



December 12, 2016

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Grace School District #148 Highlights

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Inside this issue:

New Elementary Building Update	2
Proposed Plan for Elementary Building	2
Informational Meetings for Elementary Proposal	3
Adjustment to Levies	3
Enrollment Numbers for GSD #148	4

Superintendent's Letter

Dear Patrons-

Happy Holidays! This is an exciting time year and our schools are buzzing with enthusiasm. We are excited about the great things we are seeing in our classrooms throughout the district. This holiday season helps us focus on serving others and recognizing the importance of supporting people in need within our community. The elementary schools have participated in the annual canned food drive. The combined effort from Thatcher and Grace Elementary Schools provided 1,080 food items for needy families! We are proud of our students and their families for giving so generously.

The winter season is hard on our aging facilities; it reminds us that the maintenance of our two elementary schools continues to be a drain on the district finances. I have been asked by several of you where we are on the elementary school bond issue that was proposed last year. The proposal to build a new elementary is still our highest priority facilities project. We learned in the information meetings held last year that our patrons were concerned about moving forward on the project without having the property secured. As a result of those concerns we have been working to secure the property before moving ahead with the elementary school project. Obtaining the property has not been an easy process. We first tried to secure property near the existing campus from a private seller. When negotiations failed, we refocused on the property which belongs to the LDS church. As we have worked through the purchase of the property to

the south of the existing elementary we have found that there are two divisions in the LDS church that must approve the sale of the property to the school district: Seminaries and Institutes, as well as Church Real Estate. We have received approval from the division of Seminaries and Institutes and are now in the final stages with Church Real Estate. It is important for you to know that the district has set aside the monies necessary for the purchase of this property, and that the purchase will not be dependent upon the results of the bond election in August. There is a new design and site plan for the new elementary in this newsletter.

This new elementary would house all of our students Pre-K through 6 in one location and offer better efficiencies and educational benefits that have been difficult to accomplish in the past. The board has designated times for informational meetings to gather community input. You will find more information about the meetings in this newsletter. Please take time and attend these meetings.

I would like to address a couple of key issues that have emerged in the district in the past couple of months. Concerns have been brought to my attention regarding our district's stance on student drug, alcohol and tobacco use. I will refer you to our district website under board policy #551; this policy has been, and will be followed to the letter for any and all allegations.

We have experienced another influx in our student enrollment. Our current enrollment trend of an average of 23

new students a year for the past 5 years has been unprecedented. Growth is a great problem to have, and because of it, I believe we will be able to fund the necessary increase in staff without increasing our Supplemental and Plant Facilities levy.

We will be running both our plant facilities and supplemental levies this year on the March 14th ballot. The school board has decided to leave both levy amounts at their current rate. We are so appreciative of the continued support you have shown our schools; we truly couldn't do it without you! Please mark your calendars and get out and vote.

I appreciate all you do as patrons for the students and staff of this district. We are facing unsettled times with commodities prices this year but together I am confident we will find a way to serve, inspire, and educate the students of our district.

Go big R.E.D.,



Jamie Holyoak
 Superintendent of Schools
 Grace School District #148

Special points of interest:
Plant Facilities Levy Election
March 14, 2017



"Your purpose in life is to find your purpose and give your whole heart and soul to it"

