



Welcome!

Community

Facility Meeting

Wednesday, February 25, 2015

5:30-6:30

CMR Auditorium

Community Process Goal

- **Great Falls Public Schools is embarking on a facility planning process to ensure that our school buildings are viable educational institutions for many years to come.**
- **The Board desires community input as it embarks upon this process.**

Timelines

STEP 1: Communicate Facility Concerns...Tonight

STEP 2: Generate Ideas to Address Facility Concerns

Community Informational Meetings:

Monday, March 2 – 5:30–7:30 pm – **Roosevelt gym**

Tuesday, March 10 – 5:30–7:30 pm – **Longfellow cafeteria**

Wednesday, March 25 – 5:30-7:30 pm – **GFH Auditorium**

STEP 3: Narrow Options

Board Work Session:

Monday, March 30, 5:30-7:30 - **Aspen**

STEP 4: Conduct Public Survey

Hire a survey consultant

April

STEP 5: Determine Next Steps

Board Work Session:

Monday, May 4, 5:30 – 7:30 - **Aspen**



Tonight's Agenda

- **Background Information:**
 - **Strategic Plan**
 - **The District Basics: Students, Staff & Buildings**
- **Presentation of the Issues:**
 - **Increasing Enrollment/Building Capacities**
 - **Building Infrastructure Status**
 - **Safety Requirements**
 - **Modern Educational Environments**
 - **Technology**
 - **Optimal Learning Environments**
 - **Preschool Opportunities**
- **Invitation to Participate**
- **Your Thoughts...Survey...points indicated throughout**

The Strategic Plan & Facilities

- **Our Kids:**
 - Student Achievement
- **Our Community:**
 - Stewardship and Accountability
- **Our Future:**
 - Healthy, Safe and Secure Schools



The District: Basics

- Established in 1888
- Only 10 superintendents
- 2nd largest district in Montana
- 1 of 7 AA districts in Montana
 - (Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Kalispell, Helena and Missoula)
- 3rd largest employer in Great Falls
- 1.9 million square feet of building space
- 295 acres of land



The District: Students

- 10,431 students
- Ages 3-21
- By Level:
 - Pre-School = 100
 - K-6 = 5814
 - 7-8 = 1483
 - 9-12 = 3021
 - Lifeskills (Age 19-21) = 13



The District: Students



Programs

48.31%	Free/Reduced
4.21%	LEP
0.59%	ESL
9.75%	Special Education
0.51%	Homeless



Ethnicity

2.77%	African American
11.26%	Native American
0.44%	Pacific Islander
1.06%	Asian
75.87%	White
8.60%	Multiracial



The Staff: 1997 People

	People	FTE
Teachers	771	765.83
Hourly Classified	228	140.07
Engineers	98	98.00
Food Service	87	57.06
Aide-Library/Teacher	86	56.30
Clerical	77	76.50
Coaches-out of district	53	14.61
Principals	28	28.00
Medical Related	22	21.98
Support Personnel	25	22.40
District Administrators	14	14.00
Crafts (carp, paint, elec, plumb)	12	12.00
Technology Specialists	12	12.00
Psychologists	8	8.00
Supervisor	7	7.00
Warehouse	6	6.00
	1534	1339.75

Teacher Sub	281
Aide Sub	166
Para Educator Sub	35
Food Service Sub	16
Hourly Classified Sub	10
Clerical Sub	9
	*517

* = 54 duplicated people

The Buildings

- **Pre-School—Skyline Center**
 - 31 IDEA students
 - 69 Title 1 students
 - Headstart
 - Parent Participation Pre-School
 - County Extension Agency
 - **15 Elementary Schools**
 - 257 students to 498 students
 - 5814 students
 - **2 Middle Schools**
 - 1483 students
 - **3 High Schools**
 - CMR
 - 1446 students
 - GFHS/Fieldhouse/S. Campus
 - 1369 students
 - PGEC
 - 204 students
 - **Buildings and Grounds at Lowell**
 - **Little Russell Storage**
 - **District Office Building**
 - **Annex**
 - **Buildings and Grounds Shop**
 - **Warehouse**
 - **Paris Gibson Square (leased)**
- Total of 28 buildings**

Vacant Property

North of Skyline School

20 Acres

South of Skyline School

1.12 acres Immediately across the street.

Ayrshire Property

40 acres south of Great Falls.

Rancho Grand Vista

10 acres south of Meadowlark Elementary School

Mountain View Elementary

1.63 acres south of Mountain View Elementary

Loy Land- 2 tracts

Directly west of Loy Elementary

30 acres are currently being used for soccer complex.

