



Independent School Dist. No. 857
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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 18, 2023

Meeting Agenda Item Notes

Audit As you know, our audit was not finalized when Craig Popenhagen (Cla) presented information about our audit at the November 13th meeting. This agenda will include having you accept the audit. You will receive printed booklets with all of the audit information.

Policies The policies on the agenda are modified because of changes in statutes from the 2023 Legislature. MSBA has said it is appropriate to approve these after one reading because law supersedes policy. Our Policy Committee reviewed/approved these at our December 7th meeting.

Community Survey and Next Steps We will discuss a proposed survey for your final approval (can be revised) to facilitate mailing in early January. Sue P. is unable to be at our meeting but Jacqui and their new Public Relations staff member Sara Thompson will be. I have been talking with them extensively and am looking forward to sharing updates from them with you. Sue’s services are paid for by InGensa.

Tax Levy I will do a Truth in Taxation presentation. Our total levy is increasing 0.98%. The increases are from changes within Community Education.

Budget Updates I will have a handout to summarize updates regarding our current year and next year budget. I have met with Todd and Julie and looked at this year’s budget preliminarily. There is much to dissect to assure accuracy, especially with the turnover we have had in budget preparations for the past few years and reporting. We plan to have a full FY24 updated budget at the January 8th meeting.

OTHER ITEMS

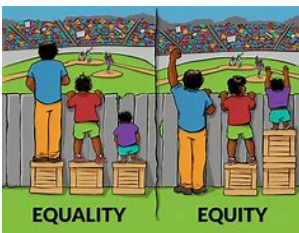
Business Office Transition to SMS Overall, this is going well. I am extremely appreciative of their staff’s expertise and experience in all areas related to school finance. Jennifer too is learning from their support and training. We meet December 6th as a Cabinet Team and I also spoke with staff on Dec 13th about the transition.

Questions regarding Test Scores and ‘How is It Determined What Teachers Teach in a Classroom’

At the November meeting it was discussed how perceptions of our students’ performance and curriculum are a challenge for us. We will not go into depths on this at this meeting, but we are working on a comprehensive plan to celebrate our successes and more effectively explain the meaning of MCA data. We will also be explaining our exciting work on Standards Based Instruction, Assessment and grading!

Community Education Principal Riebel and I are ‘tag teaming’ Community Education administration for early childhood programming and for the responsibilities that Britney Sula has been doing for adult and youth programming. We will have an update at the meeting

MSBA Conference Let me know if you would like to attend, Jan 10 -12.



A reminder of the importance of considering equity in the work we do.
Every student deserves our best and what s/he needs to achieve.