

A green chalkboard with two pieces of pink chalk and some faint white chalk markings. The chalk is positioned in the lower-left quadrant. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green.

GFPS STAFF PRESENTATION

2011 Mill Levy

Rumors and Facts

Rumors...

- Rumor: GFPS spends too much on education
 - *Fact: Conservative spending*





Rumors continued...

- Rumor: 5 additional administrators
 - *Fact: Retaining 5 elementary counselors by using money in student services budget reprioritization and Medicaid money*
- Rumor: Should have cut more teachers since losing so much enrollment (1400 fewer students than 10 years ago)
 - *Fact: Our staffing patterns have supported the educational goals of the District and the increasing needs of students*
 - *Fact: There are no teachers with empty classrooms looking for something to do*
 - *Fact: Our FTE is controlled by federal funding, grants and other sources that have resulted in more teachers serving kids better*



Rumors continued...

- Rumor: District has lots in reserves...spend it
 - *Facts:*
 - Some are not savings accounts. They are flow-through accounts and can't be spent on general fund
 - Not prudent
- Rumor: Administrators are paid too much
 - *Fact: Dr. Crawley's salary is in the middle of the AA superintendent salaries*
 - *Fact: Our administrators are fairly compensated. You get what you pay for.*
 - *Fact: Even if all the administrators worked for free it wouldn't cover the \$3 million dollar shortfall.*
 - *Attacking people not the problem*



Rumors continued...

- Rumor: There is incredible waste in the District.
 - *If there is... we need to know about it.*
 - *Board Policy 5600: “The district desires and needs to conserve resources and cut operational costs wherever possible. Employees who are able to make suggestions, which effect significant savings to the district, should receive some personal benefit for their ideas.”*
- Rumor: Employees are in fear of retaliation if they speak up about waste
 - *Fact: To my knowledge, no employee has suffered an adverse employment action because they have tried to help the District do better.*
 - *Fact: Employees are afforded protections via collective bargaining agreements and Policy 5215—Uniform Complaint Procedures*



Rumors continued...

- Myth: The District can easily cut more...
 - *Fact: A major portion of the budget is made up of salaries. We are to the point that we are cutting people...our human assets who...*
- Live, work and play in our great town.
- Pay income taxes and property taxes.
- Buy groceries and gas in our stores.
- Buy cars at our dealerships.
- Contribute to the economy.
- Contribute to United Way & other charitable organizations.
- Vote.
- Volunteer.
- Attend our local churches.
- Play in our symphony and on our golf courses.
- Are parents and they often take care of their parents.
- Are our neighbors.
- Make a difference for students AND for Great Falls.

As the 3rd largest employee in GF, we impact the economy!