



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, Elementary/Intermediate Principal

Superintendent's Report to the School Board
Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman
September 13, 2021

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

Curriculum Coordinator Sarah Berndt Presentation Mrs. Berndt will be presenting an overview of the work and processes we are planning to facilitate a comprehensive review the MN Standards, and how they align with our curriculum and assessment/grading practices. She will also update you on the mission statement and visioning process she facilitated with the teachers August 31st.

Return to School Safe Learning Plan/1st 5 days of School Overview Our weekly COVID-19 data for students and staff is on our webpage. Thank you to our School Nurse/Safe Schools Coordinator Michelle MacPherson for collecting and tracking our data. She is also the primary 'go to' person for talking with students, parents and staff regarding symptoms, testing, quarantines etc. The teachers and principals are doing everything they can to support students who are missing these important first days of school.

Our administration team is continuing to monitor and assess our situation. I am including on the Board agenda "Modifications to 2021-22 Return to School Safe Learning Plan" in case I have recommendations for changes, or if the Board would like to propose any changes.

STARRS Online Academy Agreement As you know, we have discussed the option of providing full time online learning for families who prefer that option vs face to face in our classrooms. This is a way for us to maintain relationships with those families (rather than them choosing to enroll in a statewide online program) and it is a fiscally advantageous for us (vs. losing 100% of the ADM funding).

We have been given MDE approval for a provisional K-12 online provider to enable our teachers to provide online instruction in case of multiple days of small or large groups of quarantines. MDE has been strongly encouraging to schools to apply for this as a 'tool in our pocket' if needed.

The STARRS Online Academy is sponsored by the Southwest West Central Cooperative. The Academy utilizes Edgenuity curriculum and teachers to provide full time online instruction. It is our intent at this point, to only offer this for K-6 students. With the Agreement, we are one of several school districts joining the MDE approved online program. Becoming a member of the Academy provides us the administration and infrastructure to more easily and seamlessly provide full time online learning.

If a L-A student enrolls in the academy, we still must also have a L-A employed teacher assigned to do daily check-ins, monitor progress, problem solve with the students and parents, etc. Our financial commitment to the Academy is \$6000/year – which is the approximate cost of enrolling two students. If additional students enroll, the fee is \$500/full year course (\$250/semester). Because we would receive full State funding for the student, the tuition fee is less than our revenue.

We will assess how much this is used this school year to guide decision making for future years.

September 2021 vs 2020 Enrollment

	<u>Kdg</u>	<u>1st</u>	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u>	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u>	<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>12th</u>	<u>Total</u>
9/10/20	32	40	42	35	48	50	53	60	56	77	61	87	57	698
9/9/21	38	30	38	37	36	41	48	56	63	63	77	61	91	679

Total Decrease = 19 students

- Elementary/Intermediate: -32 students
- High School: + 13 students

9/20 Seniors = 57

9/20 6th Graders = 53

9/21 Kdg 38

2021-22 Committee Meeting Schedules

I will provide a list of the committees that include Board members and the meeting schedule for the 2021-22 school year. Board representation on the various committees will be reviewed at the organizational meeting in January.

Back to School Workshop and Start of Year

Thank you to **the entire staff** for all that they have done to get the 21-22 school year started! While we have had some distractions with the pandemic, it is very rewarding, exciting and even reassuring to see all of the ‘normal’ enthusiasm and activity of students and staff as everyone adjusts to a new school year’s schedules and routines.

Thank you to Principal Riebel for organizing our ‘2021 Staff Olympics’ on August 31st. After a district provided lunch prepared by our Food Service staff, teachers and paraprofessionals participated in several outdoor ‘competitions.’ This was a great way for staff to interact with colleagues they might not normally see and try fun activities such as water balloon archery with admins’ cars as the targets, ladder golf, bocci ball, frisbee golf, pickle ball, and more. The ‘gold medal’ ice cream sandwiches won by all were delicious too!

September 15th, 5:30pm Meeting with InGensa

I have talked with Jacqui, Luke and Rochelle regarding our next meeting. The meeting will include additional property tax information from Ehlers, Inc., including additional comparisons to area districts. They are also hoping for input from you regarding the A, B, C options and information presented at the last meeting. Please be ready if you have questions or additional ideas you are interested in exploring. We will also talk about ‘next steps.’

