



Independent School Dist. No. 857
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Lewiston, MN 55952
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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

September 8, 2025

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

Facilities Updates Luke Pfothhauer will be at the meeting to provide updates on the facility projects.

Vision, Mission, Logo Revisions Attached in the packet is handout of proposed changes to the district's vision and mission statements. The primary reason for these proposed changes is to enable us to have a short, easily remembered phrase that applies to all students and can be included with our Cardinal for a logo and on other marketing materials. The proposed mission statement of "Preparing for Success" seems to capture a message that can be embraced by all and summarizes so much of what we are doing for our students and staff every day.

The packet also includes Policy 104 which was not updated as part of the 2023 visioning process.

Pay 2026 Levy September is the month where the Board sets the upcoming year's levy at 'maximum.' A final specific levy dollar amount will be set in December 2025. At this meeting, we will also set the date/time for the required Truth in Taxation meeting. We typically hold this before the December Regular Board Meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

Spring 2025 MCA Results We are very pleased with the results of the 2025 MCA results. We will share some of the results at the meeting. I am also working with InGensa on a press release for the community.

Back To School for Teachers and Staff It was a busy August with teachers returning earlier than typical (August 13th) and students starting to return August 15th. The atypical calendar will enable for us to end the school year in May 2026 earlier than typical (last student day May 20th) to provide for more construction days in the summer of 2026.

One advantage of the earlier teacher start is that it enabled us to have more time for important ‘big picture’ discussions. The time spent introducing the Standard Response Protocols was important and effective in reminding staff of their roles in the event of any type of interruption to our typical school day. I was also particularly pleased that we were able to take a full day and have important PK-12 curriculum discussions (each teacher was part of two meetings) and summaries were shared to all the following morning. It was a great opportunity for teachers to share and listen to discussions with colleagues on the PK-12 scope and sequence of standards, common challenges, grading and more. The six group topics were Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science, Social Studies, Health/PE, Fine Arts and HS Electives. The principals and I each facilitated three of the groups.

With the extended number of days for professional development in August, however, we will have fewer professional development days the rest of this school year. We will have a day at the end of each quarter, as well as October 15th, January 2nd, February 17th. We will also have an additional day after the end of the 4th quarter to provide time for teachers’ to prepare their classrooms for the construction.

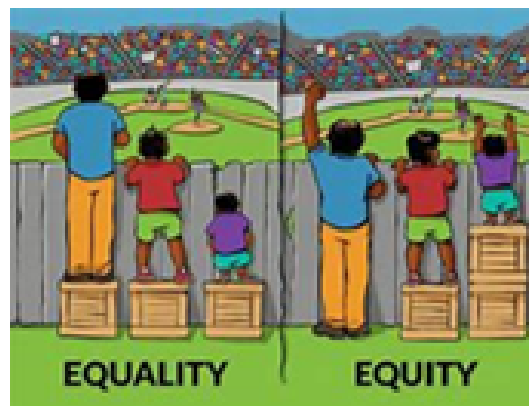
Administration Restructuring At the August meeting, the topic of possible restructuring of the district’s administrative positions was discussed, and the principals and I were asked to propose a recommendation, with the ultimate goal of reducing costs. We have discussed this extensively. It is our recommendation, however, that we meet with a board sub-committee initially because of the many personnel factors to be considered.

MSBA Leadership Conference: January 15-16, at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Please let me know if you want to attend.

August 2025 Auction- The total profits from the Online Auction was \$12,281.44. Thank you very much to the Dashir Team, Dr. Hanson and Principal Riebel who worked diligently (and physically) for this effort over the summer to enable us to further dispose of used materials/equipment. We anticipate having another auction next summer.

Enrollment

Grade Level	May 29, 2025	Sept 4, 2025
Kdg	38	29
1st	26	39
2 nd	36	28
3 rd	38	36
4 th	25	41
5 th	39	29
6 th	38	44
7 th	38	36
8 th	37	39
9 th	55	45
10 th	58	55
11 th	48	58
12 th	56	48
Total	532	527



Equity is important in all of our decision making.