10 acres are vacant.



Facility Issues

- **Increasing Enrollment/Building Capacities**
- **Building Infrastructure Status**
 - **Safety Requirements**
 - **Modern Educational Environments**
- **Technology**
- **Optimal Learning Environments**
- **Preschool Opportunities**

Increasing Enrollment & Building Capacities

Enrollment:

- Enrollment projections indicate continued growth in the student population over the next 5 years.
- Using current enrollment and birth rates only:
 - Estimated at another 413 students (188 in K-6, 164 in 7-8, and 61 in 9-12)
- Economic growth in Great Falls is sure to bring additional families/students (GFDA predictions):
 - Growth in advanced manufacturing and professional service primary sector industries including Loenbro, Calumet Montana Refining, BE Aerospace, ADF International, Centene and other companies.
 - Population and labor force will continue to grow, supported by a number of community enhancements

Increasing Enrollment & Building Capacities

Classroom Overloads:

- As of December 1, 2014
 - A total of 80 out of 260 (31%) K-6 classrooms overloaded according to accreditation standards.
 - 68 out of 126 (54%) K-2 classrooms classified as overloaded according to accreditation standards.
- A preference for smaller class sizes? Contributes to higher quality education?

Survey question...

Class Size Accreditation Standards

10.55.712 Class Size: Elementary

(1) In single grade rooms, the maximum class size shall be:

(a) no more than 20 students in K-2

(b) no more than 28 students in grades 3-4;

(c) no more than 30 students in grades 5-8.

(5) Instructional aides are mandatory when class size or teacher load exceed the standards. An instructional aide shall be assigned a minimum of 1 1/2 hours per day, per student overload up to six hours.

(6) An overload of 5 students per classroom is considered excessive.



Increasing Enrollment & Building Capacities

Functional Capacities:

- Capacity is the number of students that can be reasonably accommodated by a school building and site. Depends on:
 - Physical variables
 - Operational variables
 - Programmatic variables
- Different kinds of capacities:
 - **Accredited Maximum Capacity:** Total number of rooms x students allowed in each room per accreditation standards
 - **Overload Maximum Capacity:** Total number of rooms x students allowed in each room per accreditation overload allowances
 - **Functional Capacity:** A ratio that considers curriculum and program offerings (70% of other maximums)

School	Potential Classrooms	Accredited Max Capacity	Overload Max Capacity	Functional Capacity: 70% Accredited	70% Overload	Oct 1 Enrollment (2014)	Plus/Minus Functional Capacity	Plus/Minus 70% Overload
CJ	22	554	642	388	450	310	78	140
LC	26	654	758	458	531	433	25	98
LN	20	503	583	353	409	432	-79	-23
LF +100HS	29	730	846	511	593	416	95	177
LY	26	654	758	458	531	397	61	134
ML	26	654	758	458	531	482	-24	49
MO	20	503	583	353	409	314	39	95
MV	19	478	554	335	388	326	9	62
RV	21	528	612	370	429	448	-78	-19
RS	18	453	525	318	368	313	5	55
SC	21	528	612	370	429	433	-63	-4
SS	22	554	642	388	450	452	-64	-2
VV	21	528	612	370	429	403	-33	26
WT	33	830	962	581	674	498	83	176
WH	17	428	496	300	348	257	43	91
SK	19	478	554	335	388	102	233	286
EMS	45	1350	1350	945	945	729	216	216
NMS	42	1260	1260	882	882	754	128	128
CMR	73	2190	2190	1533	1533	1445	88	88
GFH	95	2850	2850	1995	1995	1369	626	626
PGEC	59	1770	1770	1239	1239	217	1022	1022
Totals	674	18477	19917	12940	13951	10530	2410	3421

Increasing Enrollment & Building Capacities

Functional Capacities:

- As of the October, 2014 count, 6 (40%) of the elementary schools are over their functional capacities (see explanation below).
- Due to accreditation factors and related FTE (library & counseling) and student management, GFPS has made it a priority to keep the elementary school enrollment below 500, which puts West and Meadowlark at enrollment capacity as well. If the District chooses to go over 500 students, there are financial implications related to staffing. **Survey Question...**
- At capacity then, are 8 (53%) of the elementary schools.
- Utilizing the *functional capacity* calculation, K-6 buildings can only grow by 97 students before, in total, elementary schools will be at capacity. K-6 is predicted to grow 188 students over the next 5 years.
- The community's commitment to Early Childhood Education and the awarding of the Preschool Development Grant puts additional pressure on classrooms available for K-12 education.

