



**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*

*November 12, 2024*

**Meeting Agenda Items Notes**

**Canvassing of Special Election Results** The passing of the Operating Levy and Building Bond referendums will provide a major boost for our district’s financial sustainability and establishing safe, modern and secure schools. As you know, we will continue to have very tight budgets, and the importance of continuing to engage with our communities’ residents is essential.

Thank you to all who helped convey our needs to the voters – there are so many individuals, it is hard to list them! The agenda will include officially canvassing the results. As of Friday afternoon, I am still waiting for the official affidavits from the County Auditor’s Office.

Today, MREA posted data that on November 5<sup>th</sup>, that 32% of the rural districts passed operating referenda, compared to 36% statewide. Bond elections saw a statewide average pass rate of 53%, though rural districts saw a 43% pass rate.

I met with the high school staff on Wednesday AM, and the elementary staff on Thursday AM. I have also been working with media outlets and social media postings.

**Canvassing of School Board Election Results** Congratulations to Bree Maki, Dave Pringle and Amber Pasche for being elected to the School Board for 4-year terms. As of Friday afternoon, I am still waiting for the write-in candidate results and the official affidavit of election from the Auditor.

**Presentation by Jodie Zesbaugh, Ehlers re Sale of Building Bonds** Jodie will be present and explain the important next steps in selling the \$19.95million in building bonds.

**Discussion with InGensa (Jacqui Coleman and Luke Pfothauer) Regarding Contract for Project Management Services and Next Steps** Jacqui and Luke will present information regarding their contract. This contract will be based on the Agreement the Board from April 2021 when the district engaged in InGensa's services for a comprehensive facilities assessment, educational adequacy assessment and staff/community engagement about the data.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

**Literacy Aid MOU Negotiations with EdMN/L-A** A meeting will be held November 11<sup>th</sup> with EdMN/L-A and we will have an update at the meeting.

**Veteran's Day Program** Mr Scheck is organizing our Veteran's Day Program on Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> to honor our local veterans, as well as educate/remind our Gr. 3-12 students the importance of honoring our veterans. The program will include Bree Maki as a speaker, student readers, the choir and band. Veterans and one guest will be provided a free school lunch as well.

**Senior Citizen Lunch** The annual Senior Citizen Lunch is on Thursday, December 5<sup>th</sup> . We will charge \$7.00 for the meal. The dinner is a collaboration with Community Education, Food Services, Facilities/Grounds, Administration and several student groups who make place mats, the choir sings, the band plays, and servers. Doors will open at 10:45, with 11:00am and 11:15 performances, with the meal served at 11:30am.