New Elementary Building

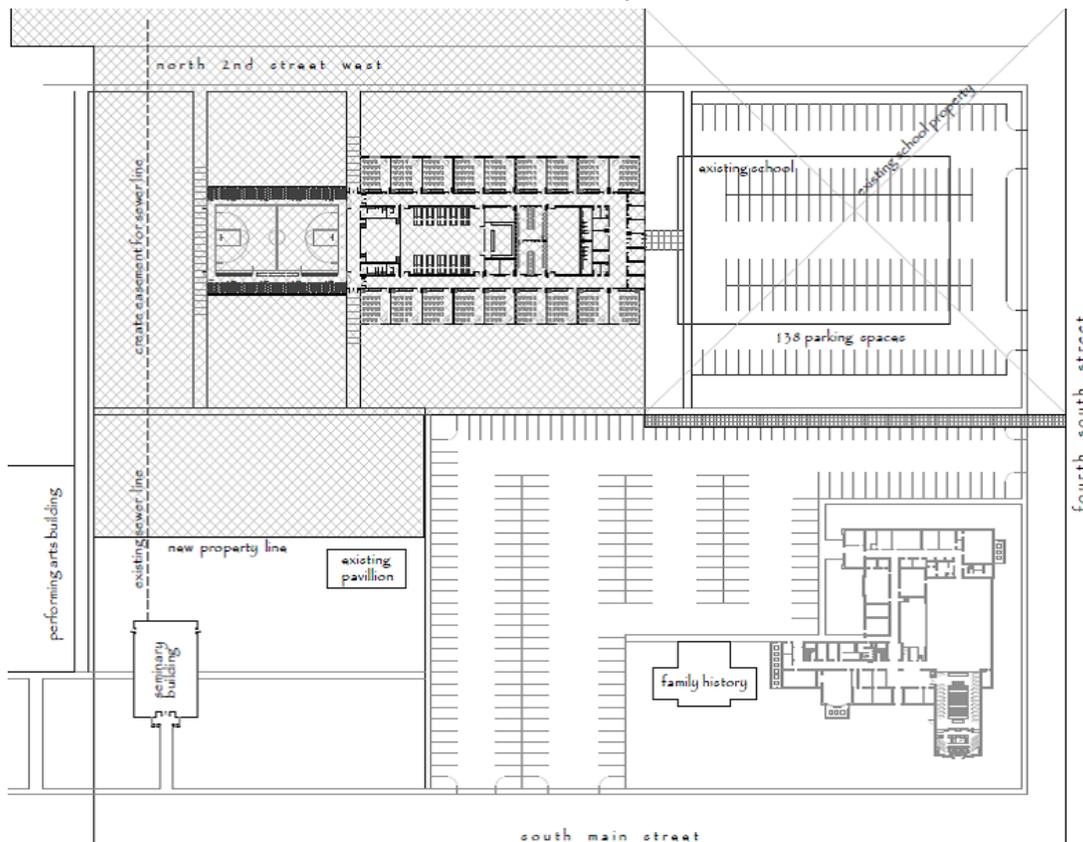
In the past 5 years our district has incurred over \$200,000.00 in maintenance cost associated with our aging elementary schools. It is because of this that it is becoming cost prohibitive to continue as we are.

The Board has heard a financial report from Zions Bank regarding possible bonding options. In that report it was identified that the state of Idaho, through its “Bond Equalization Formula”, would pay up to 18% of the total bond on a new construction

project. This would mean that the state would pay approximately \$900,000.00 toward a 5 million dollar bond.

The board is nearing the end of the process to secure the property for the building site. Because it has been such a lengthy process to make arrangements for the purchase of the property, the board felt it would be best to have the bond election in August to allow time for patron input and to properly place the issue on the county ballot.

In the process of working with the LDS church toward purchase of property for the proposed elementary school, the site plan shown was developed. This configuration is to allow access to a sewer line designated by the hash marks.



Informational Meetings

March 17th	9:00 am	All District Employee Meeting
		<i>Revise Plan with Building Committee</i>
April 6th	6:00 pm	1st Public Information Meeting
		<i>Revise Plan with Building Committee</i>
June 8th	6:00 pm	2nd Public Information Meeting
		<i>Revise Plan with Building Committee</i>
July 13th	6:00 pm	3rd Public Information Meeting
		Meeting
July 24-29th		Display at the Caribou County Fair
August 29th	Bond Election	Designated Polling Location

Grace School District to Adjust Levies

The board of trustees opted to change the length of the Plant Facilities levy election from the traditional 3 years to 1 year at \$150,000.00. The levy amount will remain the same as it has been for the past several years. The adjustment will allow for the district to revisit the levy amount in the event that the district is able to pass a building bond for a new elementary school in August. Plant Facilities Levy dollars are used for major maintenance projects, basic maintenance

supplies, and general utility expenses including lighting and heating.

