



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

January 13, 2025

Meeting Agenda Items Notes

2025 Organizational Meeting We welcome Amber Pasche and Luke Miller to the Board! This meeting includes the 2025 organizational items and regular meeting items. Organizational agenda items will include election of officers and committee assignments. We will also have a ceremonial oath of office for all board members.

Award Resolution- Sale of the Bonds Attached to the Agenda is the DRAFT Award Resolution with blanks or zeroes, pending the results of the sale that will happen on January 13th. During the afternoon, I will receive the completed resolution with the blanks filled out by our legal counsel. They work closely with Ehlers on this process. The Chair, Clerk and Treasurer will need to sign Closing Certificates after the meeting, so please plan on this.

Earlier, Julie and I completed much paperwork, and then met with Shelby and Jodie (Ehlers) and two representatives from Moody's to discuss the district's financial status in order for Moody's to determine a Rating for the district that is used by potential buyers for our bonds. On January 6th, we were notified they rated us as "A3" which Shelby said was 'solid' and what she hoped for and felt was fair.

OTHER ITEMS

Literacy Aid MOU Negotiations with EdMN/L-A We (teacher negotiators) should schedule a meeting to discuss this. MDE has now released information stating that Phase II approved trainings will not be released October 2025.

College/Career Readiness – CTE Space Planning An online survey was emailed to 53 area businesses/employers regarding desired skills and characteristics of L-A graduates as potential employees. The due date for this survey is January 15th. We will use this data and other resources to help develop/update our Career/College Readiness planning that impacts K-12 curriculum, and our HS facilities and equipment needs.

Legislative Priorities: MSBA, MREA, MASA I have attached the 2025 Legislative priorities for each of the important advocacy organizations that support MN public schools. It is important that you be familiar with what each has identified as priorities, including noting the vast overlap in priorities. I believe it is helpful to understand the areas that have been identified as problematic, and proposed solutions to help address the needs. These ‘talking points’ can also be useful in conversations with our own community members, as well as in outreach to our legislators.

NHS Induction Ceremony January 19th at 6 p.m. is the induction Ceremony for the new members. The following members will be inducted: Claire Daley, Adalyn Zietlow, Carter Bronk, Bailey Heimermann, Harper Smith. Board members are welcome to attend.

Contracts with InGensa Finalized The Project Management Contracts with InGensa are now finalized/signed. I spoke with our legal counsel several times in the past few weeks as he worked with InGensa’s legal counsel on the contracts. I am grateful for our attorney’s work and confident he was a strong advocate for us throughout the discussions and final document approvals. This now enables InGensa to enter into contracts with key contractors, including ISG Architects to develop design details.

Construction Projects Updates Luke Pfothenhauer and Gary Lovitz (Project Manager) toured the elementary and high school on January 9th with representatives from Dashir, the principals and me. After each walk through, we met and discussed further details and questions. A broad timeline is to have much of the design work completed by the end of the school year (after teachers/staff have met with the design team), final designs developed over the summer of 2025, and construction/bid documents prepared in the Fall of 2025.

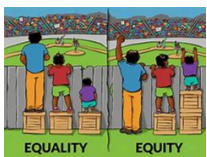
A pre-bid meeting with potential roof contractors for the high school roof is on January 23rd at 10:00am. Bids for the Summer 2025 project will be opened February 6th and presented to the Board for approval at the February 10th meeting.

Potential Summer 2025 Projects

- Both buildings: Tuck Pointing
- Elementary Playground Upgrades
- HS Roof Replacement Project
- ‘C’ Gym floor and bleacher replacement

MSBA Negotiations Seminar

- Tuesday, February 11, 2025 – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (registration opens at 8:30 a.m.) Southeast Service Cooperative, 210 Woodlake Drive, Rochester



Equity is important in all our decision making.