



Oak Park Elementary School District 97

970 Madison ▪ Oak Park ▪ Illinois ▪ 60302 ▪ ph: 708.524.3000 ▪ fax: 708.524.3019 ▪ www.op97.org

TO: Dr. Albert G. Roberts, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Therese M. O'Neill, Asst. Supt. for Finance & Operations

SUBJECT: Estimated 2013 Levy

DATE: October 22, 2013

Annually, the Board of Education must first review an estimate of levy (October 22, 2012) and then, at a subsequent meeting, adopt this estimate (November 5, 2013). If a proposed levy is in excess of 5%, a Truth-In Taxation notice must be published and a Public Hearing must be conducted. A final recommended levy is presented, along with a brief power point presentation (November 19, 2013) with a public hearing and adoption in December (December 17, 2013).

For 2013, the proposed levy increase is in concert with the CPI (Consumer Price Index) or 1.7%, and thus does not require such publication or public hearing. However, the Board of Education has historically chosen to continue the publication as well as conduct a public hearing, even when the proposed levy was less than 5%. It is recommended that this practice continue for the 2013 levy.

This estimated levy does not bind the Board of Education in any way in formally approving a different amount, if necessary, at a subsequent meeting. It merely is adhering to a precondition in adopting its formal levy. The Board of Education will have a formal presentation made at its November 19, 2013 meeting and then final adoption and public hearing is scheduled for its December 17, 2013 meeting. The Legal Notice is anticipated appearing in the December 5 issue of the Oak Leaves. Once the levy is adopted, it will be filed with the Cook County Clerk.

In reviewing the recently presented 5-year projections and recognizing the loss of revenue in the Education Fund due to the GSA (General State Aid) proration of 89%, and analyzing all other operating fund balances through June 30, 2018, I am proposing reducing the 2013 levy in the transportation fund a bit and holding constant the 2012 amounts in both the IMRF and Social Security levies. While we have not altered our aggregate operating fund balance in June 30, 2018 (maintaining a 21.02% fund balance as a percentage of expenditures), we have increased our overall Education Fund by approximately \$1,200,000 for 2013, have reduced the overall Transportation Fund June 30, 2018 balance by about \$1,000,000 (from \$2,148,329 to \$1,157,331), and reduced, for 2013 only, IMRF/SS tax revenues by \$200,000. The impact of this reduction in IMRF/Social Security only reduces the levy in 2013 and then improves going forward, increasing its overall June 30, 2018 fund balance to \$1,363,997 from what was presented to the Board on September 24, 2013 of \$863,818.

Attachment (1)