

During the Cornell School District Annual Meeting and the following Board of Education Meeting, a tax levy of \$1,736,023 was passed for the operations of the school district for the 2023-24 school year. This is an 8.84% increase in the total levy with the mill rate dropping from 6.388780 to 6.144405. This means that the school tax on a \$100,000 property is \$614.44 this year. However, the state increased the “School Levy Credit” this year so the increase of a \$140,977 levy from last year will be offset by \$81,188, meaning the “actual” school levy increase is less than half and only \$59,789 or 4.24% when inflation has been over 8%.

The bigger story is that the school district “under levied” by \$300,000 which saved \$106 for every \$100,000 of property value for the taxpayers of the district. This would have been a 27.65% increase granted by the state, but with little state aid to offset the levying authority. The thoughtful saving of some of the one-time COVID relief funds by the board allowed for this under levy when they had the authority to levy so much more.

Please thank your school board members for providing a high quality education to the students of the district while also considering the financial impact on you, the taxpayers. Their job as your elected officials is not an easy one.