



Benton Community School Corporation
"United, Student-Centered School Corporation"

405 S Grant Avenue • PO Box 512 • Fowler, IN 47944 • ph 765.884.0850 • fax 765.884.1614 • www.benton.k12.in.us

Benton Community School Corporation would like to thank voters for their approval of the operating levy question on the June 2 ballot.

Benton schools have long enjoyed strong community support. Our schools are a common thread uniting our community. The quality of education our students enjoy is due in large part to strong community backing. Voters' support of this ballot question will help strengthen both school and community for years to come.

We especially appreciate voters' willingness to approve this referendum in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, with all of the uncertainties it has created for all of us.

We want to thank everyone who voted - yes or no - for taking the time to learn more about the issues behind the referendum request and for going to the polls as informed voters.

As taxpayers, we especially appreciate that voters supported this referendum knowing that this will bump up property tax bills. For the average home, this increase will amount to a little less than \$8 per month - a great investment in our students and their futures.

This personal investment in our schools means a great deal. The school corporation listened and heard residents ask what commitment we will make to control costs and operate even more efficiently.

While I am confident now that I can retire with the corporation on sound financial footing, the board and district administrators are committed to judicious stewardship of this additional revenue while continuing to provide the quality education that you have come to expect.

In addition, the schools will be utilizing a long-term planning committee to focus on cost savings and efficiencies in operating our schools, as well as strategies for reversing the trend of declining enrollment.

Money generated by the operating and bond levies will benefit our schools by enabling us to:

- Maintain class sizes at a level that allows for individual student attention
- Maintain programming that offers students a variety of options and the opportunity to move on to post-secondary education on at least an equal footing with - and often ahead of - graduates from other districts.

We recognize, of course, that not everyone voted yes. We think, however, that there is common ground in supporting the needs of our children.

In summary, thank you again for supporting our students and families and our hard-working staff. Thank you, too, for believing that successful schools reflect on a thriving community.

Gregg Hoover
Superintendent
Benton Community Schools