



Independent School Dist. No. 857
100 County Road 25
Lewiston, MN 55952
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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

January 8, 2024

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

1st Meeting in January This meeting requires the Board to approve many organizational items that set the foundation for the upcoming 12 months. This will include Board positions, meeting schedule, assigned legal, financial and official newspaper designations, committee memberships and more. Please refer to the MSBA Website for the 1st Meeting in January information if you have questions about these procedures. After those items, we will then proceed with our regular January meeting items.

Audit As you know, our audit was not finalized when Craig Popenhagen (Cla) presented information about our audit at the November 13th meeting. I now have received the full audit documents for each of you to have. This agenda will include having you accept the audit.

Budget Updates The agenda will include discussion items for the 2023-2024 budget, and for the 2024-2025 budget. Todd Netzke, President of SMS, will present information regarding our current year budget. I am extremely appreciative of his expertise and knowledge to look at our budget and provide clarity on our revenues and expenditures. As you know we need to make significant reductions in expenditures and increases in revenues next school year. You will receive a document with administration's initial recommendations with cost estimates for each. I anticipate we will discuss in greater detail January 22nd at the Workshop Session.

Master Agreement Correction It has been discovered that there was an inadvertent error in the approved 2023-2025 Agreement. Specifically, the error was in the B.A.+20 column of Appendix A2. (2024-2025 Salary Schedule).

Resolution Directing Administration to Make Recommendations Regarding the Reduction and/or Discontinuance of Programs and Positions and Reasons Therefore This is an annually required resolution which provides the initial for step for potential changes in staffing positions for the following school year.

OTHER ITEMS

Solar for Schools Grant Information Recently, Dan Buege and I talked with a 2nd Solar Energy company (Solar Connection out of Rochester) and the representative has proposed a potential solar option that is far more attractive (compared to information presented by a different company this fall) in terms of significantly reducing our high school energy costs and recovering the initial investment costs in a ‘short’ period of time. I have asked the representative to present to you as part of the January 22nd workshop. There are current grants available where a state grant would cover 50% of the initial costs, and a federal grant would cover 30% of the initial costs. The remaining 20% would be district expense. This portion could potentially be financed to limit (spread out) our initial out of pocket costs. It is a major consideration and I think it is worth all of you being informed about its potential.

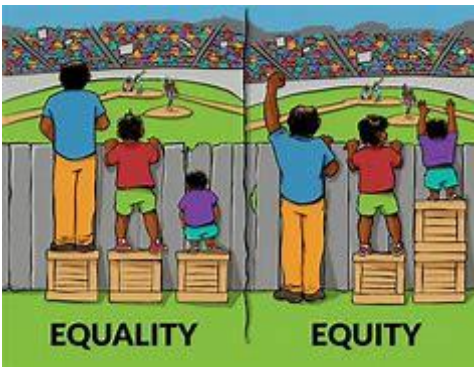
Community Survey and Next Steps The survey is now online and informational postcards have been mailed. Staff and parents have also been separately invited via email to complete a survey. Results will be presented at the February 12th Board Meeting.

Here is a tentative timeline of the next few months to consider and we can discuss. These would be based on an August referendum vote.

- February 12th: Survey results presented.
- Week of Feb 19th (and a few meetings after): Facility Task Force (We can post it that a quorum of Board members may be in attendance)
- Week of March 18th: Community Meetings in Lewiston and Altura to update on the survey results and task force recommendations and board discussions regarding another operating levy and building bond referendum.
- Week of March 25th: Final Task Force meeting after the Community Meetings.
- April 1st: Special Board meeting to approve the Review and Comment documents that would be due to MDE April 5th for an August 13th referendum.
- April 8th or May 13th: Board approval to call for an election.
- June 28th – April 12th: Early Voting

CTE Planning On December 8th, seven people (Dave Pringle, Cory Hanson, Kaleb Stoppelmoor, Craig Porter, Rochelle Van Den Heuval, Luke Pfothenauer and me) visited Cardinal Manufacturing in Strum WI and Whitehall High School. These are high school programs providing innovative CTE education and in districts comparable to our size. The visits were very informative and insightful. We are now meeting to discuss in detail our vision and goals for what L-A CTE programming should be. This would be part of the facility discussions and grant funding could be pursued to support some of the expenses.

Communications At our last meeting, you met Sara Thompson who is Public Relations professional that is employed by InGensa (no cost to our district). Sara has been extremely busy working on our behalf (and will continue) to ‘spread the word’ about the many great things happening in our district, the survey, etc. The Communications Task Force will meet next week for our first meeting.



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.