



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

March 11, 2024

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

There is no item on the agenda that requires specific new background information from me.

OTHER ITEMS

Support Staff & Bus Driver Handbooks I would like to schedule a meeting with this committee with Julie to discuss our 2024-2026 Handbooks. Staff from these groups will also want to meet with us in a subsequent meeting.

Minnie Wright Scholarship Committee The Board needs to designate 3 board members to review the Minnie Wright Scholarship applications. Three L-A graduates will be awarded \$1000 scholarships.

Katie Ketchum April 23rd L-A alumni Katie Ketchum has been serving as the MN FFA President. This is an extraordinary honor for her and our L-A FFA program. Katie will be concluding her term in April and she will be speaking at a ceremony in St. Cloud April 23rd. It would be important to have a strong representation from our district present to honor her and her accomplishments. Please let me know if you as a Board member, would be interested and willing to attend this.

Reminder: The Lewiston Chamber of Commerce will be meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at noon at the Rec Café. These are opportunities to interact with Lewiston business owners.

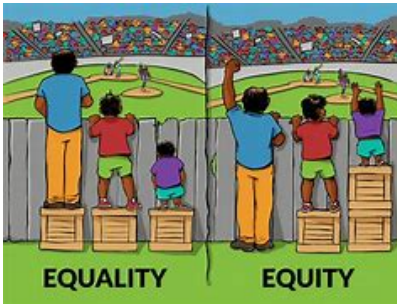
Elementary K-5 Music Concerts will be held in the gym on Thursday, May 23rd. K-2 (9-9:30am); Gr 3 & 5 (10:00-10:30am); 5th grade Band Instruments (10:40-10:55am); Grade 4 “The Incredible Westward Movement” (1-1:45pm)

Solar Project Kent Whitcomb from MiEnergy followed up on the size of a potential elementary school solar panel project. He is recommending we stay with the ‘larger’ 186.3 KW proposal. He said that the ‘quickest’ payback would be 80KW because it is less expensive, but the 186.3 would produce more energy/more revenue and it’s payback would still be less than 6 years. We are still exploring financing options for the district’s upfront investment for an elementary and high school solar project of \$155,701 (\$622,803 grant funded). I will update the Board in April on this. At this point, we are still not firmly committed to pursuing this project.

Food Service Ovens I clarified with Vickie what the problems are with purchasing new ovens for our kitchens using the department’s fund balance. The new ovens would require plumbing for steaming purposes and a 50-amp outlet vs the 15 amp outlet (3 prong) that is there. This means significant plumbing and electrical work. We are clarifying from MDE if this contractor work could be charged to the Food Service fund but even if it is, we are cautious to spend too much of the food service fund balance.

Capping Open Enrollment for Grade 4 and/or Grade 9 Potential The School Board has the option to ‘cap’ open enrollment based on our total district enrollment at specific (or all) grade levels. We may want to consider capping open enrollment for grade 4 (one section of 27 students currently) and grade 9 (two sections of ____ 8th graders currently). Note that this would not allow us to deny enrollment to resident students at these grade levels.

Academic Highlights at Future School Board Meetings One of the outcomes of discussions since the Board retreat has been to take time at each Board meeting to highlight a specific academic focus or program. Hopefully, this would be teachers presenting their success in a specific grade or curricular area.



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.