

MINUTES OF THE LEWISTON-ALTURA PUBLIC HEARING
ISD #857
November 1, 2022

A Public Hearing was held by the School Board of Independent School District #857 on November 1, 2022 at 6:30pm at the L-A Intermediate School in Altura. A remote link was available for viewing the meeting. The purpose of the Hearing was on the question of the necessity and practicability of the proposed closure at the end of the 2022-2023 school year of Lewiston-Altura Intermediate School located at 325 1st Avenue, S.E., Altura, MN 55910.

Chair Brummer called the Hearing to order at 6:30pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Members Toby Brummer, Connie Meyer, Jenny Koverman, Melissa Meisch, Dave Pringle and Sarah Sommer were present. Bree Maki was absent from the Hearing and viewed the Hearing remotely.

Chair Brummer explained the purpose of the public hearing. The reasons for the possible closure include the following: enrollment in the School District has consistently declined and is projected to continue to decline over the next 2-3 years; the building is significantly under-capacity and its grade-levels (5th and 6th grades) can effectively be served by the elementary school and high school, respectively; the building is in need of substantial repairs and improvements at an estimated cost of \$7.5 million; closing the building will result in operational cost savings of an estimated \$175,000 per year, savings which are necessary due to budgetary challenges as a result of declining enrollment and aging facilities; moving 6th graders to the high school will allow access to increased learning opportunities and a wider array of classes for 6th grade students.

Chair Brummer highlighted the Rules of Decorum for the Hearing that were available in handouts for meeting participants.

Superintendent Carman presented financial and facility background information on why the Board was considering the school closure. Elementary/Intermediate Principal Riebel, High School Principal Dr. Hanson and Teacher Brent Olson also presented information.

Five meeting participants addressed the Board: Shawn Kennedy-Lee, Bob Schell, Ashley Gossen, Carrie Speltz, Shelly Schell.

Meisch moved and Sommer seconded to adjourn the Hearing at 7:44pm. MCU.

Melissa Meisch, Clerk