

GRACE SCHOOL DISTRICT #148

FINANCIAL ISSUE

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SUPERINTENDENT'S LETTER



HOW DO I VOTE?

- Registered voters will need to show ID when they vote. Acceptable forms of ID include: Idaho driver's license or photo ID card, a US passport or federal photo ID card, or a current student photo ID card.
- If no ID is available, an affidavit may be signed.
- Election day registration is available at your regular polling place. A photo ID and documentation that includes your current address is required.



Dear Patrons-

March is a critical month for our district as we are faced with the realities of the 2012-13 budget. I hope that this budget-specific newsletter will help you understand the issues we are currently confronting as a school district. We have seen an increase in enrollment in the district for the first time in several years; in fact our enrollment is the same as it was in 2009. This is a very positive trend that we hope will continue. Interestingly, however, through conversations with the state we have found that even though our student population has increased, our number of teaching positions allocated by the state has actually decreased from last years allocation. The reason for this decrease in state allocation was our decision not to rehire three elementary teachers last year, as well as our decision to bring grades 4 and 5 to Grace Elementary instead of leaving them in Thatcher. Combining the 4th and 5th grades have resulted in class sizes of 35 and larger and projections indicated that 35 will be the smallest class size through the next four years, with next year's 4th grade being over 40 students. Research indicates that optimal class size for elementary grades is 20 or less.

The state informed us that at a remote school located ten or more miles from the district office, it takes 11 students to receive 1 teacher unit. In elementary schools closer to the district office it takes 16 students to receive 1 teacher unit. Thatcher Elementary is 11 miles from the district office, so placing more students and teachers at Thatcher will increase our budget allocation from the state.

In an effort to do what is best for our students, the school board is proposing we raise the supplemental levy to \$300,000. The additional \$100,000 above our current levy amount will allow us to hire the needed teachers and reduce class sizes in the district. The cost of one teacher unit, including salaries and benefits, is approximately \$55,000.00. In order to maximize the state allocation to the district for teacher units, we also plan to return students to Thatcher Elementary in Grades 4 and 5. The school district will see an increase in state allocation for future years when we return teachers and students to Thatcher Elementary.

We hope this newsletter will provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision concerning the supplemental levy. Please vote on Tuesday, March 13th, at your county precinct polling location. You can find your polling location by contacting the Caribou County Clerk's office at 547-4324. Franklin County residents can call 852-1090.

Thank you for all you do for the students of Grace School District.

Go Big R.E.D!

Jamie Holyoak
Super-
Grace
trict



intendent of
Schools
School Dis-
#148

"We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit." - Aristotle

Grace Joint School District #148



Ballot Issue:

Supplemental Levy Increase

Vote Tuesday March 13th
 At your county precinct
 polling place
 8:00 am to 8:00 pm



Current Levy Amounts in Caribou County School Districts:

Soda Springs	\$570,000	800 Students	\$700/Student
Grace	\$200,000	400 Students	\$500/Student
North Gem	\$200,000	220 Students	\$909/Student
IF Grace Levies	\$300,000	400 Students	\$750/Student

Elementary Class Size Comparison:

Marsh Valley	23
Soda Springs	25
Preston	26
Bear Lake	22
Challis	20
Shoshone	20

Passage of this levy would increase support for the school district from \$200,000 to \$300,000. With the current assessed valuation of the school district, property owners will pay \$89.32 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation per year .

The maximum homeowners exemption for 2012 is \$83, 974. A homeowner may exempt one-half the assessed valuation or \$83, 974, whichever is less.

What Does the Supplemental Levy Support?

Supplemental levy money is part of the district's general operating budget, is used to support our current educational programs, and allows us to provide excellent instruction for our children. This money also supports various professional development programs and extra-curricular activities in the district.

What Does the Plant-Facility Levy Support?

Plant-facility levy money can only be spent on maintaining and improving facilities and transportation. This year's completed plant facility projects are: re-roofing the high school auditorium and repairing the roofs of Grace Elementary and high school, purchase of one school bus, re-finishing of Grace Elementary floors, installation of a drain field requested by the City of Grace to keep run-off from the high school out of the city drains, re-sealing the parking lots at GHS and Grace Elementary, new carpet in district classrooms, and general maintenance and custodial supplies.