



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

February 10, 2025

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

Award Resolution- HS Partial Roof Replacement Bids-February 6th We received five bids for the project. Thank you to Luke and Dave P. for being part of the bid review process with Keri Hacker (Tremco, Inc.), Gary Lovitz (InGensa), Dan Buege and me. We had important and thoughtful dialogue about the bids and options, and any impact on the Summer of 2026 HVAC project. Ultimately, we are recommending we accept the bid from McDowell Company for a built up roof model. This type of roof is the most durable and comes with a 30-year warranty. Construction may extend into early October, but we are assured the disruption to school will be minimal. The work will likely begin July 2025.

OTHER ITEMS

Bond Sales Completed February 6, 2025 The sales process is complete and the funds have been distributed/deposited as intended. Julie, Luke and I will meet regularly to review disbursements, and disbursements will also be part of the financial reports at the monthly board meetings. PMA will handle the investment of \$20,041,484.16.

Literacy Aid MOU Negotiations with EdMN/L-A David B., Dave P, Bree and I met with the Union Negotiators on January 30th. We are continuing the process of negotiating an agreement.

MSBA Conference I attended (with Bree) the conference January 16 and 17th. Luke and Julie both attended the Phase Two School Finance session on January 15th. I attended sessions on CTE, a funding session put on by MDE, insurance

trends, student data/SLEDS. I also talked with several vendors about products we may be utilizing in our upcoming projects. I also enjoyed the keynote speakers.

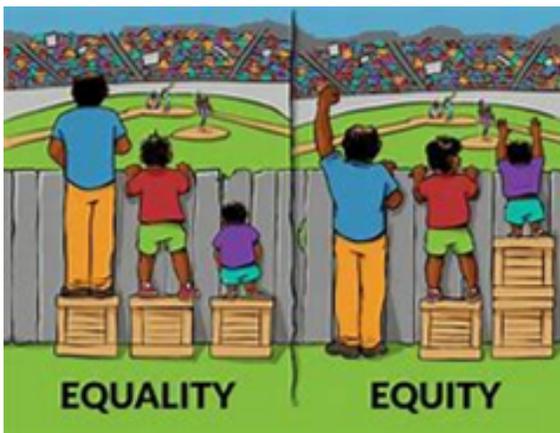
College/Career Readiness – CTE Space Planning An online survey was emailed to 53 area businesses/employers regarding desired skills and characteristics of L-A graduates as potential employees. See the attached Power Point slides that summarizes much the response data. These responses in many ways align with data from other sources. Key next steps are:

1. Ask local business owners to meet and further discuss how to match their needs with our students.
2. Develop a committee to help write a ‘Cardinal Code’ for PK-12 to help instill ‘employability skills’.
3. Work with staff/architects on designing the CTE, science and art classrooms,
4. Develop PK-12 strategies to continually provide students with information about careers, help them explore their own interests.

Legislative Breakfast on January 31st I attended this gathering at Cannon Falls High School. Six legislators attended (one left early). Several superintendents presented respectfully and firmly about the importance of public education, the state’s constitutional obligation to support it, and the challenges of basic formula funding gaps, special education funding gaps, PSEO and unfunded mandates. The legislators were responsive and there was dialogue. There was not significant ‘disagreement’ though I did not leave with significant ‘hope’ for significant changes. One of the themes emphasized by the superintendents was ‘public education should be a nonpartisan issue.’

Construction Projects Updates We will be scheduling meetings with the mechanical, architectural and other contractors in the upcoming weeks.

Community Outreach/Student Recruitment We continue to prioritize efforts to keep community members informed on the activities of the district, and the construction. News from the Nest included much information – and we did the additional mailing of it to landowners in our district with Winona zip codes as they had not been receiving this prior. A staff member is designing an engaging student recruitment handout that we can post in the community areas, Facebook and in the newspapers. I am also working with InGensa on a Press Release update that should come out next week.



Equity is important in all our decision making.