To: Board of Education

From: Dr. Melydi Huyett, Superintendent

Subject: Action Item – Proposed 2026 Tax Year Levy – November 18, 2026

PROPOSED MOTION BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

That the Board adopts the proposed 2026 tax year levy, as presented.

Moved by _____; Seconded by_____

YEA	NAY	YEA	NAY
____ David Fritts	____	____ Kathleen Schaefer	____
____ Melissa Gates	____	____ Jon Wadsworth	____
____ Linda LeBlanc-Parks	____	____ Linda Wegner	____
____ Brandon Rogers	____		

Background:
In accordance with Board Policy 2:20, Powers and Duties of the Board of Education, and Board Policy 4:10, Fiscal and Business Management, the Board is responsible for approving and overseeing the District's annual tax levy process. The attached information outlines the proposed 2025 Tax Year Levy.

The levy must be filed with the Lee and Ogle County Clerks no later than the last Tuesday in December. Once filed, the levy will be extended during the spring and summer of 2027 and will generate property tax revenues to support the District's 2027-2028 fiscal and school year operations.

Because final 2026 Equalized Assessed Valuation (EAV) figures will not be available until the spring of 2027, the proposed levy is based on estimated property values. Illinois law does not allow a taxing body to amend its levy once filed; therefore, levy calculations are based on reasonable projections of assessed value growth. While taxing districts may ultimately receive less than the amount levied, they cannot receive more.

Property assessments are established by the County Assessors and not by the District. Recent property value growth has remained strong, with approximate increases of 7% in Tax Year 2022, 10% in Tax Year 2023, and 9% in Tax Year 2024, and only 3% in Tax Year 2025. Current estimates suggest Ogle County EAV will increase approximately 5.8% for Tax Year 2026 and for Lee County EAV will increase by approximately 9.6%. The District's overall estimated EAV increase is approximately 9.25%.

Based on current projections, the proposed levy is expected to result in an increase of greater than 5% over the prior year's extension. As a result, the District is required to conduct a Truth in Taxation Hearing.

State law requires the Board to determine the estimated amount of taxes necessary to be levied at least twenty (20) days prior to adopting the levy. The attached resolution satisfies this requirement and allows the Board to formally establish the estimated levy amount.

Administration recommends that the Board adopt the attached resolution establishing the estimated 2026 tax levy and direct the matter to return for final consideration, adoption, and certification at the December Board meeting.