



Independent School Dist. No. 857
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Gwen Carman, Superintendent
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Lewiston - Altura Schools: Building A Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined, Successful Community

Superintendent's Report to the School Board
Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman
May 9, 2022

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

District Office Transitions The Business Office is continuing to transition with the changes. On the agenda is a resignation from Teresa Grossell who's last day of employment will be May 31st. Former ISD #857 Business Manager Kristin Kelly will be doing our payroll for the next few months, while also training Sheala on how to complete this work. I will continue to assess our needs with Kristin and Sheala over the next several weeks to determine a longer term staffing plan. Bergankdv have been very helpful with their support on the Title and Pandemic grants, and will assist with the year end and audit work. I am also spending more time on financial office work than I have needed to do previously.

Teacher Resignations and Retirements Our agenda has four additional teacher resignations/retirements, including Pat Burfiend who has been with the district for 28 years. I know we all wish her the best in her retirement. Our Speech/Language Clinician is also resigning as her husband has been transferred out of state.

With each departure, the principals and I are assessing the needs to replace vs not replacing and making 'internal shifts' or changes to our programming. This will be part of our budget discussions.

2022-2023 Budget I will have a handout for discussion in preparation for your 2022-2023 Budget approval in June. It will include over \$500,000 in reduced expenditures which will help our situation. As you know, we will need to continue to make reductions in future years. I am meeting with the staff on the morning of May 9th (late start) to tell them much of the same information.

OTHER UPDATES

Community Engagement Details are coming together for our May 26th, 5:30-7:30pm Community Meeting! It will be held at the Lewiston Community Center, and the Rec Café is catering. We have flyers, post card invitations are being mailed, and I sent press releases to the local newspapers. I am working with InGensa on our presentation and the other details.

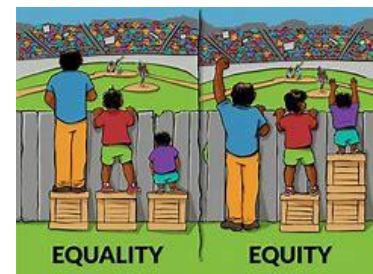
Please remember your presence is important to *listen* to the input. We know that some may have questions or even misperceptions (and we may be criticized by some) but this is not the time to ‘debate.’ The conversations that happen at the meeting will help guide future discussions and what areas community members need more information about, and what their concerns are.

THANK YOU

Vickie Speltz A giant ‘congratulations’ to our Food Service Director Vickie Speltz for being awarded the MN Food Service Director of the year! WOOHOO! This is a well-deserved recognition of her expertise and her leadership and advocacy in school food service regionally and statewide. She will officially receive her award in August in St. Cloud. I plan to be there!

Teacher Appreciation May 2-5 was Teacher Appreciation Week! There are not enough words to fully describe my appreciation for the work, patience, flexibility, commitment our teachers demonstrate every day. It is well known that the success of a school district is dependent on what happens in classrooms between students and teachers (not the superintendent!) Thank you to those who were able to greet the staff at each building a morning. (And provide a candy treat and tag that read *“Thank you for helping to raise kind humans. ~School Board”*)

April 12th Hail Storm (3:00pm) and Wind Storm (11:50pm) Aftermath Thank you to Dr. Hanson, Mr. Menk, Joe Banicki, Kevin Ziebell, Coach Clark and all of the track/field coaches for all of their extra time required as a result of the storms. I am working with the insurance companies and Joe is contacting contractors to compile all of the damages and repair/replacement needs. The insurance company has already authorized purchase of nearly \$50,000 in track equipment and \$12,000 for fence repairs. I am also in communication with Ben Klinger, Winona County Emergency Services regarding any expenses we have that might not be covered by insurance. Stay tuned!



A reminder of the importance of considering equity in the work we do:
All students deserve our best and what s/he needs to achieve.