



MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Education and Administration
From: Rob Grossi
Date: May 28, 2021
Re: Tax Rate Objections – Board Action Requested

Every year, objections are filed against virtually all taxing bodies related to the tax levy. These objections are filed in the form of a lawsuit against the relevant County Treasurer. In most cases, the individual taxing bodies utilizes their attorney to intercede in the case in order to help mitigate the financial impact resulting from these objections. While the objections against these tax levies are often frivolous, their potential expose is significant and almost always the objectors settle for pennies on the dollar. This is the game that I have witnessed for over thirty years.

The Cook County Circuit Court is currently completing all tax rate objections throughout the County for the 2008-2010 tax years and have tentatively come to a settlement for all cases, including D97. Under the settlement agreement with D97, the objectors would receive an amount equal to “eight mills” for each of the three tax years. Each mill represents \$1 in property taxes per \$1,000 of assessed value. For D97, the tentative settlement would result in the district having to pay the objectors a total of approximately \$48,700, which would be taken out of a future tax distribution by the County.

To put that number in perspective, the maximum exposure to the district was several hundred thousand dollars if the case was taken to trial. Both the attorneys and I recommend that the district accept this offer. While often this acceptance is performed administratively by other school districts, I recommend that the Board approve the tentative agreement at the June 8th Board meeting.

I also want to call to the attention of the Board that district’s attorney has already appeared before the judge for the initial status hearing on the next wave of tax objections for the 2011-2014 tax years and should have additional information from the court within the next 30-60 days in order to determine the district’s future course of action. The next status hearing on the matter is July 1.

If you have any questions or desire any additional information or clarity before the meeting, please contact Dr. Wernet and I will respond accordingly.