School Size Rules

10.55.705 Administrative Personnel: Assignment of School Principals

(d) 2 FTE licensed principals shall be assigned to schools with enrollments of 550 to fewer than 1050 students; (e) 3 FTE licensed principals shall be assigned to schools with enrollments of 1050 to fewer than 1550 students; (f) 4 FTE licensed principals shall be assigned to schools with enrollments of 1550 to fewer than 2050 students; (g) 5 FTE licensed principals shall be assigned to schools with enrollments of 2050 or more students.

10.55.709 Library Media Services, K-12

(1) The school library shall be housed in a central location, and each school shall have a licensed and endorsed library media specialist at the following ratio:

(a) .5 FTE for schools with 126-250 students; (b) 1 FTE for schools with 251-500 students; (c) 1.5 FTE for schools with 501-1000 students; (d) 2 FTE for schools with 1001-1500 students; (e) 2.5 FTE for schools with 1501-2000 students; (f) 3 FTE for schools with 2001 or more students.

10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff

(1) A minimum equivalent of one full-time counselor for each 400 elementary (K-8) students shall be provided. The counselor/student ratio shall be prorated.

Building Infrastructure Status

- Age of Buildings
- Critical Infrastructure Concerns
- Safety Needs
- Programmatic Needs

Great Falls Public Schools			
School Building History			
BUILDING	DATE BUILT	Age	
CENTRAL SCHOOL/PARIS			
GIBSON SQUARE	1896	119	
ROOSEVELT	1928	87	
GREAT FALLS HIGH SCHOOL	1931	84	
WHITTIER	1938	77	
LOWELL	1939	76	
RUSSELL	1939	76	
PARIS GIBSON	1948	67	
LINCOLN	1951	64	
LONGFELLOW	1952	63	
WEST ELEMENTARY	1952	63	
LEWIS & CLARK	1953	62	
EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL	1957	58	
ADMINISTRATION BUILDING	1959	56	
ANNEX	1959	56	
MEADOW LARK	1960	55	
MORNINGSIDE	1960	55	
RIVERVIEW	1960	55	
SUNNYSIDE	1960	55	
VALLEY VIEW	1960	55	
CHIEF JOSEPH	1962	53	
SACAJAWEA	1962	53	
LOY	1963	52	
WAREHOUSE	1964	51	
CHARLES M. RUSSELL	1965	50	
MOUNTAIN VIEW	1970	45	
SKYLINE	1970	45	
NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL	1970	45	
BISON FIELDHOUSE	1979	36	
GROUND'S SHOP	1989	26	
GFHS - SOUTH CAMPUS	1998	17	

Average Age of School Buildings = 57 years old

Decades of Buildings:

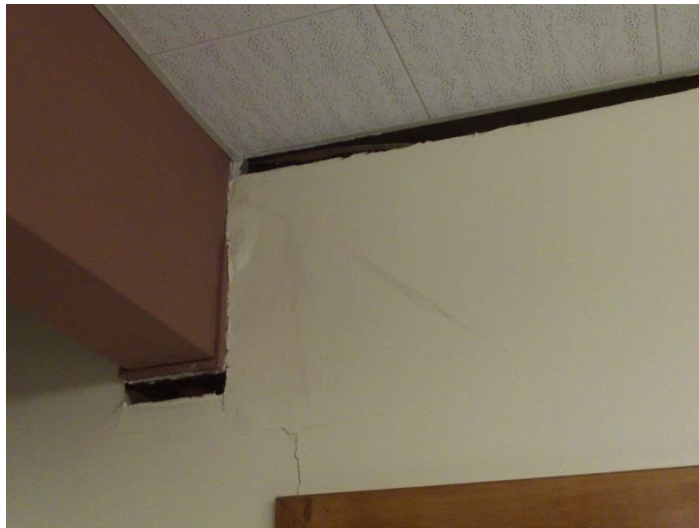
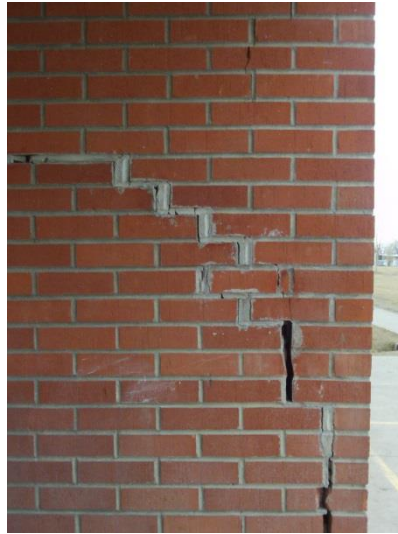
1890's	1
1920's	1
1930's	4
1940's	1
1950's	5
1960's	9
1970's	4
1980's	1
1990's	1

