



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 4, 2017

I'm breaking from the usual Top Ten format to provide information about the upcoming Technology Levy to be held on May 2, 2017. This week's Top Ten will provide some background information regarding the use of technology in our schools. The next Top Ten on April 18 will provide specific information regarding the levy. Thanks for reading!

- 1. The GFPS Technology Plan.** On September 26, 2016, the GFPS School Board unanimously approved a five year Technology Plan. The Plan encompasses key components to make integration of technology within the classroom a reality and success. You can read the entire plan at this link: <http://bit.ly/2oq7r58>.
- 2. Mission & Vision & Statements for Technology in Our Schools.** MISSION: We strategically use technology to promote greater academic success and achievement. VISION: Engaging, collaborative, transformative technology for all students.
- 3. Technology as a Tool.** Technology is a tool that supports our mission to successfully educate students to navigate their futures. For students today, technology is an extension of their lives. It is integral to all they do. It is essential, then, for schools to have it seamlessly integrated as well. Technology is transforming the classroom, providing for diversity in learning styles.
- 4. Academic Achievement.** Technology that engages students and promotes collaboration, critical thinking skills, and multi-dimensional problem solving, leads to greater academic success and achievement.
- 5. Tech for Life.** Effective, efficient use of technology prepares our students to be college, career, and citizenship ready. As our nation becomes increasingly technology dependent, it becomes even more necessary for students to be tech-savvy. In order to prepare students for success, we need the tech tools in our schools.
- 6. Staff Development.** To support the vision, teachers and staff must also be engaged in technology. Providing professional development coupled with on-site support and efficient and effective resources that are "always on" and fully available are paramount to making student achievement a realization.
- 7. Aging Equipment.** For students to be engaged, they need reliable and optimally performing technology tools. Our technology equipment is aging and becoming obsolete. 43.5% computers are 5 years or older and out of warranty (8500 computers total). 73% projectors are obsolete (632 projectors total). Interactive technology tools such as eBeams and Smart Boards are no longer supported by their manufacturers.
- 8. Community Support.** In an effort to make the budget setting process a transparent and community-based effort, GFPS held six community meetings starting in January. The entire February 6 meeting was dedicated to technology. You can access that presentation here: <http://bit.ly/2nAoRug>. At that meeting and those that followed, community members in attendance supported the need for additional funding for technology. The Board listened. They rejected a general fund operational levy and opted for the technology levy.
- 9. Learn More.** I am hosting **two informational meetings** for citizens to learn more about technology and the levy. Mark your calendars:

MEETING #1: C.M. Russell High School Media Center, 1st Floor

Tuesday, April 11 at 5:30 pm

OR

MEETING #2: Great Falls High School South Campus Bison Beastro, 1st Floor
Thursday, April 20 at 5:30

10. Board Meetings: The next Board meeting is on Monday, April 10 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 6 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 April 18, 2017.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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