

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  
April 13, 2026

## Meeting Agenda Item Notes

**Board Meeting Guest Speakers** Lewiston City Administrator Ragini Varma and Hiwatha Valley Special Education District Executive Director Deb Marcotte will be speaking to the Board on topics of mutual interest.

**Cardiac Emergency Response Plan** Thank you to School Nurse Michelle MacPherson for developing a district Cardiac Emergency Response Plan that we will be required to have starting in 2026-2027. This will need to be reviewed annually by the Board. Thank you also to Michelle and volunteer staff who serve on our emergency response teams. They recently held a practice drill in each building.

**2026-2027 Budget** I will share Dr. Laager’s FY25 Student Performance and Financial Budget comparisons for similar sized districts. We will also discuss an update sheet outlining the potential expenditure reductions and additions as we work towards a target of a minimum of \$200,000 in reductions.

**Memorandum of Agreement/Teacher on Special Assignment** Attached to the agenda is a final MOA regarding the 2026-2027 Dean of Special Education position that was approved in March. The position was posted internally, and it is administration’s recommendation to appoint Ms. Kinsey Hornberg to this position. Meetings were held with administration, Ms. Hornberg and EdMN/L-A President Matthew Wilmes to discuss and clarify the job description. Attached to the agenda is a final MOA and slightly modified Job Description for the position. Ms. Hornberg will work collaboratively with HVED staff, not duplicate their services.

**Dashir Contract Renewal** On the Consent Agenda, is a 2026-2029 contract with Dashir Management Services, Inc. for our facilities and grounds maintenance services. Although a three-year agreement may seem lengthy, note that #17 of the contract reads: “Dashir will meet with the district regularly to review performance. This agreement can be terminated by either party with a 90-day written notice following this review for failure to perform, or if either party decides it is no longer in their best interest to continue the agreement.”

## **Additional Updates**

**2026-2027 Superintendent Transition** I look forward to working with Mr. Gruen on a successful transition for the district. He will be in the district April 10<sup>th</sup> and meet with several staff. We will schedule additional meetings through June.

**Solar Panels Update** We did an analysis of the financial production of the solar panels at each school, September 2025 – March 2026 (6 months).

Each set of panels is set up differently in terms of the savings with MiEnergy and purchases of energy from Dairyland Cooperative.

**Elementary** Compared to 2025 for the same months, our MiEnergy bills increased \$451.07 (weather differences?) and we have received \$2,752.05 from Dairyland Cooperative.

**High School** Compared to 2025 for the same months, our MiEnergy bills decreased \$7,984.22 and we have received \$504.26 from Dairyland Cooperative.

All appropriate documentation has been approved to receive the \$424,649 reimbursement from the State. We will need to submit a tax credit to the federal government after June 30<sup>th</sup> (end of our fiscal year) for \$254,789. The district ‘out of pocket’ costs for the panels was \$170,000 which was paid using a portion of the interest proceeds from the building project bonds (not general fund dollars).

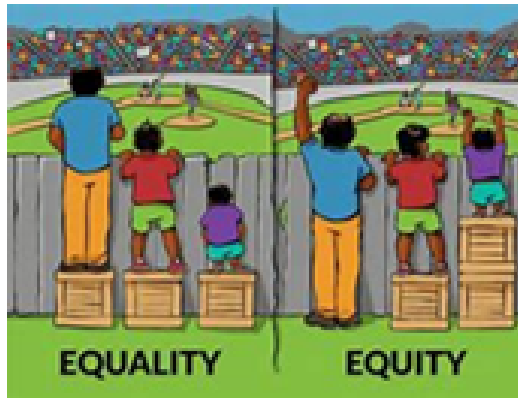
**Summer School Board Meetings:** I have reserved the City of Lewiston Council Meeting Room for summer school board meetings due to the construction and that the HS Library will generally be inaccessible to the public. The summer meeting dates are June 8<sup>th</sup>, July 13 and August 10<sup>th</sup>.

**November 2026 School Board Elections:** The School District will have school board elections on November 3, 2026. Three current members’ (Baer, Daley, Kreidermacher) four-year term ends this year. The filing period (re-election or for new candidates) will be July 14 – July 28<sup>th</sup>. I will have the resolution calling for the election on the May Agenda and do the other associated legal tasks that I can do prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>. There will

be additional ones to do before and after the election. I have discussed with MSBA our options for candidate sign up. This will also be part of the May resolution.

**Enrollment**

Grade Level	May 29, 2025	Sept 4, 2025	February 1, 2026	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026	Anticipated Sept 14, 2026	Estimate Sept 2027
<b>Kdg</b>	38	29	27	27	27	26	39
<b>1st</b>	26	39	38	38	38	28	26
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	36	28	28	28	28	38	26
<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>	38	36	36	36	36	28	38
<b>4<sup>th</sup></b>	25	41	40	40	40	36	28
<b>5<sup>th</sup></b>	39	29	26	26	26	40	36
<b>6<sup>th</sup></b>	38	44	44	43	43	29 (+3)	42 (+2)
<b>7<sup>th</sup></b>	38	36	36	36	36	44	29
<b>8<sup>th</sup></b>	37	39	38	38	39	35	43
<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>	55	45	43	43	43	49 (+11)	39 (+3)
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b>	58	55	52	52	52	43	49
<b>11<sup>th</sup></b>	48	58	58	58	58	52	43
<b>12<sup>th</sup></b>	56	48	48	49	49	58	52
<b>Total</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>527</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>506</b>	<b>492</b>



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