



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
February 14, 2022

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

Resolution Directing Administration On the agenda is the annually required Board resolution to 'direct administration to make recommendations regarding the reduction and/or discontinuance of programs and positions therefore.' This is necessary to provide us the necessary process if it is decided to eliminate any positions or programs through the 2022-23 budget setting process.

As you know, we will need to make significant reductions in expenditures/increases in revenues in the next two years in order to maintain fiscal sustainability. This is because of our decline in enrollment, salary/wage increases which are necessary to maintain staff, s and now inflation that will impact our costs for materials, supplies and equipment. Any increases in state and federal funding have not kept pace with our increase in expenses. The additional funding that the district has/will receive as a result of the pandemic is providing us an increase in funding for the short-term but we need to be aware of our longterm needs.

I will be bringing to the Board in March a recommended revised budget for 2021-22. As you know, this year's budget was based on estimates set in May. Now that more contracts/work agreements are finalized, the pandemic funding amounts (and how each portion can be used) are available and we are over half way through the year we can adjust this year's budget accordingly. This process will also inform us on areas for potential changes next year.

Vision Statement: We Are CARDS!

Caring
Adaptable
Respectful
Determined
Successful

A 'Vision' is a succinct statement that defines the ultimate goal of what we want to achieve. This is a critical part of identifying our 'why' as we do our work, and having a common message for staff, students, parents and community members.

As part of our work with teachers to analyze MN Standards, our curriculums and instruction, we started the year with brainstorming a vision statement for our district. Teachers contributed several statements for consideration. As you can imagine, all were good, thoughtful and heartfelt. Ultimately, we took key phrases and words from

those to support the acronym CARDS. All staff were given the opportunity to vote (ie, various words that started with 'C', etc.) and the words Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined and Successful were the top vote getters.

The School Board's support of this Vision Statement will be a final step in the process to officially adopt a new vision statement for our district. We will then transition this to be used for marketing and other key opportunities throughout the district.

A Mission Statement (How Will We Achieve Our Vision?) is also important to our work. Currently, our PLCs each have established their own Mission Statement. It is our intent over the next several months to develop a single mission for our district. It will be important to involve students, parents and community members in this process.

The current phrase "Preparing Our Students to Lead the World" that is often used with a Cardinal logo is not 'bad' or 'wrong' but there is confusion if it is a mission or a vision and whether it truly depicts what we want for all students.

2022-23 Academic Calendar We have had active discussions with the 'Calendar Committee' regarding possible calendars for 2022-23. I will not have a final recommendation when the agenda goes out, but will have a recommended calendar at Monday's meeting.

OTHER UPDATES

Community Survey Email links (staff and parents) and printed copies (district residents) have been sent out. As you know, we had an unfortunate printing error on the printed surveys. Hopefully the postcards being mailed by Their Printing will enable our district residents to have the information they need to complete the survey online or via a paper copy they mail directly to School Perceptions. At the meeting, I will be able to provide you response rate data to date. The survey is open until March 7th and so we will not have results until after then.

Pandemic Updates: At the meeting, I will have an update on our case rate data, and recommendations for transitioning to face masks being 'strongly recommended' rather than 'required' during the school day.

THANK YOU

St. Paul's Church Thank you very much to several volunteers from St. Paul's Church in Lewiston who made baskets of snacks for staff in each of our buildings. Their heartfelt thank yous for all of the work by teachers, support staff, administration and the school board are much appreciated!

Thank you to Transportation Director Kevin Ziebell: All of our buses and vans passed DOT inspections on February 8th! Thank you for all you do to keep our vehicles safe and running properly. There are lots of details that these inspections cover.

February 21-25 is Minnesota School Board Appreciation Week! Thank you for being a dedicated school leader who devotes hours of time, hard work and leadership for our students, staff, school district and our communities!

A reminder of the importance of considering equity in the work we do:



