

DID YOU KNOW? BUDGET

We are building a Caring, Adaptable, Respectful, Determined, Successful Community of Learners. GO CARDS!

www.lewalt.k12.mn.us

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

District leaders in Lewiston-Altura Public schools were tasked this past year with making \$771,000 in budget adjustments (reductions and fee increases) for the 2024-25 school year.

These adjustments are necessary to address the district's budget deficit due to rising costs, declining enrollment, and state funding that has not kept pace with inflation.

At their June 10, 2024, meeting, the L-A School Board adopted the district's budget for fiscal year 2025 which included expenditures adjustments in staff, extra-curricular activities and bus routes and revenue increases in activity fees, booster club donations and the sale of land (see detailed in graphic at right).

Looking ahead, additional adjustments will be needed annually to balance the budget unless additional operating funds are approved by voters to support classroom learning and daily operations.



Share your feedback with the School Board...

School board members want to hear feedback from residents about the budget and facilities challenges the district is facing and the proposed solutions. Email the school board (addresses at www.lewalt.k12.mn.us) or visit with them at the Lewiston Farmer's Market in July and August (see L-A Public Schools Facebook page or website for specific dates).

Budget Adjustments 2024-25 School Year

1 Teachers

- 4.0 FTE Teachers eliminated
- .5 FTE HS Counselor reduced
- School Nurse pay reduced
- EC Coordinator combined with Reading Support position



2 Staff

- 20-hour Custodial position eliminated
- Reduction in Office Staff
- Eliminate Strength-Conditioning Coach
- Athletic Trainer at fewer events
- Eliminate SuperMileage and One-Act Play
- Eliminate one Bus Route

3 Instruction

- Eliminate two student contact days
- No major curriculum purchases for one year
- No fieldtrips (unless fully-funded by donations)
- No media center new book purchases
- Instructional software licensing reductions



4 Supplies

- Office supply reductions
- Grounds fertilizer contract reduction
- Parents pay for Gr. 1-5 milk
- Reduction of printing & copying
- Technology Support contract reduction



5 Revenue Increases

- New State & Federal funding
- Property Sale (school forest land)
- Fee increases (HS Course Fees, HS Activity Fees, HS Game Admission Fees & Game Remote Viewing Fees)
- Increased Donations (Booster Club, Business Sponsorships)



See Page 2 to learn more about the budget in L-A Public Schools...



L-A SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS FOR 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

District leaders in Lewiston-Altura Public Schools were tasked this past year with making \$771,000 in budget adjustments (reductions and fee increases) for the 2024-25 school year. These adjustments are necessary to address the district's budget deficit due to rising costs, declining enrollment, and state funding that has not kept pace with inflation.

At their June 10, 2024, meeting, the L-A School Board adopted the district's budget for fiscal year 2025 which included expenditures adjustments in staff, extra-curricular activities and bus routes and revenue increases in activity fees, booster club donations and the sale of land. The complete list is included on Page 1.

The Lewiston-Altura School Board, at their June 10 meeting, also authorized the submittal of a Review and Comment to the Minnesota Department of Education for a potential November 5 operating levy and bond referendum. The district was unsuccessful in its referendum request during the November 2023 election. However, the budget and building needs did not go away. Lewiston-Altura Public Schools continues to face financial and facilities challenges.

Further adjustments will be needed annually to balance the budget even if operating funds are approved by voters. These funds are used to support classroom learning and daily operations of the schools. Additionally, school facilities must be improved to decrease annual maintenance costs for the buildings.

The school board, district leaders, and a community taskforce have been meeting to determine the best course of action to address the district's budget and building needs. which includes proposing an operating levy referendum of \$760 per pupil and a bond referendum of \$19.95 million (includes bonding costs) in the November 5, 2024, general election. The board is scheduled to make this decision at the July 8, 2024, regular meeting.

The school board invites residents to continue to provide feedback and ask questions about the budget and facilities challenges the school district is facing. Residents are invited to email school board members (addresses at www.lewalt.k12.mn.us) or visit with them at the Lewiston Farmer's Market in July and August (see L-A Public Schools Facebook or website page for specific dates).

It is estimated that 70% of public-school districts are facing budget shortfalls, and locally this includes not only Lewiston-Altura, but also Winona Area Public Schools, St. Charles, Rochester, Byron, Fillmore-Central and more.

