



Independent School Dist. No. 857
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Gwen Carman, Superintendent
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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
March 14, 2022

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

School Perceptions Survey Results Rob DeMuse from School Perceptions will present a summary of our survey results.

Todd Stokke Please note that Mr. Stokke has submitted his letter of retirement effective at the end of this school year. Mr. Stokke has been a highly respected teacher for our district since 1989! He will be missed but we wish him the best,

OTHER UPDATES

AASA & MASA I am very appreciative of the opportunity to complete my AASA National Certification program last week, followed by 1 ½ days at the MASA Spring Conference. I was able to hear many excellent speakers, as well as interact with fellow superintendents on a wide variety of topics.

Business Office Staffing Update Business Manager Grossell and I are continuing to interview candidates and explore options for our business office needs. I will have an update at the meeting.

Revised 2021-2022 Budget Due to the resignation of our Finance Assistant and along with other responsibilities that have required my attention, I am not able to present a recommended amended 2021-22 budget at this meeting. I anticipate at the April 11th meeting, I will present a recommended amended budget for this year, as well as potential scenarios to help us achieve a more balanced budget in 2022-23. This will also include a summary of the funding the district has received as a result of the pandemic.

Stadium Lights As we discussed in December and January, one of the stadium lights shut off during the October 20th football game. While we had replaced all of the light bulbs this past summer, the light poles on the field were 40 years old and much of the coating on the electrical wires was decayed. As the weather was wet and windy that evening, it appears the wires came in contact with the bulb fixture and blew the fuse. While we could have 'repaired' the lights in that pole, without replacing the wiring we would only be putting a 'band aid' on the

situation. In addition, we had 3 additional poles in a similar condition and at risk of having the same situation repeat itself.

As you know we solicited bids to replace the 4 poles. We have an approximate \$600,000 fund balance that can be used for Construction related projects. The total cost of the project will be approximately \$215,000 which you approved in January.

It was very exciting last week to have this project completed!

Office of Civil Rights Survey: This was an extremely long federally required survey that was due March 11th. Thank you to the Principals and other staff who assisted me in completing the survey.

MREA I enjoyed a visit from Mr. Bob Indihar who is the Executive Director of the MN Rural Education Association that our district belongs to (see attached). Bob is going around the State and visiting as many districts as possible. MREA is a very important organization that helps advocate for rural districts as opposed to metro districts in MN.

Pandemic Updates: With the change in the federal mandates, masks are no longer required on school buses. I do anticipate any additional changes to our Safe Learning Plan at this time.

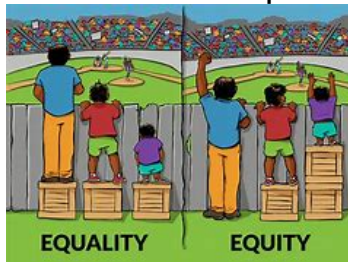
THANK YOUS

Vickie Speltz – Thank you to Vickie for getting a ‘perfect score’ in each of our school as a result of the MN Department of Health inspections conducted in February. Also, thank you to Vickie for her willingness to work on providing the CDL training that new bus drivers now need to receive. This will be an extensive process and make driver recruitment even more difficult. This is a federal mandate that went into effect in February.

Kaleb Stoppelmoor Thank you to Mr. Stoppelmoor for speaking to the Lewiston Lions about our FFA Programs on March 2nd. He is also busy with a Farmer’s Appreciation Meal planned for March 20th!

Sharon Manley: Thank you for her organization of the elementary book fair and the many parents, grandparents and staff who purchased books. It was one of our most successful in my Lewiston-Altura history. We sold \$5,600 worth of books and merchandise. That earn us \$2,800 in book credit! To add to our library collection shortly.

A reminder of the importance of considering equity in the work we do:



All students deserve our best and what s/he needs to achieve.