Critical Infrastructure Concerns

- By Category: Asbestos, Asphalt, Boilers, Floors, Cement, Doors/Locks, Electrical, Elevator, Fire Alarms, HVAC, PA/Notification Systems, Painting, Plumbing, Remodel, Safety, Structural, Technology, Water, Windows, Other...
- By School
- By major repair items vs. maintenance items
- Identified timing of major need:
 - 0-2 years (purple)
 - 3-5 years (red)
 - 6-10 years (yellow)
 - 10+ years (orange, green, blue)
- Identified estimated costs (verified)
- Doing work as we speak...
-

					Total
	0-2	3-5	6-10	11 & beyond	Building
Chief Joseph	\$ 226,290	\$ -	\$ 1,157,627		\$ 1,383,917
Lewis & Clark	\$ -	\$ 540,628	\$ -		\$ 540,628
Lincoln	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ 300,000		\$ 390,000
Longfellow	\$ 1,049,387	\$ 1,038,326	\$ 225,000		\$ 2,312,713
Lowell	\$ -	\$ 90,000	\$ -		\$ 90,000
Loy	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 585,582		\$ 585,582
Meadow Lark	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$126,000?	\$ -
Morningside	\$ 126,050	\$ -	\$ 350,000		\$ 476,050
Mountain View	\$ 205,867	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 205,867
Riverview	\$ -	\$ 62,526	\$ 217,073		\$ 279,599
Roosevelt	\$ 248,705	\$ 504,593	\$ 312,493		\$ 1,065,791
Sacajawea	\$ 40,000	\$ -	\$ 217,073		\$ 257,073
Sunnyside	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 205,127		\$ 205,127
West	\$ -	\$ 376,624	\$ 296,624		\$ 673,248
Valley View	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000		\$ 225,000
Whittier	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 568,747		\$ 568,747
Skyline	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 225,000		\$ 225,000
East	\$ 113,334	\$ 701,138	\$ 1,175,000		\$ 1,989,472
North	\$ -	\$ 610,000	\$ 2,461,272		\$ 3,071,272
CMR	\$ 325,000	\$ 1,453,171	\$ 451,594		\$ 2,229,765
GFHS*	\$ 2,722,726	\$ 5,352,490	\$ 2,225,000		\$ 10,300,216
Paris Gibson	\$ 322,965	\$ 1,323,675	\$ 710,130		\$ 2,356,770
Totals	\$ 5,380,324	\$ 12,143,171	\$ 11,908,342	\$\$\$????	\$ 29,431,837+

- * GFHS has its own study that identifies needs up to \$55,000,000



Safety Needs

- Cameras
- Line of Sight
- Doors and Locks
- Lighting
- Limited Access
- Alert Systems
- Fire Alarms

- Safety category: Total: \$315,993



Modern Educational Environments

- Academic
 - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM)
 - Science lab needs
 - Computer labs
- Career & Technical Education... **survey question**
 - Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs at the middle school and high school levels give students skills and experiences in growing fields such as Industrial Technology (welding, carpentry, automotive), Health Sciences (Med Prep), Culinary and Textiles/Interior Design, and Business/Computer Science education.
- Co-curricular
 - Auditoriums and stages
 - GFHS seating
 - Both technology advancements
- Extra-curricular
 - Gym access
 - Memorial Stadium
 - Track
 - Field
 - Seating



•Costs are unknown at this time

Technology

- GFPS believes that the effective use of **technology supports student achievement** as it prepares students for the pervasiveness of technology in the world they will live and work.
- GFPS is dedicated to ensuring students learn the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in an increasingly **global, technology infused, modern workplace.**

Technology Concerns

Increasing costs:

- Over the last decade, GFPS has made significant investments in hardware, software, infrastructure, professional development, and support services.
- Currently, GFPS funds technology investments via a \$225,000 perpetual annual technology levy, via E-rate and since the passage of the operational levy in 2014, \$300,000 for software subscriptions.
- The costs of these investments continue to increase.
- All GFPS buildings were built before the proliferation of technology. They are not equipped to handle the requirements of a technology rich environment that schools must be.

