



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 April 18, 2017

I’m once again breaking from the usual Top Ten format to provide information about the upcoming Technology Levy. Your ballot should arrive today or tomorrow. You will also be asked to vote for three (3) trustees. The three incumbents (Jason Brantley, Jan Cahill, and Don Ryan) are running along with three (3) others.

You are invited to a community presentation to learn more:

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 5:30, GFHS SOUTH CAMPUS, BISON “BEASTRO”

See #9 for a listing of upcoming events. Thanks for reading!

1. **The Ask.** On March 27, the GFPS Trustees unanimously decided to ask voters to replace a 2002 perpetual High School Technology Levy of \$75,000 with a 10-year \$500,000 levy to provide modern technology tools for students. If the levy passes it will be a net increase of \$425,000.
2. **The Need.** The Trustees hesitantly recommended the additional investment and tax increase given the generosity of the community in passing a \$98.8M bond levy for buildings and infrastructure in October, 2016. Knowing that the bond levy didn’t include technology funding, they feel that we need to fix buildings AND invest in technology to ensure students are prepared for the future.
3. **The History.** Fifteen years ago, our community recognized the need to invest in technology. In May 2002, voters approved perpetual tech levies for both districts:
 - Elementary District - \$150,000
 - High School District - \$ 75,000
4. **A Comparison.** With no tech levy increases since 2002, Great Falls is lagging behind other communities in available technology resources for our schools. This chart shows the total and per student revenues from local technology levies.

City	Technology Levy Amount Total	Technology Levy Amount Per Student
Great Falls	\$ 225,000	\$ 21.66
Kalispell	\$ 565,750	\$182.03
Bozeman	\$ 584,296	\$ 88.04
Helena	\$1,037,884	\$125.14
Missoula	\$1,623,403	\$179.76
Billings	\$2,184,107	\$127.72
Butte—Does not currently have a tech levy. They are voting on a \$300,000 technology levy in May.		

5. **The What.** If the levy passes, the \$500,000 will be used to replace and refresh old and obsolete computers, printers, projectors and servers (\$325,000). It will also be used to purchase new technology tools (\$166,500) and for professional development (\$8,500).
6. **How it Works.**
 - If passed, the \$500,000 high school tech levy would replace the current \$75,000 levy for a net increase of \$425,000. If passed, it would end in 10 years.
 - If it fails, the \$75,000 high school tech levy would continue.
 - The perpetual elementary tech levy of \$150,000 continues either way.

7. How Much It Costs. Estimated tax increase on the additional \$425,000:

- For a \$100K taxable valued home = \$4.65/year or 39¢/month
- For a \$150K taxable valued home = \$6.99/year or 58¢/month
- For a \$200K taxable valued home = \$9.32/year or 78¢/month

To calculate the estimated cost for your property, check out this link:

www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/technology-levy.

8. The Vote. The election will be via all-mail ballot. Ballots will be mailed to registered voters on Monday, April 17. Ballots are due on Election Day, Tuesday, May 2. It is not too late to register to vote. To access late registration, stop by the Elections Office at 325 2nd Ave. N. It only takes a moment. If you aren't sure if you are registered to vote, you can check at this website: <https://app.mt.gov/voterinfo/>.

9. Upcoming Events:

- GFHS Blue Man Group Concerts: Thursday, Friday, Saturday, 4/20-4/22, 7 pm, GFHS Auditorium, www.greatfallstribune.com/story/entertainment/2017/04/11/just-blue-bison-blue-man-group-returns/100360484/
- Special Olympics Area Games: Thursday & Friday, 4/20 & 4/21, Memorial Stadium, <http://somt.org/event/crar-area-spring-games/>
- GFPS Purple Up Day: Friday, 4/21, Wear purple as a way to thank, honor, and recognize the many contributions military kids make to our country as members of a military family. Why purple? Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red and Navy blue.
- CMR & GFHS Softball and Track: Thursday and Saturday 4/20 & 4/22, <http://gfps.k12.mt.us/content/sports-schedules>; Track Invitational on Saturday: 12 other teams from across the state were invited. This will be a big event for our community!
- Scholarship Nights: Thousands of dollars in scholarships will be awarded at GFHS on Monday, 4/24 at 6 pm, and at CMR on Tuesday, 4/25 at 7 pm.
- Indian Education Award Assemblies: Wednesday & Thursday, 4/26 & 4/27 at 5:30 at PGEC.
- Leadership High School Effecting Change Day of Service: Thursday, 4/27.
- CMR's Big Band Ball: Friday, 4/28, www.facebook.com/events/1355874714532359/
- Fight Childhood Hunger Week: April 19-25. Feel free to donate nonperishable food items to your neighborhood school. Join us in wearing orange on Tuesday, April 25 to celebrate.

10. Board Meetings: The next Board meeting is on Monday, April 24 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, April 20 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 (with a return to the usual format) is scheduled for May 2, 2017.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey

Superintendent

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(<https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>), on Twitter (@TammyLLacey) and on our webpage (www.gfps.k12.mt.us). Please check-in often.