



**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*

*April 14, 2025*

**Meeting Agenda Items Notes**

**Facility Renovations Planning Updates** Staff user groups met with InGensa and ISG Architect team members on March 31<sup>st</sup> and April 3. These were opportunities for the staff members working in the spaces planned for significant renovations to provide input. The spaces focused on were the HS gyms/lockers rooms, HS science classrooms, HS art classrooms, CTE classrooms, elementary and HS offices, kindergarten classrooms, grades 1-3, 5 classrooms, elementary music classroom, elementary media center. The architectural team will present initial detailed designs in 4-6 weeks for feedback. The goal is to have the design phase completed before June.

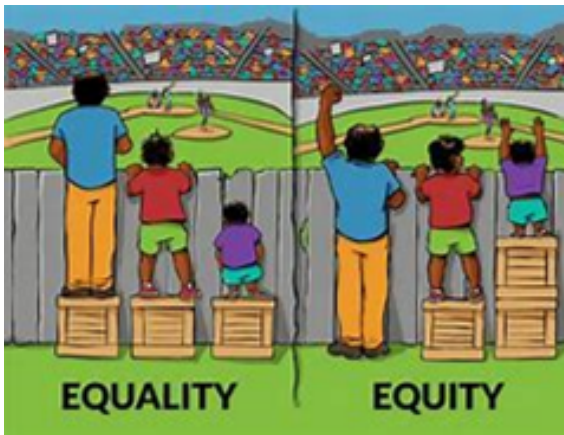
**OTHER ITEMS**

**Budget** The Board is scheduled to meet with Dr. Ryan Leegar on Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00pm. He will explain a process he utilizes to compare similar sized districts budget data and provide perspective on specific areas that may warrant change. At the meeting, there is an agenda item for discussion on the goal of making \$200,000 in adjustments for next year.

**College/Career Readiness – Local Business Partnering** On March 20<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Hanson, MaryAnne Bedtke (Bluff Country Collaborative/Youth Workforce Navigator and I met with representatives from six Lewiston and Altura businesses. It was

a great opportunity to discuss possibilities for increasing their exposure to our students (K-12) with an ultimate goal of our graduates becoming successful employees for them. We are in the process of scheduling April/May for each to visit high school students at least once. We will meet again May 15<sup>th</sup> to reflect on their experiences and plan more opportunities next school year. We are also working towards developing consistent messaging throughout the district to promote and teach the important ‘soft skills’ that are essential for students and employees.

**Cardinal Foundation** I attended their April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. I continue to be so appreciative of their work and support of our students, teachers and district. They are having a fish fry fund raiser at the Legion Friday April 18<sup>th</sup>, and a golf tournament fund raiser August 16<sup>th</sup>.



*Equity is important in all our decision making.*