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Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday **February 6, 2018**

- 1. Personnel Issues.** Two of our 1900 employees made bad decisions leading up to very public involvement with law enforcement last week. I, like staff and students, experienced a roller coaster of emotions as the information was processed. Mine ran from anger to anguish and back again. Please know that over the course of last week, I took the opportunity to remind our staff of their professional obligations to our students. I reminded them that as public employees we have serious responsibilities to include adhering to the Educator Code of Ethics ([http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/EthicsCode\[1\].pdf](http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/EthicsCode[1].pdf)). I reminded them that we must do right by our community's children. I also take this opportunity to remind you that 99.99% of our employees are doing just that, day in and day out.
- 2. School Based Health Clinics Coming to GFPS!** GFPS joins Billings, Missoula and 2000 other communities nationwide in housing health clinics for students and families in schools. The Community Health Care Center (CHCC) has existed for 20 years in downtown Great Falls in the same building as the City-County Health Department and now will have satellite clinics at Paris Gibson Education Center and Giant Springs Elementary (when it opens in the fall). CHCC will provide medical services (with parental consent) to include: well-child exams, immunizations, school and sports physicals, adult annual exams, urgent care for illnesses (sore throats, coughs, fevers, colds, pink eye, etc.), management of chronic illnesses (diabetes, asthma, etc.) and limited lab tests. All staffing, insurance billing and fee payments are the responsibility of CHCC. This service hopes to reduce student absenteeism while helping them be healthy so they can learn...all at no cost to GFPS. The only thing GFPS provides is a space for the exam room and the CHCC receptionist. Healthy kids learn better! It's a win-win for our kids, our community and our future!
- 3. 2018-2019 Budget Setting Process.** The Board of Trustees continues its efforts to make the budget setting process a transparent and community-based effort. To that end, a community meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 20, 5:30-6:30 pm at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave. This meeting will unveil the State revenue projections and how they align with next year's budgetary needs. I will present various options for the Budget Committee to discuss. One of those options will be to run an operational general fund levy in May. If you have opinions about this possibility, you can share them at this meeting. The Board will make a final decision about next steps at a Special Board Meeting on Thursday, February 22 at 5:30 at the District Office Building.
- 4. Read 2 Me Challenge.** February 6-7, volunteers supported by United Way will visit all 2nd grade classrooms. The volunteers will read to the students and give them each a brand new book. The books are from a popular historical fiction series (<http://isurvived.scholastic.com/>). They will also talk with students about the annual Read 2 Me Challenge where families will be encouraged to have their 2nd grader read for at least 20 minutes every day for 2 weeks. Every 20 minutes equals an entry into a drawing for a gift card to Barnes & Noble. Last year our students read 62,660 minutes! Thanks to our community for advancing literacy success!
- 5. Speaking of Literacy...**GFPS was just notified that it will receive a \$1.8 million literacy grant! The GFPS application was selected as it sets forth measures to enhance literacy instruction and address literacy achievement gaps. GFPS will receive approximately \$600,000 per year for three years in order

to provide evidence-based interventions at Whittier and Longfellow Elementary Schools, East Middle School, Great Falls High School and at the Skyline preschool. It took a team of people to put together a competitive and viable application and they are thanked for their work. We look forward to significant gains for our students.

6. **GFPS Holiday.** There is no school for students and staff on Monday, February 19 due to Presidents' Day. All schools and district offices will be closed.
7. **Facility Project Update.** About 100 people attended an informational meeting on January 25 to see the addition and renovation concepts developed so far by the architects and engineers for GFHS. You can see what the attendees saw by checking out this link: <http://gfps.k12.mt.us/content/great-falls-high-school-addition-and-renovation>. The video is a 3-D tour. Take a look and fill out the feedback form that is also at that link. This month, the contracting firm will be selected to do the work at GFHS. To see a pictorial update of work at Giant Springs and CMR, check out this link: http://gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/CONSTRUCTION%20PROGRESS%202-5-18_0.pdf.
8. **State Athletic Events.** Good luck to the 28 GFPS wrestlers who will be representing us at the State Wrestling Meet in Billings this week! We also wish the 400+ swimmers GOOD LUCK as they participate in the All-Class State Swim Meet to be held right here in Great Falls this Friday and Saturday! The meet brings in athletes and their supporters from across the state, and they stay and spend in our hotels, restaurants and shops! A huge thank you to all the volunteers who make events like this happen for our community!
9. **Full STEAM Ahead!** GFPS is preparing to host the annual STEAM Expo on March 24, 10:00 am to 1:30 pm in the GFHS Fieldhouse. K-12 students will present projects in science, technology, engineering, arts and math. We need judges to experience our talented K-12 students showing off their knowledge and learning. For more information about the event and judging, click here: <http://gfpsweb.weebly.com/steam-expo.html>.
10. **Board Meeting Change of Venue.** The next Board meeting is on Monday, February 12 at 5:30 pm at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on the afternoon of Thursday, February 8 at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>. This is the only Board meeting in February. An agenda item of note is the Study Team's presentation of their recommendations for boundary changes. See this website for more information about the boundary adjustment process: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/boundary-adjustmentredistricting-information>. The Task Force's final recommendation will on the GFPS main webpage by the end of this week.

I hope you enjoyed this week's Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for February 20, 2018.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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