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Tammy's Top Ten on Tuesday February 20, 2018

- 1. Final Community Budget Meeting Today.** The Board of Trustees continues its efforts to make the budget setting process a transparent and community-based effort. To that end, the third of three community meetings will be held today, 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.
- 2. Special Board Meeting.** The Board will convene this Thursday, February 22 at 5:30 at the District Office Building to take action regarding the 2018-2019 budget. See #1 above. There are other agenda items, some of which are noted below. You can view the agenda here:
<http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>.
- 3. Golden Age Pass Tailgate Party:** The GFPS Foundation is hosting a tailgate party for all Golden Age Pass Holders on Wednesday, February 21. Pass Holders are feted to good food prepared by the culinary arts students, speeches by the winter and spring activity coaches, cheers from the high school cheer squads, and lots of prize drawings. Any Great Falls community member 62 years and older can get a Golden Age Pass. Just stop by the Superintendent's Office at 1100 4th St. S. to get yours today.
- 4. Facility Project Update:**
 - The Board has voted to sell and issue the remaining \$39,525,000 in facility bonds authorized by voters in the October, 2016 bond election. The sale will take place in March. This was moved up from an August sale as interest rates are predicted to rise.
 - The General Contractor/Construction Manager (GCCM) for Great Falls High School was selected via a lengthy RFQ/RFP/Interview process as outline in Montana Codes Annotated: *Title 18 (Public Contracts), Chapter 2 (Construction Contract), Parts, 501, 502 and 503 (Alternative Project Delivery Contracts)*. The Board will take action on the Facility Committee's recommendation to hire Sletten Companies as the GCCM at the special Board meeting on Thursday. See agenda link in #1 above.
 - The Board will also take final action at the Board meeting on Thursday to purchase property contiguous to GFHS on the corner of 20th Street and 2nd Ave. S. Bond proceeds will be used for this purchase as well as any related improvements to it. The bond language, approved by a majority vote, outlined approved expenditures to include, "...acquiring property contiguous to or in the vicinity of the Great Falls High School campus for additional parking." Given the parking issues at GFHS, GFPS will continue to look for other properties to purchase. For more information, see agenda link in #1 above.
- 5. Backpacks4Kids Program.** The GF Community Food Bank provides backpacks full of food for hungry students that will sustain them over weekends and long holiday breaks during the school year. To learn more about this important program, see this recent Tribune article:
www.greatfallstribune.com/story/news/2018/02/12/backpacks-4-kids-great-falls-community-food-bank-raising-funds-school/1064130001/. To donate to Backpacks4Kids, please contact the Food Bank at (406)

452-9029, visit their web site at www.greatfallsfoodbank.org, or visit their offices located at 1620 12th Ave North in Great Falls. The GFPS Foundation is already a major supporter of this effort.

6. **MIOSM!** March is Music in Our Schools Month and there are a ton of events celebrating the arts in Great Falls! A full schedule of events can be found on the website: www.gfps.k12.mt.us. You are cordially invited to attend one or more of the opportunities where youth talent will be showcased.
7. **GFPS Website Update.** If you click on the GFPS website after tomorrow, it will look different. The District has been directed by the U.S. Office of Civil Rights to ensure that the GFPS website is usable by people with disabilities which means that the content has to be significantly modified. As part of the process, it was necessary to make changes to the appearance and structure of the website. It also means that some content can no longer be included on the website because it can't be made accessible. If you can't find something on the new website, please call 268-6000 for assistance.
8. **GFPS Hosts Cascade County Spelling Bee.** On Friday, March 2 at West Elementary School elementary and middle school spellers from across the county will compete for top speller honors. The winner goes on to compete with sixty-four other contestants for more than \$3,000 in prizes, and the chance to represent Montana at the Scripps National Spelling Bee June 2-4, in Washington, D. C. The oral spelldown begins at 1 p.m. at Montana State University-Billings.
9. **NW-ACDA Hosts GFPS Singers.** The Northwest American Choral Directors Association has chosen the GFHS Delphian Choir to perform at its annual conference in Portland on March 8. The students will be under the direction of Patrick Ryan and Jordan Spicher at this prestigious event. Additionally, 10 CMR students and 13 GFHS students were selected for NW-ACDA Honor Choirs and they will also be performing during the conference. Safe travels and best wishes to these fine music students.
10. **Board Meetings:** The next regular Board meeting is on Monday, March 12 at 5:30 pm at the District Office Building, 1100 4th St. S. The agenda and supporting information will be posted on the afternoon of Thursday, March 8 at this link: <http://www.gfps.k12.mt.us/content/meeting-agendas>.

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

Take care. Be well. Stay safe.

Tammy L. Lacey
Superintendent

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