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Lewiston - Altura Schools: Building A Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined, Successful Community

Superintendent's Report to the School Board
Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman
January 9, 2023

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

1st Meeting of 2023: Welcome Daniel, David and Sara! If you have any questions prior to the meeting, please feel free to contact me. This agenda includes both organizational items (due to the January 3rd meeting cancelation because of the weather conditions), and regular monthly agenda items.

Long Range and Strategic Planning: I am looking forward to continuing our work on developing a written, strategic plan to address our priorities and goals. As we have three new Board members, it is very good timing and important that we work together to discuss and specify shared priorities and goals.

We have many things already happening for school improvement, though we haven't had a specific written plan addressing all of them or all that we want to do. A clear strategic plan is important for communication with our community, as well as making sure our decisions are driven by our goals.

Bree and I met with True North Consulting (Terry Quist and Jeffrey Olson, retired superintendents) regarding their availability to work with us to develop a 30-month strategic plan. Terry and Jeff would facilitate a process with all board members, administration and a few staff and community members. The process would incorporate all of the staff and community input that we have already received in the past several months. Attached to the agenda is True North's specific proposal and timeline. We will discuss this in detail at the meeting. Please note that the first full meeting with them is tentatively scheduled for Monday, January 23rd at 6:00pm.

Also, I have invited Jacqui, Luke and Rochelle from InGensa to be at our meeting. This will enable us to review their contract with us (for informational purposes), highlight the facility assessments that have been completed, and discuss possible next steps for addressing our facility needs. Facility improvements are inevitably one component of our strategic planning.

Closed Session I have been researching our options for the Altura school/property. We will have closed session to discuss this. The 'purchase and sale of property' is one of the allowed reasons that school boards may meet in closed session.

Consent Agenda: The consent agenda includes our monthly financial reports. Note that the bills include a payment for the Chevrolet Traverse we ordered this fall. Thank you to Lewiston Auto for acquiring this vehicle for us at a cost less than the original estimate.

There is also a resolution on the agenda to enable us to use our 2022 checks until our 2023 checks are available. I will have a form at the meeting for the elected Chair, Clerk and Treasurer to sign that is used to put digitally printed signatures on our checks.

Teacher Daily Substitute Rate of Pay Increase The consent agenda also includes a recommendation to increase the daily rate of pay for substitute teachers by \$20.00/day. This increase is necessary in order for us to remain competitive with surrounding districts.

OTHER UPDATES

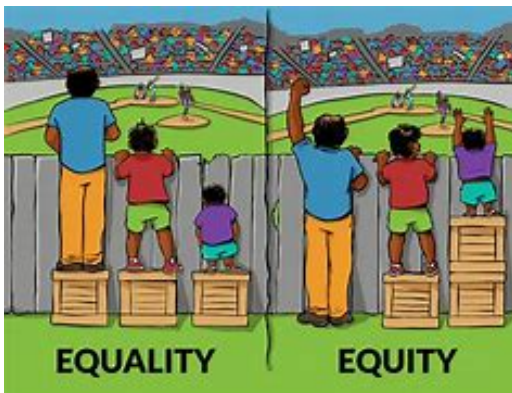
Phase I and Phase II Trainings/MSBA Leadership Conference: January 11-13, 2022 I am looking forward to joining David, Daniel and Sara in the Phase I and Phase II MSBA trainings (January 10th and 11th), followed by the MSBA Conference January 12th and 13th. Bree will also be attending the conference with us.

March 20, 2023 MSBA/MASA Advocacy Day at the Capitol This year MASA (MN Association of School Administrators) is adding a day of advocacy at the capitol in collaboration with MSBA (MN School Board Association). Both organizations are inviting their members to meet at the Radisson Hotel, formerly the Best Western Capitol Ridge, at 8:00am on Monday, March 20, 2023. There will be a program at the hotel in the morning followed by lunch and then time for you to meet your local representatives and committee chairs in the afternoon at the state capitol. Please let me know if you would like to attend.

2022-2023 School Year Calendar Unfortunately, we have already had 3 snow days. In accordance with the approved school calendar, if we have additional snow days, we will need to modify the calendar so that March 9th (4th Snow Day), March 10th (5th Snow Day) and April 10th (6th Snow Day) change from non-school days to school days.

We have a committee meeting now discussing the 2023-2024 School Calendar. I anticipate this will be on the February agenda.

Thank you to the grounds staff and the bus drivers for their extra hard work and professionalism when the roads, parking lots and sidewalks are impacted by weather conditions. We very much appreciate all they do to keep our students and staff safe.



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.