

**MINUTES OF THE LEWISTON-ALTURA REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**ISD #857**  
**May 13, 2024**

A regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #857 was held on May 13, 2024 at 6:00pm in the High School Library. Members present were Bree Maki, Jenny Koverman, Daniel Kreidermacher, David Baer, Sara Daley, Dave Pringle and Sarah Sommer.

Chair Maki called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Sommer and seconded by Pringle to approve the meeting agenda. MCU.

L-A High School student Owen Sommer presented updates on high school events and activities.

L-A Spanish Teacher Sarah Berndt presented information about a possible trip for students who have completed Spanish II or III to Mexico in the summer of 2025. All of the students would be juniors or seniors. She highlighted the tour stops and educational goals. The Board expressed support for a trip but asked her to also explore Costa Rica as a possible alternative. Ms. Berndt will research the option and survey parents on the options. She will report back to the Board in June.

There was discussion about the district's 20 acre and 40 acre School Forest properties and the possibility of selling them. Winona County Recorder Bob Bambenek spoke to the Board via ZOOM. It was decided by consensus to continue pursuing an easement with Winona County for the 40-acre parcel before putting it on the market, to pursue selling the 20-acre parcel, and to pursue having Farmer's Park designated as the district's school forest.

The Board discussed potential Solar Energy projects with Solar Connections, Inc. to install solar panels on the high school grounds and elementary school roof. When fully operational, the panels will save an estimated \$45,000 in energy costs. State grants would fund 50% of the installation, federal grants would fund 30% of the installation and the district would pay 20% of the installation. Financing proposals to help cover the construction cost timeline vs the grant reimbursement timeline from Minnwest Bank and People's State Bank were discussed. Loan payments would be offset by the energy savings for approximately 5 years, and then when the loan is paid in full, the district would fully realize the energy savings. Motion by Pringle and seconded by Baer to pursue the grants and follow up with People's State Bank to further discuss the financing.

Motion by Koverman and seconded by Sommer to approve the Consent Agenda. MCU.

Motion by Sommer and second by Pringle to approve the Updated Safe Learning Plan. MCU.

Motion by Baer and seconded by Koverman to approve Policy 502 Search of Student Lockers, Desks, Personal Possessions and Student's Person, and Policy 524 Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Form (and to delete duplicative Policy 640) on a 1<sup>st</sup> reading. MCU.

There was discussion about FY25 budget. A Budget Workshop Session was scheduled for Tuesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm in the high school library.

There was discussion about the Community Engagement Meetings in Altura (May 1<sup>st</sup>) and Lewiston (May 8<sup>th</sup>).

Reports were presented by Principal Riebel, Principal Hanson and Superintendent Carman, including Dashir's monthly updates. Board Committee reports were discussed. The upcoming meeting schedule was reviewed.

Motion by Koverman, seconded by Kreidermacher to adjourn the meeting at 8:34pm. MCU.

Dave Pringle, Clerk