At the October 28th Cornell School District Board of Education Meeting, a tax levy of $1,584,781 is being requested for the operations of the school district for the 2024-25 school year. This is an 8.71 % decrease in the total levy with the mill rate dropping from 6.14440 to 5.03516. This means that the school tax on a $100,000 property will be $503.52 this year. Also decreasing your taxes is the increase in the state “School Levy Credit” again this year. While this is considered part of the state’s school funding, the schools never see any of this money and it is used to reduce property taxes throughout the state on the tax statement you will receive in December. With this credit, the highest value properties receive the largest credits, so it is disequalizing compared to equalization aid districts directly receive from the state which considers the amount of property value per student.

In order to provide you with some context on mill rates, for the 1995-96 school year the mill rate was 18.026377, which means a $100,000 home was taxed $1,802.64 and the school levy was $1,077,200. We have not seen a rate above 10 since 2013-14, but this is the first time that I can find that we have been under 6. I doubt this low of a rate will be seen in the future unless the state provides a lot more school equalization aid.

The mill rate would have been 4.95059 if we weren’t levying $26,616 for private school voucher students. The revenue limit/student in Cornell this year is $11,000. However, private school vouchers are $12,731 for high school students and $10,237 for K-8th grade students; yet the public school state mandated requirements are much more costly to implement than what the private schools need to meet.