



**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

**Superintendent’s Report to the School Board**

*Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman*

*August 14, 2023*

**Meeting Agenda Item Notes**

**Department Updates:** The meeting will include updates from Food Service Director Vickie Speltz and Dan Buege, who has been hired by Dashir Management to be our onsite Facilities Manager.

**November 7, 2023 Election** On the agenda are action items to approve Nancy West as our Election Administrator and the Elementary School as the site for Absentee Voting. Absentee Voting will begin September 26<sup>th</sup>. I am working in coordination with the Winona County Auditor-Treasurer and our election attorney to assure all legal notices and procedures are followed.

Thank you to Board members, Principal Riebel, Principal Hanson and community members who have attended our informational table/display at the Crossings Center on Wednesday nights. An informational handout about the upcoming referendum will be mailed to residents in the next few days.

I am looking for individuals, small or large groups to schedule referendum informational presentations. The only specific one I have scheduled at this time is September 20<sup>th</sup> to the Lewiston Chamber of Commerce. Please think about potential audiences to help us inform voters on the questions.

**HVED Purchase of Winona Mall/Amended Joint Powers Agreement** The process continues to move forward for the Hiawatha Valley Education District to purchase the existing Winona Mall to become a one sight school for the Level IV programs, some low incidence programming and staff offices. HVED Executive Director Deb Marcotte will be at our meeting to answer questions. This is an action item on the agenda. This JPA needs to be approved by all 12 school districts for the purchase to move forward. Each school district is voting on this in August.

**2023-2024 Handbooks** There are several 2023-2024 Handbooks on the agenda. We will highlight the changes at the meeting. The handbooks are part of the attachments to the agenda.

### **OTHER ITEMS**

**Early Childhood and Child Care Programs Reorganization** As we have discussed, it has been a goal to make our early childhood education and child care programs more ‘seamless’ to increase consistency, staffing efficiencies and overall quality. On the agenda, is the resignation of Kelli Loveless who has been our Cardinal Club Coordinator which we were not expecting (career change for Kelli) and we thank her and wish her the best.

With this staffing change, we are transitioning to ‘one’ Coordinator with Vicky Greden being our “Early Childhood Education and Cardinal Care Coordinator.” This includes the school readiness preschool program, Early Childhood Family Education program and our before/after/summer child care programs. Vicky will be teaching preschool 3 days per week (Tina Sand and Courtney Frikke will also be preschool teachers) and also providing leadership in the programs with curriculum planning, scheduling of staff and children, parent communications, assuring compliance with legal and quality standards, supervision of Cardinal Care staff, etc.

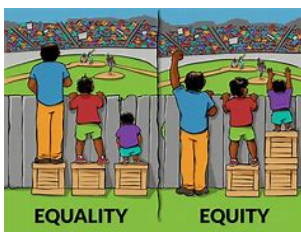
**August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 School Reunions School Tours** Several LA HS classes are having reunions on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to Bree who has agreed to provide a tour of the high school, followed by the elementary school starting at 3:30pm. There is also a 50-year class reunion on September 9<sup>th</sup> and they would also like to tour the high school on that day.

**Dutchman’s Crossing Drive** I have no updates from the City of Lewiston or Utica Township on any road improvements.

**Policy Revisions Coming from MSBA** I continue to wait for updates from MSBA regarding specific policy changes to reflect the changes from the 2023 Legislative Session. There are no policies for approval on this agenda, but the district is still responsible to adhere to any law changes that have taken effect.

**Business Office Activities** We are busy preparing for the audit next week. This requires much preparation and gathering of documents and information. I will have the ‘disclosure’ letter that each of you need to sign at the meeting. Sheala is also very busy with setting up contracts for the new staff, and many other required reports. We are going out for insurance bids as well that will be opened in mid/late October. Teacher negotiations are in process.

**Another School Year Begins!** I look forward to having all staff and students returning for another school year! We will have an all-staff breakfast August 28<sup>th</sup> – please attend if you can. I will be doing a ‘welcome back’ presentation @ 8:15. Some of the most significant changes this year include now operating as a two – site district with 5<sup>th</sup> graders at the elementary school and the 6<sup>th</sup> graders at the high school, the change to Dashir Facility Management services, working towards a very important referendum vote in November, some new staff and the re-organization of our early childhood programs. Thank you to the principals, custodians and office staff who have been and continue to make sure we are ready!



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.