



## Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday October 10, 2017

- 1. Trustee Vacancy.** Any registered voter living within district boundaries who is at least 18 years of age is eligible to apply for the trustee seat that is open due to Don Ryan's resignation. Citizens may nominate themselves or others, but in either case, an application must be submitted. The process and application are posted on the District's website, [www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us). The application is due by noon on Monday, October 23. An ad hoc trustee committee will determine who will be interviewed with final Board action to appoint at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on November 13.
- 2. Career Fair.** This Thursday, Graduation Matters Great Falls, United Way of Cascade County and the Great Falls Chamber are hosting the 5th Annual Middle School Career Fair. This event seeks to begin training students in the mindset and skills that they will need to enter the workforce. Students get to meet community members representing a wide variety of careers and they participate in mock interviews. They also take a field trip in the afternoon to GFC-MSU (for those interested in the medical field), MAFB (for those interested in STEM careers) or the Trades Rodeo at the Fairgrounds. A huge thanks to all the volunteers who make this event possible!
- 3. State Championship.** Congratulations to the CMR Boys' Golf Team who brought home State Championship honors last month. CMR is excited to hang another rug in their field house. The GFHS boys also did very well as they tied for 2<sup>nd</sup> place. We are proud of the hard work and personal commitment these student athletes demonstrated. This kind of tenacity and grit will serve these students well in the future.
- 4. School Board of the Year.** The Montana Association of School Superintendents has selected the GFPS Board of Trustees for their annual award. The Board was selected for its commitment to policy development and implementation, the upgrading of facilities, grounds and infrastructure, and for student-centered programming. They will be recognized at the Montana Conference on Educational Leadership (MCEL) in Billings on Thursday, October 19. Congratulations to our fine trustees!
- 5. 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!
- 6. No School.** Thursday and Friday, October 19-20, 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.
- 7. MAFB Hosts GFPS Leaders.** District administrators are looking forward to this Thursday when MAFB will host us for a mission briefing and reception. This "field trip" will provide us a better understanding of the military life our students and parents experience. The more we know about each other, the better able we are to support each other's work.
- 8. 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 \$60,000 during the annual giving campaign. Last year, GFPS employees gave \$54,000 so we are confident we will reach our goal and help so many in our community!

- 9. Budget Note.** In the October 7 Tribune on page S4, the County Superintendent posted the annual financial report of the county's schools. I have had questions about the GFPS "ending cash balances" and why they are so large. The questioners wondered why the District would ever need to run a technology or operational levy with that much cash on hand at the end of the year? Good question. Here's the answer: the cash balances are mostly from the facility bond proceeds that have been deposited in district accounts that have not yet been spent because the work has not been completed. The bond proceeds can only be spent on construction projects, not operations.
- 10. Board Meetings:** There is only one Board meeting in October and it is next Monday, October 16 at 5:30 at the District Office Building, 1100 4<sup>th</sup> 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 24, 2017.

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

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**More GFPS news:**

We post a lot of GFPS news on the district's Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/GreatFallsPublicSchools>), on Twitter (@TammyLLacey) and on our webpage ([www.gfps.k12.mt.us](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us)). Please check-in often.