



**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, 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*

*December 9, 2024*

**Meeting Agenda Items Notes**

**Truth in Taxation Hearing/Certification of the Pay 2025 Levy** Business Manager Julie Schreiber will present the annually required ‘Truth in Taxation’ presentation. This will be followed by an opportunity for the public to comment. The levy will be a significant increase primarily due to the passing of the operating levy (\$760/student) and the building bond referendum.

**Resolution Calling for the Sale of the Bonds** Jodie Zesbaugh, Ehlers, Inc., will be present to guide the discussion about the sale of \$19,950,000 in bonds in January 2025. Even though we will not need most of these funds until 2026, we will be able to generate interest by investing the funds.

**OTHER ITEMS**

**Literacy Aid MOU Negotiations with EdMN/L-A** We are continuing to wait to hear from MDE regarding their approved training options for Phase II teachers. The website now says this will be announced in January.

**Meeting with The Cardinal Foundation** I attended the Cardinal Foundation meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. I expressed my profound appreciation for all that they are doing for our students and teachers. We are continuing to clarify the details of the grant request/awarding/payment process.

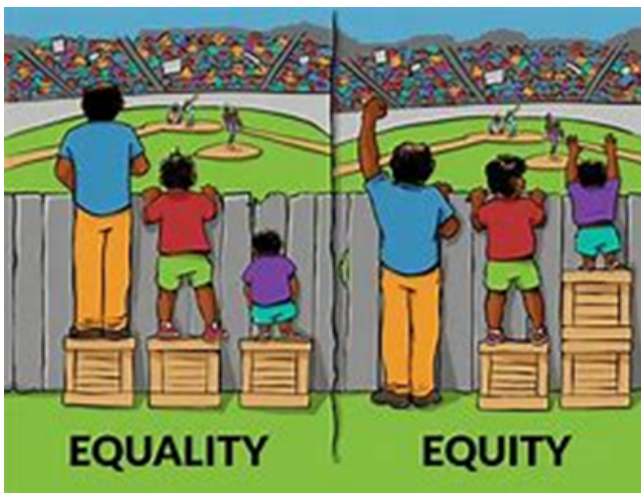
**College/Career Readiness – CTE Space Planning** It is important that we be thoughtful in anticipating how we want to configure the CTE space as part of the renovation. In order to do this, we need to consider not just the physical space, but also equipment and how they align with our curricular goals. This is an opportunity to also plan our college/career readiness goals in other areas including but not limited to business and medical related fields.

One important factor in these decisions should be driven by input from area employers. At the meeting, I will have an update on this process.

**Senior Citizen Lunch** It was wonderful to have over 90 senior citizens present for the Senior Lunch on December 5<sup>th</sup>. In addition many HS students were amazing. This included the choir and band performances, as well as serving the meals and assisting with clean up. It was great to see their positivity and engagement! Thank you to the food service staff, the custodial staff, the elementary teachers who had the students make place mats and Bree and Sarah who helped serve! Thank you also to the community members who donated over \$700 to enable the meals to be free for our guests.

**Thank you Sarah Sommer and Melissa Meisch!** The December 9<sup>th</sup> meeting is the last meeting for Sarah Sommer (8 years) and Melissa Meisch (stepped forward in October). On behalf of the Board, the entire district and the Lewiston and Altura communities, thank you for your time, heart, and service!

**January 13<sup>th</sup> Organizational Meeting/Regular Board Meeting** This meeting will include the 2025 organizational items and regular meeting items. Organizational agenda items will include election of officers and committee assignments. We will have a ceremonial oath of office and welcome Amber Pasche and Luke Miller to the Board!



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