Technology Concerns

Other Concerns:

- **Fast and reliable wifi** is a concern in some schools. The construction of some schools is so dense that wifi solutions are challenging.
- The age of the GFPS **phone system** is a concern. GFPS is tasked with finding a replacement communication system which will undoubtedly incur additional costs.
- The **refresh schedule** is not adequate. Currently GFPS is on a 7.5 year refresh schedule. This is added to refurbished machines that are already 2 years old when the District purchases them.
- There is also a concern regarding the number of **cameras** buildings are installing. As the technology changes, there needs to be a plan to refresh the cameras and related technology.
- The number of **devices** is expanding. This requires additional technical support as well as the need for professional coaching for the staff so that the devices are utilized to best support teaching and learning.

Optimal Learning Environments

- Customization of Learning
 - **Facility planning** must take into account the educational requirements of the future
 - Today's **students are very different** than students of the past.
 - Their access to information is unsurpassed but so are the impacts of poverty, homelessness, hunger and other societal challenges.
 - Today's schools strive to **customize learning** and to do so, schools must provide an array of options to meet student needs.
 - **Options increase the educational footprint** which impacts building capacity, staffing and other resources.
 - Customization provides for focused learning for **college and career readiness**.
 - As we provide a plethora of choices for all students, we must seek ways to sustain the efforts with increasing resource costs.
 - **Increased opportunities via choice and customization make public schools appealing to all students.**

Optimal Learning Environments

- Grade Configuration... **survey question**
 - Current: Preschool; K-6, 7-8, 9-12
 - ❖ Others:
 - Preschool; K-5; 6-8; 9-12
 - Preschool-6; 7-8; 9-12
 - Preschool-5; 6-8; 9-12
 - Preschool; K-2; 3-6; 7-8; 9-12
 - Preschool-2; 3-6; 7-8; 9-12
 - Other

Optimal Learning Environments

- Smaller Neighborhood Elementary Schools vs. Large Regional Elementary Schools
 - i. 10.55.705 Administrative Personnel: Assignment of School Administrators/Principals**
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 - iii. 10.55.710 Assignment of School Counseling Staff**
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Survey
Question

Optimal Learning Environments

“Choice” (or lack of) seems to be a theme of public education critics. Do these approaches help make public schools more appealing and relevant?

- ❖ A magnet/charter/theme school (such as STEM or CTE) approach?
 - What could that look like?
- ❖ An academy approach? Schools within schools...
 - What could that look like?

