the growing epidemic of prescription drug and heroin abuse, the FBI and DEA have released *Chasing the Dragon: the Life of an Opiate Addict*. GFPS high school students will have an opportunity to view the film and ask questions of a panel of experts. There is also a public viewing on Wednesday, March 1, 5:00 pm–8:00 pm at the Mansfield Theatre at the Civic Center. Refreshments will be provided. Learn more at: www.dea.gov/media/chasing-dragon.shtml.
- 6. Backpacks4Kids Program.** The GF Community Food Bank provides backpacks full of food for hungry students that will sustain them over weekends and long holiday breaks during the school year. They do this through the generous cash donations of community members and through their annual CANtastic fundraiser. To learn more, click here: www.greatfallsfoodbank.org/programs/ or call the office at 452-9029.

7. **MIOSM!** March is Music in Our Schools Month and there are a ton of events celebrating the arts in Great Falls! A full schedule of events can be found on the website: www.gfps.k12.mt.us. You are cordially invited to attend one or more of the opportunities where youth talent will be showcased.
8. **Week of Graduation Matters Activities Held.** Throughout January and February, GFPS high school and middle school students organized week-long activities that emphasized the “Graduation Matters” message. Students participated in such things as: Motivational Monday Activities, Drop-Out Awareness Days, Dress for Future Success Days, Motivational Tweeting, Inspirational Comment Walls, Community Services Projects, and much, much more. Thanks to the students and staff who continue to emphasize the removal of barriers and the importance of earning a diploma for future success.
9. **Board Work Session:** The Board will gather on Monday, February 27 at 5:30 at the District Office Building for a work session about an upcoming demographic study of the District. They will also learn about a process that will take place during the 2017-2018 school year where the elementary school boundaries will be adjusted based on the demographic study and the capacities of the new schools that will be built. The Board takes no action at work sessions and the public is welcome to observe.
10. **Board Meetings:** The next Board meeting is on Monday, March 13 at 5:30 pm at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on the afternoon of Thursday, March 9 at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>.

I hope you enjoyed this week’s Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for March 7, 2017.

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

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