

# THREE FORKS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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

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*Gayla Sieler, High School Secretary 285-3224*  
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March 25, 2016

## Superintendents News March and April

Greetings from the school! March has flown by and we are beginning to see the signs of spring. In this month's edition of the superintendents news I wanted to give you some information on the upcoming election on May 3, 2016; there will be two parts to the election this year. The voters will be electing two trustee candidates to the school board for a three year term each, and the voters will decide on an operational, general fund mill levy for the elementary and high school districts.

In the trustee election we have four candidates running for two open seats. The candidates are: Dale Kober, Lori Van-Vleet, Sheri Brown, and Jason Kovnesky. The school district will host a trustee candidate forum on Tuesday April 26, 2016 at 7pm in the high school library. The candidates will answer several questions, and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions as well. Typically the school board trustee candidate forums last about an hour. After the candidate forum, I will be available to answer any questions from the public concerning the two operational General Fund mill levies that folks may have.

The operational general fund mill levies that will be on the ballot in May are necessary for the school district to keep all of our programs and staffing in place at the current level. The school district has not asked voters for an increase in the general fund budget for 8 years. In that time the school district was able to absorb inflationary increases, and trim the budget where necessary to ensure that programs and personnel remained consistent. The time has come where the district cannot continue to trim the budget and not have it directly affect students and programs that the district offers. As a result we are asking the voters to increase the operating capacity of the general fund a bit. We are always diligent to be good stewards of the taxpayers' dollars. Our programs and staffing have grown with the district and we need the budget to grow at the same rate. As a result, the elementary general fund budget needs to be at 91% of the "over base" budget, and the high school needs to be at 92% of the cap. The district identifies that at this time we do not need to ask the taxpayers for more than we need to operate the school.

It is also important to note, that in the recent times the district has identified the need for students to have access to 21st century educational technology. This additional funding has come from state, local, and national grants. The school district used Federal grants to pay for increased technology infrastructure. Elementary and High School general fund dollars were not spent on additional technology acquisitions by the district. Listed below is the specific information related to the request for an increase in the General Fund budgets.

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**High School General Fund Operating Levy (\$98,511.70)**

- ◆ The tax increase would be approximately \$14.72 annually or \$1.22 a month for a home with an assessed taxable value of \$100,000 and approximately \$29.45 annually or \$2.45 a month for a home with an assessed taxable value of \$200,000.

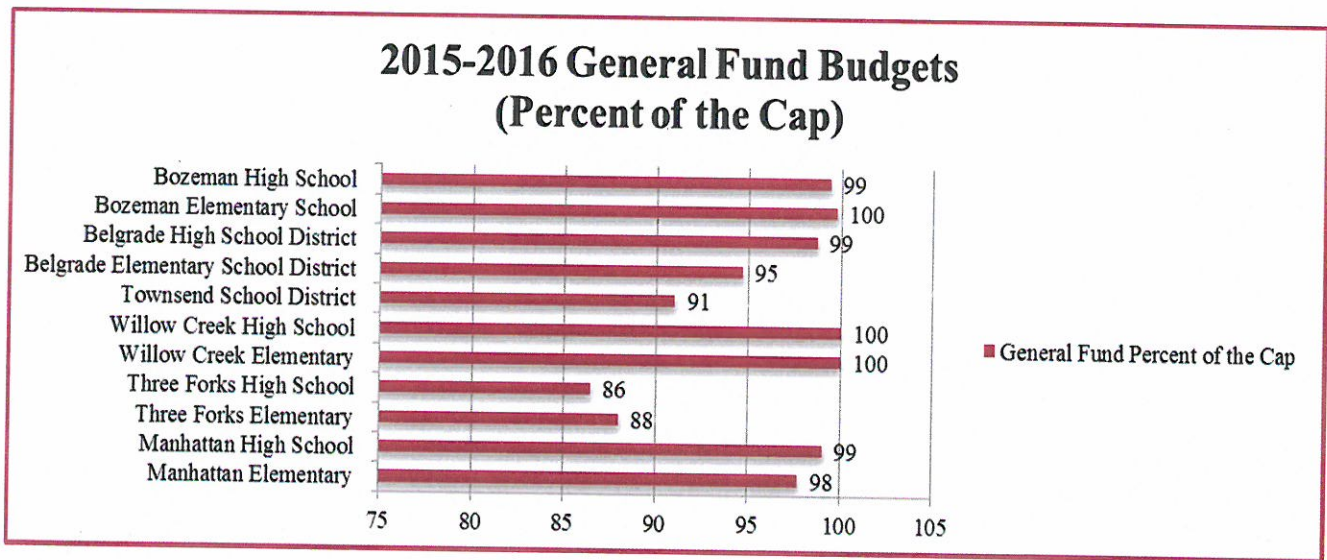
**Elementary School General Fund Operating Levy (\$97,011.70)**

- ◆ The tax increase would be approximately \$14.25 annually or \$1.18 a month for a home with an assessed taxable value of \$100,000 and approximately \$28.51 annually or \$2.37 a month for a home with an assessed taxable value of \$200,000.

**Estimated Total Tax Impact**

The ballots will indicate the total expected cost of each individual levy request.

Issues as stated on the ballot:	Est. Mills	\$100,000	\$200,000
High School General Fund (Voted)	11.25	\$14.72	\$29.45
Elementary General Fund (Voted)	10.89	\$14.25	\$28.51
<b>Total K-12 voted levies on May 3, 2016</b>	<b>22.14</b>	<b>\$28.97</b>	<b>\$57.96</b>



If you have any questions concerning the upcoming election, please do not hesitate to give me a call or arrange for an appointment.

Yours in Education,

Robert DoBell, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

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