

MINUTES OF THE ISD #857 LEWISTON-ALTURA REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
January 5, 2026

The 2026 Organizational Meeting and a regular meeting of the School Board of Independent School District #857 was held on January 5, 2026 at 6:00pm in the High School Library. Members present were Bree Maki, Daniel Kreidermacher, David Baer, Sara Daley, Luke Miller, Dave Pringle, Amber Pasche.

Chair Maki called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Riley Merkowitz presented a LA High School student report.

Pringle moved, and Miller seconded to approve the meeting agenda. MCU.

The Board Chair asked for nominations for Board Chair three times. Pringle nominated Maki to be 2026 Board Chair. Motion by Kreidermacher and second by Baer to close nominations. Having no further nominations, Maki was elected 2026 Board Chair by unanimous consent.

The Board Chair asked for nominations for Board Vice Chair three times. Maki nominated Daley to be 2026 Vice Board Chair. Motion by Baer and second by Miller to close nominations. Having no further nominations, Daley was elected 2026 Vice Chair by unanimous consent.

The Board Chair asked for nominations for Board Clerk three times. Daley nominated Pringle to be 2026 Board Clerk. Motion by Pasche and second by Miller to close nominations. Having no further nominations, Pringle was elected 2026 Board Clerk by unanimous consent.

The Board Chair asked for nominations for Board Treasurer three times. Miller nominated Baer to be 2026 Board Treasurer. Pringle moved and Kreidermacher seconded to close nominations. Having no further nominations, Baer was elected 2026 Board Treasurer.

Pringle nominated Kreidermacher to be designated at the 2026 MN State High School League representative. Daley seconded. MCU.

Motion by Pringle and second by Miller to set the 2026 school board meetings to be held on the 2nd Mondays of the month at 6:00pm in the High School Library. MCU.

Motion by Pasche and second by Kreidermacher to set compensation for the School Board Chairperson at \$80.00 per meeting, and for Directors at \$65.00 per meeting. MCU.

Motion by Baer and second by Miller to designate Minnwest Bank, The People's State Bank, Merchant's Bank and the PMA Financial Network, LLC as official depositories for school district funds. MCU.

Motion by Baer and second by Kreidermacher to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to make official electronic transfers and pay bills in advance. MCU.

Motion by Pringle and second by Daley to designate Superintendent Gwen Porter as the Identified Official with Authority (IOWA) for ISD 857 to authorize user access to MDE for secure data submissions. MCU.

Motion by Miller and second by Daley to authorize use of 2025 computerized signature files and further authorize use of the 2025 signatures until 2026 updates are complete. MCU.

Motion by Pringle and second by Daley to designate Kennedy and Graven, Chartered as the official school district law firm and provide the Superintendent and Board Chair authorization to contact legal counsel on matters relevant to the school district. MCU.

Motion by Baer and second by Daley to designate The St. Charles Press and Lewiston Journal as the official publication of the school district. MCU.

Board Chair Maki appointed the Board members to the following committees:

Teacher Negotiations/Meet and Confer: Pringle, Maki, Baer;
Transportation and Support Staff Wage and Benefits Handbooks: Kreidermacher, Daley, Miller
Principal Negotiations: Daley, Kreidermacher, Pasche
Superintendent Negotiations: Maki, Miller
District Staff Development: Maki (Alt: Miller)
Finance Committee: Baer, Pringle, Kreidermacher
Community Engagement Committee: Maki, Daley, Pasche
HVED Board Representative: Daley
CmEd and Early Childhood Advisory: Pasche
District Policy Review: Baer (Alt: Miller)
Health & Safety/Wellness: Daley (Alt: Pringle)
Systems Accountability: Baer (Kreidermacher)
Activities: Kreidermacher, Miller.
Construction Renovation Advisory: Pringle, Miller Kreidermacher
Continuing Education Committee: Pringle

Motion by Daley and second by Baer to approve the Consent Agenda. MCU.

Motion by Pringle and second by Baer to accept nine base bids (\$12,589,107) and seven alternate bids (\$759,653) for the elementary and high school renovation projects. The base categorical bids are Sitework - O'Laughlin Excavating, \$716,618; General Construction – Fowler & Hammer, \$6,080,000; Roofing -. McDowall Company, \$371,700; Mechanical- Davis Mechanical, \$4,145,000; Temperature Controls- Winona Controls, \$327,000; HVAC Balancing- Premier Balancing - \$47,400; Electrical – P&T Electric- \$796,368; HVAC Commissioning- Hallberg Engineering- \$45,000; Special Inspection – Chosen Valley Testing, \$15,521). MCU.

There was discussion on the 2026-2027 budget.

Motion by Pringle and second by Daley to direct the superintendent to work with the Transportation Director to purchase a 10 passenger van for \$85,000. MCU.

Motion by Baer and second by Pringle to approve Policies 516.5 Overdose Medication, 530/530F Immunization Requirements & Form, and 720 Vending Machines on a first reading. MCU.

Motion by Baer and second by Daley to approve Policy 515 Protection and Privacy of Pupil Records, and Policy 516 Student Medication and Telehealth on a second reading. MCU.

Motion by Daley and second by Baer to approve changes to the 2025-2026 High School Handbook to reflect further restrictions on students' use of cell phones. MCU.

Superintendent Porter and Board members presented reports.

Pringle moved and Kreidermacher seconded to go into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing negotiations with LAPA at 7:48pm. MCU.

Motion by Pringle and seconded by Miller to reopen the meeting to the public at 8:31pm.

Motion by Baer and seconded by Kreidermacher to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. MCU.

Dave Pringle, Clerk