The District will also be proposing to continue the Supplemental Levy at the \$300,000.00 for the one year duration as well. Supplemental Levy dollars are used for staffing and curricular materials: including teachers, teacher aides, custodians, food service personnel, and curricular materials.

The levy amounts will result in no tax increases to our patrons.

The levy elections will be held on Tuesday March 14th 2017. We recognize the impact of these levies on our patrons as well as our students and staff. We appreciate all the support that our schools are afforded by this great community.

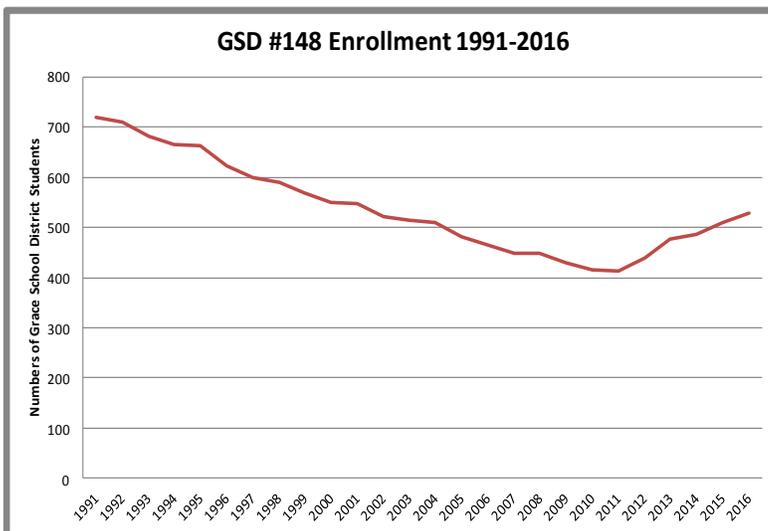


GEAR UP Is Up and Running

During the 2016 session, the Idaho Legislature passed Senate Bill 1290 providing school districts and charter schools with additional funding to be used to enhance existing programs or develop new research based programs for providing college and career counseling to students in grades 8 through 12.

Mrs. Brady is the GEAR UP Coordinator for

Grace School District. She is currently focusing on helping seniors apply for post-secondary schooling and financial aid. If you missed the FAFSA nights, or have any other questions regarding financial aid or applying for college admission, please feel free to contact Mrs. Brady at GHS-425-3731. She would love to help you and answer your questions.



In the last 25 years, Grace School District has seen great fluctuation in enrollment. In 1991, there were 719 students enrolled in Grace Schools. There was a steady decline in enrollments from 1991 through 2011, which had the lowest enrollment of the 25 years measured: 413 students. Since 2011, Grace School District has seen a steady increase in enrollments, averaging 23 new students per year. The current enrollment in Grace Schools is 528 students.

Thatcher Elementary Enrollment: 106 students

Grace Elementary Enrollment: 194 Students

Grace Jr/Sr High School Enrollment: 228 students

Grace School District #148 has purchased another propane bus. The School Board opted to begin to “green” our fleet in its November meeting. The benefits of the propane engine are 60% less carbon monoxide emissions, and 24% less greenhouse gas emissions than our existing route buses. Propane buses also have a reduced fuel cost of 40%. The new bus will also pack a punch with 362 horsepower and 457 pounds of torque. Maybe most importantly it will start easily in extreme cold as propane does not gel like diesel.



DECEMBER 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20 Last Day of School	21 Christmas Break Be- gins	22	23	24
25 Christmas Day	26	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve
1 New Year's Day	2	3 School Resumes	4	5	6	7

