

Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday December 19, 2017



- 1. A Holiday Thank You.** I wrote this to the GFPS staff this week in recognition of staff members who support our neediest families: *Our schools step up and lean in to make Christmas a little nicer for as many families as we can. Angel trees, food drives, adopt-a-family campaigns, food baskets, and the anonymous giving of gift cards are all common activities that take place behind the scenes in our schools during this time of year. All done because we know, as a popular quote tells us, "Helping one person might not change the world, but it could change the world for one person." That's what GFPS is really all about. Day in and day out, we change the world for each student and during this time of the year, that means making Christmas a little brighter for as many students as we can. Thank goodness for the door-opener, the life-changer, the opportunity-maker we call public education! Thank goodness for all of you who do more, give more and believe more. Thank goodness for all of those in our community who do the same. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Truly, thank you to this fine community that supports our kids, our community and our future.*
- 2. Holiday Break:** There will be no school for GFPS students and teachers December 25-January 1. School will resume as usual on Tuesday, January 2. District offices will be open as usual except for Monday, December 25 and Monday, January 1.
- 3. State Speech Meet Needs Volunteers.** On behalf of our speech and debate coaches and competitors, we are requesting help in judging at the *Montana State Speech and Debate Tournament* to be held at CMR January 26-27. Judges are needed on Friday from 4-8 pm and on Saturday starting at 8:00 am. In order to make it happen, we need the support of our community (businesses and individuals alike). There will be optional judging clinics held in January so don't be nervous if you have never done it before. See this webpage to sign up: <https://goo.gl/forms/dajHeFGwj6yS6Cjz2>. This is a great way to hang out with some of the state's most talented orators!
- 4. And Even More Volunteers Needed!** The United Way Retired & Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) is looking for dedicated volunteers to work in our schools at all grade levels in a variety of settings and with a variety of subject areas. Different shifts are available, but volunteers must be able to commit to helping at least once a week and at a set time. This is considered a long-term commitment of at least a semester or school year. Volunteers should enjoy spending time with children, be patient, and able to follow the teacher's instructions. Depending on the work assignment, volunteers may be subject to a background check. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Jessica at 727-3400 or at jbriggs@uwccmt.org.
- 5. Facility Update.** A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been advertised today (and again on December 24 and December 31) for the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GCCM) for the GFHS addition and renovation. Applications from construction firms are due on January 9, 2018. Those will be reviewed by the GFPS Facility Committee and those firms that are deemed qualified will then be asked to submit a response to a Request for Proposal (RFP). From there, interviews will be held

and the firm that is the most qualified will be determined. The public procurement process is very different from the private process. To view all of the related documents for the RFQ process, visit this webpage: <http://gfps.k12.mt.us/content/rfqrfp-bids>.

6. **GFHS Architects to Host a Community Forum.** NE45 Architects and their partners (Bassetti Architects, TD& H Engineering and GPD Consulting Engineers) have been working with a steering committee to determine what the addition at GFHS will entail. The community is invited to a Community Forum to see the preliminary plans on Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 pm at GFHS. Look for more details soon.
7. **Community Budget Meetings Set.** As the Board continues its efforts to make the general fund budget setting process a transparent and community-based effort, they have scheduled the following meetings at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Avenue at 5:30 pm:
 - January 23, 2018 (Tuesday): How Much Money GFPS Gets, Where It Comes From, and How It's Spent, How Salaries and Benefits Impact the Budget, How Technology is Paid For, and Current Needs
 - February 20, 2018 (Tuesday): Student Enrollment and Revenue Projections. Budget Committee Deliberation and RecommendationsFor more information, see www.gfps.k12.mt.us.
8. **Property Tax Relief Information.** GFPS maintains information on its website about state property tax relief programs. To access information, go here: <http://gfps.k12.mt.us/content/property-tax-relief-info>.
9. **Boundary Adjustment Survey.** GFPS is asking for input from the community regarding three (3) options that are currently being considered by the community Study Team. This webpage has all the information about the options: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/boundary-adjustmentredistricting-information. Scroll down towards the bottom to find "Community Forum." The "Table Plots" outline the data for the three options. The "Plot Maps" are just that, the maps. I find that if I download them (see button in upper right), they are easier to manipulate. The first two maps are current with the options following (two pages for each option). Using that information, please complete the survey regarding your thoughts about the options: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/gfps-boundary>. The survey closes on January 2 at midnight.
10. **Board Meetings.** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, January 8 at 5:30 pm at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on Thursday, January 4 at this link: www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas.

I hope you enjoyed my Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for January 9, 2018.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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