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Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday January 23, 2018

1. **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 **TONIGHT**, 5:30-6:30 pm at Paris Gibson Education Center, 2400 Central Ave. The agenda can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2DrIEor>.
2. **“Topping Out” Ceremony.** Sletten Construction has organized this age-old ceremony which celebrates the last beam being placed on top of a new building. This significant milestone will be celebrated at Giant Springs Elementary School (520 30th St. N.) this Thursday at 1:30 pm. The beam will delivered to Roosevelt Elementary for students to sign and then taken to Giant Springs where students will come on Thursday to witness the “topping out”. Community members are invited to witness this event as well.
3. **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 and renovation at GFHS will entail. The community is invited to a Community Forum to see the preliminary plans this Thursday, January 25 at 6:00 pm at GFHS in the library. The Culinary Arts students will be serving appetizers starting at 5:30.
4. ***To Kill a Mockingbird.*** The GFHS Drama Department will be presenting the beautifully written play adapted by Christopher Sergel (with Harper Lee's blessing) from the popular book. The show's prelude prepares the audience to relate the 1935 story to today. Given the adult content, it is recommended for viewers 13 years old and up. The remaining shows are at 7:30 pm on January 25-27. Tickets are \$8 available at the door. All performances are held in the GFHS Auditorium. *“You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view.”*
5. **Facility Project Update: Selecting the General Contractor/Construction Manager.** While Board Policy 7320 (www.gfps.k12.mt.us/sites/default/files/Policy%207320%20Final%208-21-17.pdf) outlines bid and contract procedures, when public entities have projects with significant cost and schedule ramifications they can also utilize an alternative delivery method which results in the selection of the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GCCM). The alternative delivery method is provided for in Montana Codes Annotated. The details can be found in Title 18 (Public Contracts), Chapter 2 (Construction Contract), Parts, 501, 502 and 503 (Alternative Project Delivery Contracts). This method has been successfully deployed on many projects for school districts statewide, including Billings, Missoula, and Helena. This process was utilized for the projects underway at Giant Springs Elementary and CMR which are both on schedule and within budget. We are in the middle of the process for GFHS. To learn more about the process, see this link: <http://bit.ly/2G6rEFX>.
6. **Assistant Superintendent Uecker to Lead GFPS Partner Organization.** United Way (UW) and GFPS partner on a variety of initiatives that support education, income and health in our community. UW will hold its annual meeting today and the event will include the passing of the UW Board Chair gavel to Ruth Uecker. Ms. Uecker demonstrates her commitment to improving our community day in and day out at GFPS and for one year, she will use her vast leadership skills to also support the work of UW. Thanks for stepping up and leaning in, Ruth!

7. **February is National CTE Month.** The Bureau of Labor says many of the country's fastest growing jobs through 2022 will be in technical and trade fields which is why we will be highlighting GFPS Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs throughout the month of February. It will kick off with a press conference at the soon-to-be-opened Springhill Suites at West Bank Landing at 1pm on Thursday, February 1. Business partners, job shadow students and internships will be highlighted. Please RSVP to 268-6024 if you plan to attend. To learn more about CTE programs see this website: <http://gfpsweb.weebly.com/cte-home.html>. You can also like our CTE Department on Facebook: www.facebook.com/GFPS-Career-Technical-Program-1646152345406481/. Get ready to “Celebrate Today to Own Tomorrow!”
8. **Thank a Board Member This Week.** January is National School Board Appreciation month and I want to take the opportunity to say thanks to the GFPS Board members Jason Brantley, Jan Cahill (Chair), Jeff Gray (Vice Chair), Ann Janikula, Bob Moretti, Kim Skornogoski, and Laura Vukasin. They selflessly give back with their service to our kids, our community and our future. School board members are volunteers who give countless hours each month with little thanks. Please join me in thanking these dedicated leaders!
9. **Food Drive Appreciation.** I received a very nice thank you letter from Major Mark King, Corps Officer for the Salvation Army, as over 2500 pounds of canned goods were collected in the food drive barrels placed throughout the District during the holidays. These food drives are organized by our school principals, PTAs, student groups, and others who are to be commended for being some of the “many people helping needy folks—one person at a time.” Way to go, GFPS!
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>.

I hope you enjoyed this week’s Top Ten on Tuesday! The next release is scheduled for February 6, 2018.

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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