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Approval of 2026 Tentative Levy

Purpose
To present the tentative 2026 tax levy for Board of Education approval and review the timeline for final adoption. The tax levy is one of the district's single largest sources of local revenue and its timely and accurate completion is a primary fiduciary responsibility of the Board.

Background and Information
The property tax levy is the formal process by which the school district requests the funds it is entitled to from property taxes within the district boundaries. This process is separate from the budget and is governed by the Illinois Property Tax Code.

- The tax levy represents the total amount of money a school district certifies it needs to collect through property taxes.
- The equalized assessed valuation defines the total taxable value of all property within the district boundaries.
- The property tax extension limitation law restricts the increase in tax revenue a district can receive to the lesser of 5 percent or the consumer price index from the prior year.

2026 Proposed Tax Levy Allocation Strategy
Using the updated Equalized Assessed Valuation base of $271,700,295 from the LaSalle County Assessor office, the administration has prepared a proposed 2026 tax levy allocation designed to capture a 4.99 percent aggregate increase over the previous year extension, totaling $5,936,183 while avoiding truth in taxation publication and hearing requirements.

- Modest increases have been distributed across core operating funds including education, operations and maintenance, and transportation, alongside a targeted increase in tort immunity to cover rising risk management and safety related liabilities.
- The aggregate increase remains tightly capped at 4.99 percent, fully compliant under Illinois school finance guidelines without requiring formal truth in taxation public hearings. Key Parameters:
- The taxable equalized assessed valuation base is $271,700,295.
- The 2025 total extension equals $5,653,922.
- The target 4.99 percent increase amounts to $282,261.
- The proposed aggregate total reaches $5,936,183.

Fund-by-Fund Breakdown and Proposed Rates:

Levy Fund	2025 Extension	Proposed Levy Request	Proposed Rate
Education	$3,161,274	$3,519,853	1.32
O&M	$598,726	$666,639	0.25
Transportation	$287,389	$319,987	0.12
Tort Immunity	$690,000	$478,409	0.1794
IMRF	$202,200	$198,000	0.0743
Social Security	$307,200	$300,000	0.1125
Working Cash	$119,745	$133,328	0.05

Levy Fund	2025 Extension	Proposed Levy Request	Proposed Rate
Life Safety	$119,745	$133,328	0.05
Special Ed.	$47,898	$53,331	0.02
Lease	$119,745	$133,328	0.05
TOTAL AGGREGATE	$5,653,922	$5,936,203	2.22616

Process and Timeline

The tax levy process occurs annually in the fall following the adoption of the district budget and the timelines are strictly dictated by state law.

- During October the board begins discussion on the levy by presenting preliminary information that includes estimated equalized assessed valuation and consumer price index data.
- In November the administration presents the proposed tentative tax levy for board approval.
- The recommended increase stays under 105 percent of the previous year extension, a truth in taxation public hearing is not required.
- At the December board meeting the board of education will formally adopt the final tax levy before the statutory deadline on the last Tuesday in December.

Statutory Requirements

After Final Approval Once the board approves the final levy the district is required by statute to perform the following actions:

1. File the official and signed certificate of tax levy with the LaSalle County Clerk office.
2. The county clerk calculates the district final tax rate based on the approved levy and final equalized assessed valuation.
3. The county extends taxes to property owners based on this calculated rate for collection and distribution during the next calendar year.

Administrative Recommendation

The administration recommends the Board of Education approve the tentative 2026 tax levy as presented.