



**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*

*August 12, 2024*

**Meeting Agenda Items Notes**

**Policies** The agenda includes many policies that can be approved on a first reading by the Board. These policy updates are all recommended by MSBA. The updated Policy 522 Title IX is primarily a federal statute has been in the news. I contacted our attorney and she told me they are recommending that districts approve the policy as MSBA is recommending. There is no case in Minnesota jurisdictions that relieves school districts from the regulations that went into effect August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be additional policies on the September agenda.

**Handbooks** The agenda includes the 2024-2025 Handbooks for employees, elementary parents/students, and HS students. We will provide an overview of any significant changes.

**Consent Agenda** The Consent Agenda is particularly long with new hires, a few resignations and many donations. It is truly wonderful to see the generosity of local businesses, the Booster Club and the Cardinal Foundation!

**Discussion Regarding Contracting with St. John’s for Food Service** St. John’s contacted us and Vickie Speltz and I met with two representatives from the school. They have staffing to serve and cook, but wanted to discuss options for our district providing administrative support working with the USDA and MDE. I will have more details at the meeting.

**Jenny Koverman Resignation** Jenny has informed us that she needs to resign from the school board effective August 16, 2024 because she is moving out of the district. We do not need to have a Special Election (her term expires in December 2024) because her seat was already open for the November 2024 election. Bree and I have spoken with MSBA about what we must do/options to fill her position for the remaining months. We will discuss this at the meeting.

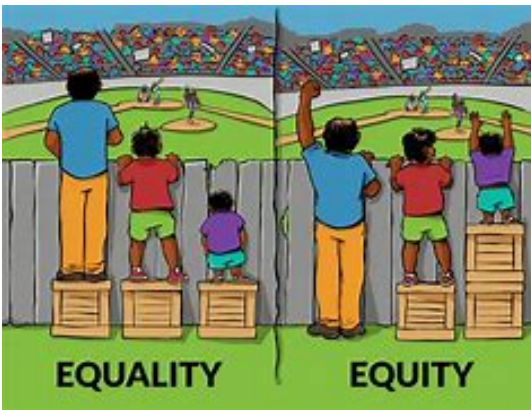
**OTHER ITEMS**



Thank you to the Cardinal Foundation for providing the funding for us to purchase 34 colored graphing calculators and graphing paper. These are needs that would have otherwise come from our general fund.

**Upcoming Meeting and Events Schedule:** Please review the dates on the agenda. There is much happening in August, and there will be additional community engagement opportunities in September and October.

**Solar Grants Approved** We have received the official paperwork for the solar project grants for the elementary school and high school as we discussed previously. I am waiting to hear from Brok on our next steps.



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.