

DATE: September 15, 2026

TO: Mark Jenson, Superintendent and Board of Education

FROM: Jason Kuehn, Director of Finance and Operations

SUBJECT: **Certification of Proposed 2026 Payable 2027 Property Tax Levy**

The school board is required to certify to the county auditor of Otter Tail and Becker County the school district's preliminary 2026 Payable 2027 Property Tax Levy by September 30, 2026. The district will certify the maximum levy, as certifying the preliminary levy in this manner allows for adjustments prior to the final levy certification in December. Attached are pages 30 and 31 of the Levy Limitation and Certification document from the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) which show detailed levy amounts broken down by category.

Preliminary figures indicate that the school district portion of the property tax levy increased by **\$158,352.60 (1.56%)** from a year ago to **\$10,293,529.22**. Last year's levy amount was **\$10,135,176.62**. The figures presented are preliminary and may change in the coming months.

During the regularly scheduled board meeting on Monday, December 21st at 6:00 PM, the school board will discuss the payable 2027 levy and the current year budget (Fiscal Year 2027). At this meeting there will be an opportunity for the public to speak. The final levy certification will be approved at the same meeting.

Administration and Finance Committee recommends to approve the maximum for 2026 Payable 2027 Proposed Property Tax Levy.

I. COMPUTATION OF 2026 PAYABLE 2027 LEVY LIMITATION BY FUND (BEFORE COUNTY AUDITOR ADJUSTMENTS):

FUND	INITIAL LEVY LIMITATION	LIMITATION ADJUSTMENTS	ABATEMENT ADJUSTMENTS	OFFSET ADJUSTMENTS	TAC/MAX EFF ADJUSTMENT	MAXIMUM LEVY LIMITATION
GEN-RMV VOTER-EXEMP			N/A			
GEN-RMV OTHER-EXEMP	2,542,406.32	2,966.24-	N/A			2,539,440.08
GEN-NTC VOTER-EXEMP		N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
GEN-NTC OTHER-GENED	2,254,673.84	26,474.15-	4,356.65	N/A		2,232,556.34
GEN-NTC OTHER-EXEMP						
TOTAL GENERAL	4,797,080.16	29,440.39-	4,356.65			4,771,996.42
COM SERV-EXEMP	258,181.39	1,029.66	193.23			259,404.28
DEBT-VOTER-NONEXEMP	4,124,434.00		5,531.52			4,129,965.52
DEBT-OTHER-NONEXEMP	1,132,163.00					1,132,163.00
TOTAL DEBT SERV	5,256,597.00		5,531.52			5,262,128.52
OPEB-VOTER-NONEXEMP						
OPEB-OTHER-NONEXEMP						
TOTAL OPEB/PENSION						
TOTAL	10,311,858.55	28,410.73-	10,081.40			10,293,529.22

II. COMPARISON OF 2025 PAYABLE 2026 LEVY LIMITATION WITH 2026 PAYABLE 2027 LEVY LIMITATION (BEFORE COUNTY AUDITOR ADJUSTMENTS):

FUND	2025 PAY 2026 LIMITATION	2026 PAY 2027 LIMITATION	INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL	4,941,613.91	4,771,996.42	169,617.49-	3.43-
COMMUNITY SERVICE	239,929.19	259,404.28	19,475.09	8.12
GENERAL DEBT SERVICE	4,953,633.52	5,262,128.52	308,495.00	6.23
OPEB DEBT SERVICE				
TOTAL	10,135,176.62	10,293,529.22	158,352.60	1.56

III. COMPARISON OF 2025 PAYABLE 2026 CERTIFIED LEVY PLUS COUNTY AUDITOR ADJUSTMENTS WITH 2026 PAYABLE 2027 CERTIFIED LEVY PLUS COUNTY AUDITOR ADJUSTMENTS:

FUND	2025 PAY 2026 CERTIFIED LEVY + ADJUSTMENTS	2026 PAY 2027 CERTIFIED LEVY + ADJUSTMENTS	INCREASE (DECREASE)	PERCENT CHANGE
GENERAL	4,941,613.91			
COMMUNITY SERVICE	239,929.19			
GENERAL DEBT SERVICE	4,953,633.52			
OPEB DEBT SERVICE				
TOTAL AFTER ADJUSTMENTS	10,135,176.62			

LINE #	LIMITATION COMPONENTS	2025 PAY 2026 LIMITATION	2025 PAY 2026 CERTIFIED LEVY	2026 PAY 2027 LIMITATION	2026 PAY 2027 PROPOSED LEVY	2026 PAY 2027 CERTIFIED LEVY NOTES
SUBTOTALS BY LEVY CATEGORY						
(5000)	GENERAL-RMV VOTER					
(5001)	GENERAL-RMV OTHER	2,581,804.10	2,581,804.10	2,539,440.08		
(5002)	GENERAL-NTC VOTER					
(5003)	GENERAL-NTC OTHER	2,359,809.81	2,359,809.81	2,232,556.34		
(5008)	COMMUNITY SERV-NTC OTHER	239,929.19	239,929.19	259,404.28		
(5012)	GENL DEBT-NTC VOTER	4,127,730.91	4,127,730.91	4,129,965.52		*1
(5013)	GENL DEBT-NTC OTHER	825,902.61	825,902.61	1,132,163.00		*1
(5019)	OPEB DEBT-NTC VOTER					
(5020)	OPEB DEBT-NTC OTHER					
SUBTOTALS BY FUND						
(5004)	GENERAL FUND	4,941,613.91	4,941,613.91	4,771,996.42		
(5008)	COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND	239,929.19	239,929.19	259,404.28		
(5014)	GENERAL DEBT SERVICE FUND	4,953,633.52	4,953,633.52	5,262,128.52		
(5021)	OPEB/PENSION DEBT SERVICE FUND					
SUBTOTALS BY TAX BASE						
	REFERENDUM MARKET VALUE	2,581,804.10	2,581,804.10	2,539,440.08		
	NET TAX CAPACITY	7,553,372.52	7,553,372.52	7,754,089.14		
SUBTOTALS BY TRUTH IN TAXATION CATEGORY						
	VOTER APPROVED	4,127,730.91	4,127,730.91	4,129,965.52		
	OTHER	6,007,445.71	6,007,445.71	6,163,563.70		
TOTAL LEVY						
	TOTAL LEVY	10,135,176.62	10,135,176.62	10,293,529.22		
ALLOWABLE INCREASE						
	ALLOWABLE INCREASE AMOUNT					
	MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE CERTIFIED LEVY					

FOOTNOTES:
 *1 SCHOOL BUILDING BOND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT WILL BE CALCULATED USING THE GENERAL DEBT SERVICE LEVY CATEGORIES
 NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS: MUST CERTIFY PROPOSED AND FINAL LEVIES VIA THE WEB-BASED LEVY CERTIFICATION SYSTEM AVAILABLE ON THE MDE WEBSITE, [HTTP://EDUCATION.STATE.MN.US](http://education.state.mn.us).