



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

July 8, 2024

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

Long Term Facilities FY26 10 Year Plan This is an annually required plan that must be submitted to MDE by July 31st. Julie will present the information for the revenue and expenditure plan.

Resolution to Approve Purchase Agreement of 20-Acre Parcel The district has a Purchase Agreement with Thomas Mueller to sell the parcel for \$150,000 'as is.' Our district attorney has prepared the Board Resolution for this. The closing is scheduled for July 12th. Board Chair Maki and Clerk Pringle will need to sign the closing documents.

Resolution to Call for a November 2024 Referendum As we have discussed, the agenda will include the official resolution calling for an operating levy and building bond referendum. With your approval, this information is then sent on the County Auditor to be included on the ballot of our district's voters. We will also discuss plans to inform our residents about the referendum in the upcoming weeks/months. Early voting begins September 20th.

2023-2025 Strategic Plan Updates We will review/discuss our implementation status to achieve our 5 goals of Student Success, Effective Staffing, Financial Sustainability, Facilities, Community Engagement.

Resolution to Close Open Enrollment at Grades 4, 9, 10 It seems counter-intuitive to close enrollment due to our challenges with enrollment and the financial implications. However, as we have downsized to having just one section of 4th grade and down sized from 3-sections to 2-sections in grades 9-12, we need to avoid potential scenarios of class sizes becoming too large due to sizes of classrooms and/or group sizes. We must always accept enrollments from resident students. Administration is recommending the Board ‘cap’ open enrollment at a grade level. This is a fluid decision and can be adjusted as enrollments fluctuate. Note that this does not set a class size limit for any teacher.

Grade Level	Projected Estimate of 2024-2025 Enrollment	Current Estimate # of 24-25 Open Enrolled Students	Recommended Cap to Open Enrollment
4 th	26	10	14
9 th	59 (includes 6 new from SJ & Silo)	16	17
10 th	59	18	19

Finance Committee The agenda will include the appointment of 2-3 Board members to serve on a Finance Committee to meet with Julie and I monthly or every other month, as determined by the Committee.

Policies The agenda will include policies to be approved on a 2nd reading, and Policy Updates that the Board can approve with a single reading due to statute changes.

To clarify re: Policy 501 School Weapons. A standard pocket knife is considered a weapon and possession of a pocket knife on school property is not allowed. A pocket knife is not considered a ‘Dangerous Weapon’ (capable of causing death or great bodily harm) which may result in expulsion, and must be reported to MDE (and law enforcement).

The Student Dress and Appearance Policy and Internet, Technology and Cell Phone Acceptable Use and Safety Policy will result in changes in student handbooks. There will be several more Policies changed by Statute Changes on the August agenda.

Teacher Resignation We received a resignation from Britney Sula who has accepted a position with HVED. We have opened the position both internally and externally. This is ‘only’ the 2nd voluntary resignation we have received for the upcoming school year.

OTHER ITEMS

Voluntary Prekindergarten Funding Approved I was notified on Friday that our district was approved for up to 28 VPK slots, which provides 0.5 FTE ADM funding (\$3640) per student enrolled in most of our preschool classes. This is a significant funding increase for Community Education/Early Childhood. This expansion of the # of VPK seats was approved by the Legislature in 2023.

Beverages with the Board: The Communications Committee has decided to have 2 Board members do this at the Farmer’s Market at the Crossings Center on July 17, July 31, August 14th and August 28th. Joel H. has said it is OK to do this outside of /or in the Old School House. Bree and Sarah S. are doing this July 17th. Please bring your calendars to the Board meeting to discuss your availability on the other 3 dates. August 28th will also be our Back to School Celebration for students, parents and staff so hopefully several of you can be present that night.

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.

