

# THREE FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School District No. J-24 . 212 East Neal . Three Forks, MT 59752

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February 4, 2016

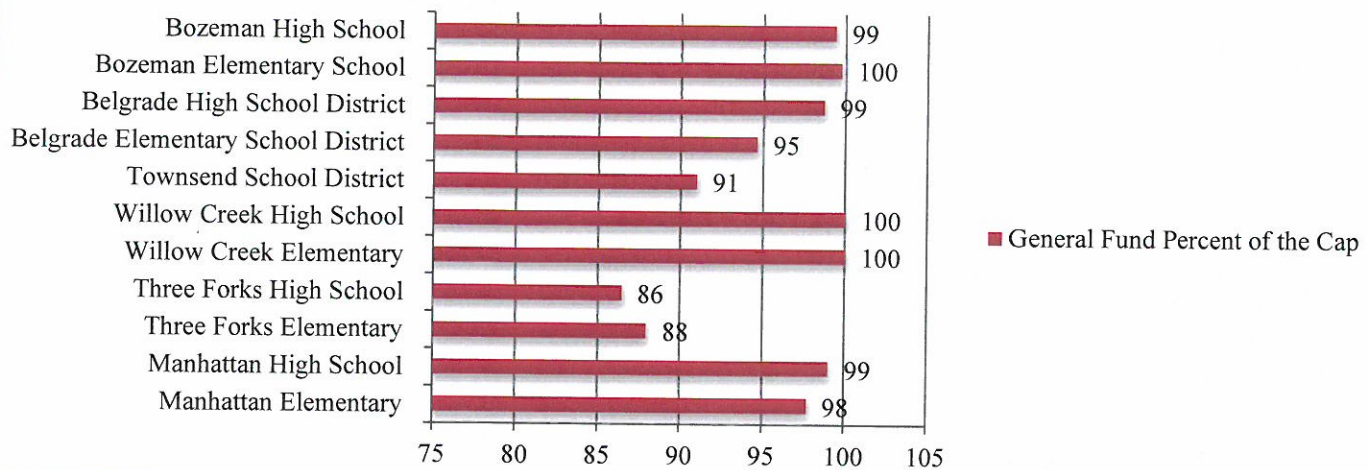
## Superintendent News – January and February

Welcome to February in Three Forks! It sure is nice to see the ice melting on our streets! We can begin to see the grass, before long we will see folks out on the golf course! January has been very busy here at the school! Our students all finished the first semester and have settled into the second semester now. The district was able to host a nationally recognized guest speaker in VJ Smith in January and he spoke to the 4-12 grade students on the power of good character and saying thank you! We received great feedback from staff, students, parents, and community members on his presentation. Our adult education courses have been a huge success! We are in week four now, which is at the midpoint for the eight week courses. Ray Noble and Linda Hesson have been a huge help with our program and I would like to thank them for their time, effort, and support of the adult education courses. The Montana Association of Elementary and Middle School Principals recognized Imerys Talc for their continued support of the Three Forks School District recently. Imerys was the recipient of the MAEMSP Appreciation Award! Our high school speech and drama team did an outstanding job this season! The team ended up taking state in drama; huge congratulations to our students for achieving such a great award! Upcoming in February, we have our boys and girls basketball tournaments beginning with the district tournament in two weeks!

In other publications of the Superintendents News this school year, we have discussed the idea of the need for an operational general fund mill levy this spring both in the elementary and high schools. Our mill levy committee continues to meet and I attend those meetings to provide information to the group concerning the state of our general fund budgets. I have provided a chart below to illustrate the need for a general fund mill levy, as we need to keep our students competitive with other area schools, in the types of programs and course offerings that are available in neighboring towns.

In collaboration with our community, the core purpose of the Three Forks Public School District is to be the model of excellence in education by using best practices, meeting the needs of every student, and instilling a love of lifelong learning.

## 2015-2016 General Fund Budgets (Percent of the Cap)



Without the added budget authority for next school year, the district is looking at significant general fund budget cuts to many programs and personnel (e.g. Teachers, Para-Educators, and Custodial positions) in the district. We will also be looking at cutting a boys' and girls' sports program, and instituting a pay to participate program for students who participate in extra-curricular activities. Moreover, school field trips will be cut, classroom supplies, additional technology, and a freeze will be placed on summer facility maintenance projects.

There is a mill levy committee set up consisting of school personnel, parents, and community members. Their next meeting is Thursday February 11, 2016 at 3:45pm in the high school conference room across from the library. We need your help in getting the word out to the community on the need for the operational levy! If you would like to help or get more information, please attend the meeting. I will be hosting several community nights where interested members of the public can attend and ask questions. We will also be able to estimate the additional cost to an individual taxpayer at the meetings based upon current taxable value of your residential property. Currently, I have set up the following public meetings:

Tuesday February 23, 2016	7:00-8:00pm	in the HS Conference Room
Tuesday March 22, 2016	7:00-8:00pm	in the HS Conference Room
Tuesday April 26, 2016	7:00-8:00pm	in the HS Conference Room/Potential School Board Forum

Ultimately, our focus at the school and the need for a general fund levy is to prepare the next generation of workers for the local businesses and manufacturing plants in Three Forks. The investment in the school district over time will give back to the community of Three Forks and we all will see the impact.

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Two of the Three Forks School Board of Trustees seats are up for election as well this May. If you are interested in running for one of the seats, please stop in and see our district clerk Randi Strickland and she can get you the information necessary to file as a candidate for one of the seats.

A group of five parents and community members have volunteered to aid in the establishment of the Three Forks School District Foundation. The foundation's focus will be to help students with scholarships, small innovative grant requests for our teachers, and to act as a fiscal agent for grants that the district might qualify for in the future. The foundation board is researching other area school foundations in hopes to create the mission, vision, and bylaws for the group while working to fill out all required paperwork to gain the 501c3 status for a non-profit. The next meeting will be Tuesday February 9, 2016 at 5pm in the superintendent's office.

Please if you have, spare moments come over to the school and attend a sporting event, concert, or assembly so that you can also see the investment that we all have in our students.

Yours in Education,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert DoBell", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert DoBell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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