

Benton Community Schools NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OPERATING LEVY APPROVED FOR BENTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION REFERENDUM

Levy increase will help the district maintain its current programming

Voters in the Benton Community School District approved an increase in the operating levy held June 2. The official vote count according to the Benton County Clerk's office was 1,585 yes votes and 1,269 no votes.

"Our community backed us up, and we are thankful," said Gregg Hoover, Superintendent. "I want to thank voters for spending time to learn more about the referendum and casting informed votes. Students in our district will benefit from this investment for years to come."

Funds provided to the district from the operating levy will continue to be devoted to district priorities including retaining teachers and support staff; maintaining class sizes; continuing academic, agricultural, and vocational & fine arts programs; and enhancing student safety and security. The money will go straight towards benefiting students and will work along with budget management efforts by the district to address financial issues.

The district is committed to continuing efforts of reducing expenses and improving efficiency to address budget issues in addition to the newly approved operating levy. A long-range planning committee will be formed to develop a plan to address declining enrollment.

"Approval of the operating levy is vital," said Hoover. "Our commitment is to stay on a path of continuous improvement. We will communicate at every juncture with our communities to let them know we are spending taxpayer dollars wisely."

BCSC will now be tied for the 6th position among the 12 neighboring districts in total school taxes, and 14 cents lower per \$100 of property value than the state average.

“We recognize that not everyone voted Yes,” Hoover said. “We believe there is common ground in supporting the needs of our children among all of our residents and we are grateful for all of our community members who participated in this process and cast their vote. We will build on that common ground to deliver on our mission of ensuring all students develop academically, creatively, physically, and socially into the finest version of themselves.”

Updates to the community will continue to be provided in the school corporation’s email newsletter, on social media and on the district’s website at <https://www.benton.k12.in.us>

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