



ILLINI CENTRAL C.U.S.D #189

208 N. West Avenue, Mason City, IL 62664

Dr. Jennifer Durbin, Superintendent
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Mrs. Cassy Carey, Grade School Principal
Mrs. Kyra Fancher, Middle School Principal
Mrs. Annie Baugher, High School Principal
Ms. Lori Avart, Special Education Coordinator

Superintendent Report October 2024

Tax Levy Preparation—I have started preparing for the levy. I have estimates back from the counties, and our EAV of all three counties is \$198,534,153. This is up \$32,424,671 from last year. This is attributed to the fact that the second wind farm is now being taxed.

I will be convening a meeting of the finance committee to discuss financial possibilities and prepare for a tentative tax levy presentation at the November board meeting. With the drastic increase in our EAV, we will have to have a Truth in Taxation hearing because we will be receiving more than 105% of last year's levy amount. We are not increasing taxes, but just receiving more money through taxes because there is more money to be taxed.

New legislation requires that the Truth in Taxation hearing notice be placed on our website 30 days prior to adoption, so it will be posted November 19th, the same day as our November board meeting. I wanted to make you aware in case you get questions. The "little black box" will still be posted in the newspaper 7-14 days prior to the December meeting.

School Maintenance Project Grant (SMPG): ISBE has opened another round of the SMPG. This is a grant that provides \$50,000 in state funding with district matching funds for a school maintenance project. We need to consider what facility upgrades we could take on using these funds. Currently, our long-term list includes HVAC upgrades to the high school as well as flooring changes. We will want to consider whether the summer of 2024 is the right time to take on a major project with the construction project underway.

AFLAC: I met with a representative from AFLAC on beginning a program through Illini Central for our staff. Aflac provides supplemental insurance to help pay out-of-pocket expenses that major medical insurance doesn't cover. It's a minimal cost to the employee and it pays the employee directly for medical expenses related to the plan.



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There is no cost to the district. Chris Skeeters, the representative, will speak with our staff on the next in-service day, and then he will follow up with everyone individually to discuss benefits.

Illinois School Report Card: Our preliminary report from the Illinois School Report card showed that we are “commendable” in the Grade School, Middle School, and High School. A commendable school has no subgroups performing at or below the level of the “all students” group in the lowest 5 percent of Title I schools, a graduation rate greater than 67 percent, and whose performance is not in the top 10 percent of schools statewide.