The Cornell School District taxpayers will see a slightly higher school mill rate this year at 6.78026 compared to last year’s 6.74384. Please remember that your property tax amount is based on your property assessment, so while the school district levy amount went up 9.36%, your school portion of property taxes could have increased more or less depending upon what your property was assessed at this year. Also, please remember that there are other governmental entities that assess property taxes besides the school district to make up your entire property tax bill.

What does a 6.78026 mill rate mean for your school property taxes? It is $6.78026/$1,000 of property value. If you have a $100K home, your school property taxes are $678.03. Just multiply your assessed value by .00678026 to get your school district tax amount. Now just imagine if we had the highest school mill rate in the CESA 10 region of 12.77857!

So why was there an increase this year? State aid is based on property value/student. Our property values went up some, and our number of students is declining, so our property value/student went up, which means our state aid went down. On top of this, the state did not put any new funding into the “state equalization aid pot” for the biennium, nor did they increase the revenue cap on even those of us that are at the low revenue limit ceiling. There are area school districts that have a revenue limit $2,000+ more per student than we do and other school districts that have passed referenda to get even more money/student.

Your board of education has been able to keep Cornell School District property taxes as one of the lowest, if not the lowest, in the area for several years now. So while that property tax bill can be hard to swallow, it’s easier to swallow in Cornell than many districts.

Happy Thanksgiving and thanks for your support of the Cornell School District!