Survey question

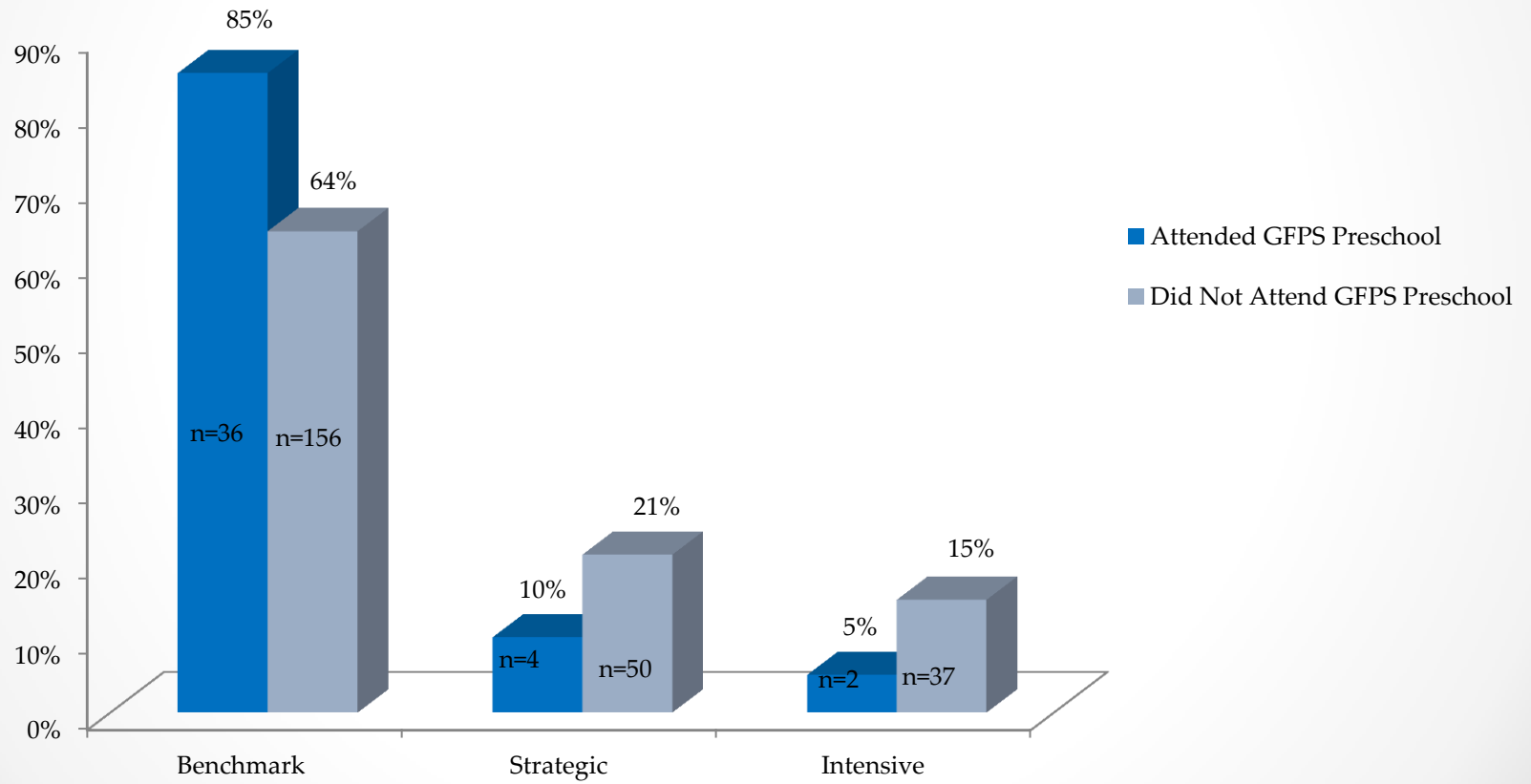
Preschool Opportunities

Impact of Preschool Education

Boehm Test of Concepts Results

(West, Whittier, Longfellow, Roosevelt, Sunnyside)

Preschool Class of 2013-2014



Preschool Opportunities

- Pre-K education provides a systemic fix to the Graduation Matters Great Falls initiative. Data shows that the Achievement/Opportunity Gap can be closed via pre-school education. Closing that gap early pays dividends into the future.
- Pre-K education can allow for the full continuum of services (educational, social and medical) to be delivered thereby increasing effectiveness and efficiency of these services.
- Expanding pre-K education is an objective on the GFPS Strategic Plan.
- Pre-K has the potential to be a major economic driver in the Great Falls community as it frees up currently non-working parents to go to work or college. Many low to medium income families have to choose between daycare costs and wages.

Preschool Opportunities

- Preschool Development Grant
 - Provides the opportunity for more low income Great Falls children to attend preschool.
 - Estimated number of additional students:
 - Skyline Early Learning Family Center:
- Headstart Information:
 - Headstart leases space at Skyline. That lease will expire June, 2016, however there is an early termination clause in the contract
 - Headstart leases space at Longfellow Elementary. They have 4 classrooms which they lease for \$100 each for a total of \$400 per month or \$4000 per year.
- **Survey Question**

An Opportunity...

- To ensure our buildings will be viable educational institutions for the next generation of Great Falls children
- For meaningful and engaging community dialogue

WHAT: Informational Meetings for Ideas to Address Facility Concerns

WHEN: Monday, March 2, 5:30–7:30 pm, Roosevelt Gym

Tours at 4:30, 4:45 & 5:00

Tours start from the Office: 2501 2nd Ave. N.

Tuesday, March 10, 5:30–7:30 pm , Longfellow Cafeteria

Tours at 4:30, 4:45 & 5:00

Tours start from the Office: 1101 6th Ave. S.

Wednesday, March 25, 5:30-7:30 pm , GFHS Auditorium

Tours at 4:30, 4:45 & 5:00

Tours start from the Main Campus Office: 1900 2nd Ave. S.

AGENDA: Same agenda for all three meetings. May attend one, two or all three meetings:

- a) To present facility related ideas that have been suggested by Cabinet and the Board;
- b) to gain ideas from participants; and
- c) to discuss pros and cons of ideas

Survey

Please complete a 10-question survey at
this link:

[www.surveymonkey.com/s/GFPS-
community](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/GFPS-community)

Can refer to this powerpoint in
answering your questions:

www.gfps.k12.mt.us/facility

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

The CHALLENGES
of today make
OPPORTUNITIES
for tomorrow!

