

**Grand County School District Announces One-time Anonymous Donation to District
January 25, 2010**

Grand County School District announced to employees and the community last Monday the receipt of a sizable one-time donation from an anonymous donor. The donor earmarked the donation to fund four specific areas. First, funding is provided to keep the District from moving to a four-day school week for one year. Second, funding is pledged for one year to address large class sizes at the elementary level. The donation will reduce class sizes in Kindergarten through second grade next year to approximately 24 students. Class sizes in grades three through six will average 30 students. Without the donation, elementary class sizes for the upcoming school year are projected at 36 students. The third funding area supports reinstating the Comprehensive Guidance Counselor at the Middle School and maintaining the drama program at the High School for one year. Finally, funds were designated to support Step and Lane salary increase for all District employees during this current school year, continuing into next. Due to state cutbacks, teachers began this year with a pay-cut of 6 days. In addition, all District employees suffered a 5-day furlough pay-cut. The donor's intent is to send a message to District teachers and support staff that they are highly valued in their daily efforts to educate the children of Grand County.

"School District employees are extremely grateful for this impressive act of generosity," stated Superintendent Margaret Hopkin. "To the District, this is nothing short of a miracle. The donor understands, and it is important for the community to understand, that as one time funding, this donation serves as a 'band aid' that saves us from cutting seven teachers and moving to the four-day week for one year. Cutbacks for the 2010 – 2011 school year are still substantial." Hopkin went on to explain that the only permanent solution in maintaining or restoring the District's current class sizes and programs is to guarantee new, ongoing revenue streams. In Utah school districts, this is done through the passing of a Voted Leeway. Grand is one of eight Districts of forty that does not have a Voted Leeway. During the month of February, the School Board will be working with community groups to determine local expectations for school class sizes and programs. The School Board will then design a plan to meet the funding requirements for these expectations through a June Voted Leeway election.