



Independent School Dist. No. 857
100 County Road 25
Lewiston, MN 55952
(507) 523-2191

Gwen Carman, Superintendent
Cory Hanson, High School Principal • Dave Riebel, PK - Elementary Principal

Building A Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined, Successful Community of Learners

Belief Statements (internal operations- beliefs to drive decisions):

- **LIFELONG LEARNERS:** We believe in the value of education for all ages.
- **ACCOUNTABILITY:** We believe we are accountable for our actions and outcomes.
- **COMMUNITY CENTERED:** We believe our schools are the central hub of our community and essential for building strong communities.
- **ADAPTABLE:** We believe in being responsive to an ever-changing world.
- **RESPECTFUL:** We believe in everyone's right to safety, respect, and dignity in our schools.
- **DIVERSE:** We believe in fostering the value of each other's individual differences, perspectives, and life experiences.
- **STUDENT FOCUSED:** We believe that we are all responsible for the success of students.

Goals

1. **STUDENT SUCCESS:** Provide all students with the education they need for success: academically, emotionally, and socially.
2. **EFFECTIVE STAFFING:** Hire, maintain, train and support staff to be as effective as possible.
3. **FINANCE:** Be financially healthy and sustainable.
4. **FACILITIES:** Have facilities that are safe, modern and conducive to 21st century education.
5. **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Engage with parents, community members and business owners.

Superintendent's Report to the School Board

Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman

September 11, 2023

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

November 7, 2023 Election On the agenda is the necessary resolution to appoint Election Judges for the November 7th referendum. I am extremely appreciative of the willingness of the many individuals willing to fill this important role. We will be working on the required mailings informing the voters of the Combined Polling Sites and a Notice of a Special Election. I am working with the Altura and Lewiston City Halls on the use of their facilities. Nancy and I are also working with Chelsi Wilbright (Winona County Auditor and Treasurer) on the required trainings, equipment needs at each site, the ballot counting process and more. Absentee voting begins September 22nd. The final ballot has been approved (by our attorney) and the County will have them printed. We then distribute them to the voting sites.

Boys and Girls Hockey Cooperative Application For many years, parents and students have wanted our district to join a hockey cooperative with WAPS. Several students have enrolled elsewhere because this sport has not been an option. However, we now have an opportunity to provide this as another sport option because LaCrescent- Hokah dropped out of the WAPS' hockey cooperative. This agreement includes Hope Lutheran and Cotter as they are already part of the cooperative. Many of have known this was on the horizon and we have had students enroll in our district because of it, and also not leave our district this year.

Approve Pay24 Levy In September each year, you are strongly encouraged to approve the levy at ‘maximum.’ You must approve it at maximum or a specific dollar amount. The final levy is set in December (after the Truth in Taxation public hearing). The attached tentative levy shows a drop in our levy, but I anticipate it will increase from these as additional data is processed that was inputted last week.

OTHER ITEMS

Referendum Information Outreach See the attached draft flyer that shows the meetings I have scheduled so far. I will post this as you can see it says “A quorum of the Board may be present but not Board action will be taken.” I certainly do not expect all of you to attend all of the meetings, but it would be important to have at least some Board representation at each meeting. We can discuss this.

HVED’s Possible Purchase of the Winona Mall I will provide an update on this process.

Solar Grant I am working with Ideal Energies to pursue possible grant funding for solar panels. We have completed a preliminary application and are having an informational meeting tomorrow (Sept 12) with them and Dashir representatives. They will present to the Board in October.

Process to Apply for A Flexible Learning Year Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.12 to 124D.127 authorizes districts to evaluate, plan and employ the use of flexible learning year programs. It is anticipated that the open selection of the type of flexible learning year operation from a variety of alternatives will allow each district seeking to utilize this concept to suitably fulfill the educational needs of its pupils. These alternatives must include, but not be limited to, various 45-15 plans, four-quarter plans, quinmester plans, extended learning year plans and flexible all-year plans.

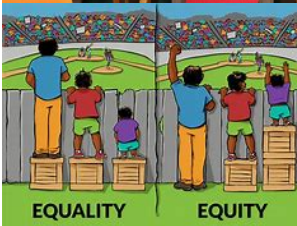
There has persistently been much discussion about the possibility of applying to start school earlier in August (and dismiss earlier in the summer). An application is a multi-faceted process of parent and staff input, etc. Is this something the Board would like me to pursue for consideration?

Dutchman’s Crossing Drive This road improvements have been made. I have received no formal request for cost sharing.

Business Office Activities Sheala has been very busy with setting up new staff with payroll and benefits, and setting up for the September 15th payroll when many staff receive pay increases from previously. We have put out RFP for health insurance quotes and will be evaluating those in early October. The auditors have continued to ask miscellaneous questions that Sheala has responded to. The federal Title grants were due September 1st.



Thanks to the generosity of St. Paul’s members, retired teachers, and friends of St. Paul’s, the list of needs was fulfilled plus extra supplies with a value of about \$1,300!



A reminder of the importance of considering equity in the work we do. Every student deserves our best and what s/he needs to achieve.