



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 9, 2023

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

November 7, 2023 Election On the agenda is an amended resolution to appoint Chelsi Wilbright, Winona County Auditor/Treasurer to be an absentee ballot board judge. We have a day when the ballots must be checked and we are short a judge. She will also be available to assist as needed when the envelopes are opened November 6th. All ballots will be counted November 7th. Polls close at 8:00pm. The Cities of Lewiston and Altura will bring their results to be compiled at the Elementary School that evening. Nancy will report the results to the MN Secretary of State. I anticipate I will be there and will communicate the results to you, staff and the community.

A required Notice of General Election was mailed to all property owners in our district. This was a multi-step process that required research on how to do it and time from many. We received the mailing list from Winona County. We were able to mail each for 23 cents. Special thanks to Deb, Denise, Sue and Lori who worked extra time after their HS food service shifts to stuff, seal and count the envelopes. There were a total of 1676 letters.

Based on Property Owner’s Home Address Zip Code

- Lewiston: 844
- Altura: 282
- Winona: 155
- St. Charles: 72
- Utica: 104
- Rushford: 26

Policies There are several policies on the agenda for approval. These are all policies that are modified because of changes in statutes from the 2023 Legislature. MSBA has said it is appropriate to approve these after one reading because law supersedes policy. Our Policy Committee reviewed/approved these at our September 28th meeting.

Dutchman’s Crossing Drive The road improvements have been made. The total cost was \$92,277.90. The City of Lewiston is asking if we will pay 25% of the cost, i.e., \$23,069.48. I will have an update from our attorney regarding the situation and options.

Snowbids and Other Facility Updates: We had a Facilities Committee meeting on Oct. 5th. Thank you to Dave P., Sarah S. and Sara D for being part of this. We discussed general updates of projects that have been done the past few months, and upcoming staffing changes with Dan and Trevor (Dashir rep).

The majority of the time we discussed snow removal strategies for our parking lots and sidewalks. It was agreed by consensus to proceed with contracting for parking lots (bids being opened Fri, Oct 6th) and to purchase additional equipment to facilitate effective and efficient snow removal on our sidewalks. We are going to meet with a preferred potential contractor Oct 17th to discuss details before I recommend the Board accept the bid. The equipment expense is \$13,500 (salt spreader, snow blower, brush replacement). The consensus was that these are needed investments that should last several years and are needed to help assure our sidewalks are cleared well and with less damage to the bordering grass.

We have received many compliments from the public on the improved conditions of our grounds – especially our football field. Thank you to Ryan Eppen for painting hash marks and numerals on the field, along with the work of Matt and Dan.

We are going to put out an opportunity for sealed bids to sell some excess aluminum from damaged bleachers, etc from the windstorm and an old trailer. Unfortunately, we did not remember to put these items on the auction.

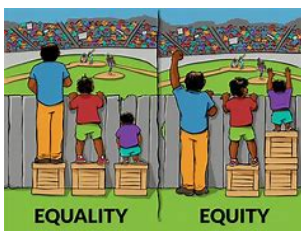
OTHER ITEMS

Referendum Information Outreach I have done referendum informational presentations with The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce, the Wanek Foundation with local business owners, the Lions Club, and community presentations in Lewiston and Altura. Thank you to the Board members who have attended any of these. The community meetings did not have a lot of community members in attendance (Lewiston- 3, Altura – 6). I do not have any meetings scheduled at this time. We can discuss other ideas or if there is a need.

HVED’s Purchase of the Winona Mall All HVED districts have approved the JPA to purchase the mall. This is a significant accomplishment for our districts to come to a united agreement on. We will now transition to the purchase agreement process and development of designs, etc.

Solar Grant After a meeting with Ideal Energies and reps from Dashir, we agreed to not pursue a grant for solar panels at this time. There will likely be additional funding available next year when we know whether or not we are having a major building project and can assess how solar panels might be appropriate and assess any roofing work / timing as well.

Business Office I have posted a Finance Assistant position again to see if we can find any qualified candidates. Sheala and I are in agreement that we need more assistance that what Vickie is able to provide. If we are able to find someone there will be needed training as the school finance software and processes are not easy. I will keep you informed.



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.