



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

October 13, 2025

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

Facilities Updates Luke Pfothhauer is not able to attend the October meeting. He is providing a written report that we will discuss.

Audit Presentation Luke Greden from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP will be presenting the results of our FY25 Audit. Thank you very much to Business Manager Julie Grant who has been working with Luke and his team on the audit since July. We can be pleased to see the increase in our unreserved fund balance though we know this needs to continue to be an important focus for the district.

Early Childhood Teacher Team Presentation Our early childhood teachers requested to be on the agenda to provide an update on their services and programs. The teachers will include Stacy Walth (Birth-3 ECSE [early childhood special education]), Valerie Hettenbach (3-6 year olds ECSE), Tina Sand (preschool), Courtney Fricke (preschool), Rebecca Scharmer (speech/language clinician), Kayli Zezulka (EC Coordinator). Thank you to these teachers for the important work that they do, and for taking the initiative to present!

Vision, Mission, Logo Revisions On the Agenda is a first reading for changes to Policy 104 to include revisions to the district's vision and mission statements. These were also discussed with the Systems Accountability Committee (one edit suggestion) and the District Policy Review Committee. We are also working on a proposed updated logo.

OTHER ITEMS

MSBA Leadership Conference: January 15-16, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Please let me know if you want to attend.

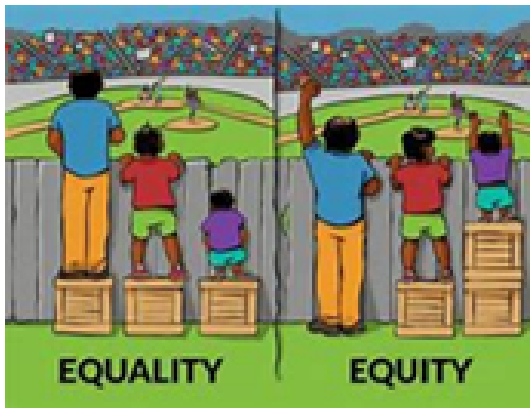
Solar Panels Both sets of solar panels are fully operational. We are working to access an app so we can monitor the amount of energy they are generating.

STEM Forward We are working with SSC staff on being part of the STEM Forward program. Vic Dreier will be presenting the program and what it can provide at the teachers' in-service on October 15th.

Local Business Meeting We are inviting Lewiston and Altura business owners to a meeting on Thursday, November 20th at 3:30pm. This will be our 3rd meeting. We will be updating them on the CTE space renovations, our personal skill development grading plans to more intentionally prepare students to be successful employees, opportunities for them to visit classrooms and/or students visit their locations, and a Career Fair Day (February 27th) that we are planning and hoping they will participate in. This will be for students in grades 5-12.

Enrollment

Grade Level	May 29, 2025	Sept 4, 2025	October 6, 2025
Kdg	38	29	28
1st	26	39	38
2nd	36	28	28
3rd	38	36	36
4th	25	41	41
5th	39	29	28
6th	38	44	44
7th	38	36	36
8th	37	39	39
9th	55	45	45
10th	58	55	54
11th	48	58	58
12th	56	48	48
Total	532	527	523



Equity is important in all of our decision making.