

Lewiston–Altura Public School District  
100 County Road 25  
Lewiston, MN 55952  
[www.lewalt.k12.mn.us](http://www.lewalt.k12.mn.us)  
(507) 523-2191

Gwen Porter, Superintendent  
Dave Riebel, PreKdg – 5 Principal  
Cory Hanson, 6-12 Principal

**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 Porter  
June 8, 2026

## Meeting Agenda Item Notes

**No ZOOM broadcast or recording for June- August Meetings** Due to staffing limitations (principals are not required to work in July; transition to Superintendent Gruen, different physical set up), it is not practical to do this when the meetings are at the community center this summer. I will put this information on Facebook. Obviously, the meetings are still open to the public.

**FY 2026 and FY2027 Budget** Both are on the agenda. Julie will participate remotely due to her daughter’s participation in the State Golf Tournament. You will have copies of all relevant handouts and her power point. Julie and I have reviewed both budgets. We are on track to continue to slightly increase our unreserved fund balance.

**November 2026 School Board Elections:** There is a required resolution approving that individuals may sign up to be a school board candidate at the Elementary Conference Room July 14-17, 20-24, 27 from 9:00am – 1:00pm; and July 28<sup>th</sup> 8:00am – 5:00pm. Thank you to Shelly Pringle for working these summer hours to facilitate this important process.

**FY27-29 Contract with IEA for Environmental, Health and Safety Management Services** I spoke with Dale Walston, Director of Finance and Operations at Southeast Service Cooperative. He verified that IEA is the only entity that provides these required annual services in southeastern MN. And I can assure you that we do need them for these services.

Dale also verified that school districts can go out for bids for design and management of asbestos abatement projects and there are other area entities that do this work. This does not have to be done by IEA because of this annual contract. For the gyms in the summer of 2027, I recommend the district pursue this.

**Tiny Robot** The possible purchase or lease is on the agenda for continued discussion. This machine is a tool for significantly decreasing the time needed (custodial, AD, coaches if willing) and for improving the quality/detail of field painting work. Our existing field painting machine needs replacing and would be a \$6,000-15,000 expense. Finding ways for increasing staff efficiency is important as we have reduced custodial hours, administration FTE and possible coaching positions turnover.

## **Additional Updates**

**End of Year/Preparing for Construction** No words can describe my appreciation for the amount of additional planning and labor so many staff members exerted to prepare our facilities for the summer construction projects in both buildings. Of course, it is exciting and one more milestone in a long facility improvement planning process. Separation of items for the online auction vs items to be moved for storage was a big process. The auction closes June 8<sup>th</sup> and most items should be picked up by June 10<sup>th</sup>. Summer staff in both buildings have relocated to classrooms. We are expected to wear hard hats and yellow vests on site. Special thanks to Linda and the Cardinal Club staff who continue to provide important quality care for 40-50 kids per day, while also working around changes in parking, the playground and overall building accessibility. It is amazing to see how much demolition work the contractors have already done. And soon, the re-construction will begin. Dave Phillips, InGensa's on site superintendent has been great in keeping us informed, asking us questions and working with/communicating with the contractors. Gary will talk with you about a possible walk through for Board members so you can see for yourselves!

**Superintendent Transition** Superintendent Gruen and I are meeting remotely and/or emailing regularly, and we will be meeting June 9<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Summer School Board Meeting Location Change Reminder:** The summer meetings on June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13 and August 10<sup>th</sup> will be held at City of Lewiston Council Meeting Room due to the construction and the HS Library will be inaccessible to the public.

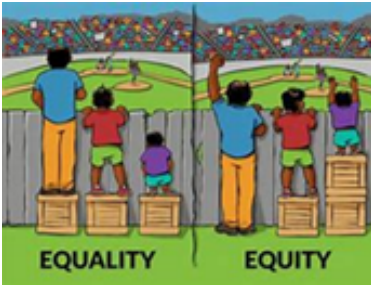
**My Final Month** It is with mixed emotions that I prepare this last monthly report for you and complete my final weeks with the district. It has been an amazing 6 years – complete with challenges and successes. I am so appreciative of the board members I have worked with and your/their support and guidance. I am proud of the work we have accomplished together, of course, with staff who are talented, professional and focused on all that is necessary for student achievement and growth. I have also met so many wonderful community members and parents and will miss them, too!

I want to particularly recognize Julie, Jennifer, Dan, Vickie, Kevin, and Ryan. They each know their departments so well and understand their important role in the district's success. I have appreciated their leadership, their problem solving and their respect for me, each other and all students and staff.

I also especially thank Dr. Hanson and Principal Riebel for their support and wish them every success in the future. They are both excellent leaders and we have worked together as an administrative team, focused on what is best for the district and students, while also supporting staff to be as effective as they can be. It is mind-boggling to think about how many hours, how many meetings and how frequently we meet and/or talk, and that they will no longer be part of my daily experiences! We have shared many laughs, collaborative discussions and problem solving on so many and diverse topics and supported each other through challenges and disappointments. I will always keep my eyes on the L-A district. I do respectfully ask to be able to return in the fall to tour the completed facility projects. 😊

## **Enrollment**

Grade Level	May 29, 2025	Sept 4, 2025	April 1, 2026	May 1, 2026	Anticipated Sept 14, 2026	Estimate Sept 2027
<b>Kdg</b>	38	29	27	28	26	39
<b>1st</b>	26	39	38	39	27	26
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	36	28	28	28	38	27
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	38	36	36	36	28	38
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	25	41	40	39	36	28
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	39	29	26	26	40	36
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	38	44	43	43	27 (+1)	42 (+2)
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	38	36	36	36	44	27
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	37	39	39	39	36	44
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	55	45	43	43	51 (+12)	39 (+3)
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	58	55	52	52	43	51
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	48	58	58	58	52	43
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	56	48	49	49	58	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>492</b>



*Equity is important in all of our decision making.*