



**Independent School Dist. No. 857**  
**100 County Road 25**  
**Lewiston, MN 55952**  
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*Gwen Carman, Superintendent*  
*Cory Hanson, High School Principal • Dave Riebel, Elementary/Intermediate Principal*

## **Superintendent's Report to the School Board**

*Respectfully Submitted by Gwen Carman*

*December 13, 2021*

### **Meeting Agenda Item Notes**

**Truth In Taxation Public Hearing** At the beginning of the meeting I will facilitate our annual, required Truth in Taxation Hearing. This will include a power point with the required information, followed by public questions or comments. We will need Board approval to certify the levy which is then forwarded to Winona County.

**Stadium Lights** As you know, one of the stadium lights shut off during the October 20<sup>th</sup> football game. While we had all of the light bulbs replaced this summer, the light poles on the field are 40 years old and much of the coating on the electrical wires has decayed. As the weather was wet and windy that evening, it appears the wires came in contact with the bulb fixture and blew the fuse. While we can 'repair' the lights in that pole, it appears that without replacing the wiring we are only putting a 'band aid' on the situation. In addition, we have 3 additional poles in a similar condition and at risk of having the same situation repeat itself.

Thank you Toby, Dave, Sarah, Brian Menk and Joe Banicki for joining me on a visit to the football field in Harmony at 6:30am to see their stadium lights. Although it was early, cold and windy, it was valuable to see the quality of the lighting and to talk with their AD about his experience and perspective on the system.

At the meeting I will share cost estimates for replacing the poles/lights and our financing options. Because of the size of this project, if the Board decides to move forward with replacing, we will need to go through an open bid process.

### **OTHER UPDATES**

**Longterm Investment Process** This week we were able to formally initiate an investment process of our reserve funds to generate a higher rate of interest. Thank you to Connie for visiting the bank with me to sign the appropriate paperwork. Under the proposed plan, Ehlers is estimating we will generate a return of over \$35,000 in five years. It is set up so that the invested funds could be withdrawn if necessary in June of each year.

**MASA Legislative Committee** For the past three years, I have participated on the MASA (MN Association of School Administrators) Legislative Committee. This group (approximately 25 superintendents) discusses and makes recommendations for the MASA Board of Directors on legislative priorities. The two major areas are Finance and Policy. I serve on the Policy Sub-Committee. The primary 'themes' of the recommendations are 1) No unfunded mandates, 2) Increase local control, 3) Increase flexibility with priorities and details under each.

**Three Rivers Conference** In the upcoming months, you can anticipate discussions regarding the conference and possible expansion/realignment of the conference with the Hiawatha Valley League and the Southeast Conference. It is a complex discussion involving many factors and districts. Activities Director Menk is part of the area ADs looking at options. The Three Rivers districts' superintendents serve as a Governing Board. It is not yet clear if any changes when/if would require School Board approvals.

**Pandemic:** We are seeing an increase in the number of positive COVID-19 cases amongst students. The Safe Learning Plan will be modified to clarify options for testing or choosing to quarantine if we have an 'outbreak' (3 or more cases) in a single classroom or activity. This enables us to avoid whole class remote learning.

**Community Survey Draft** I will have copies of the draft survey for discussion as part of my Superintendent's report.

**A reminder of the importance of considering equity in the work we do:**

