

ELIZABETH KENT

**PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR
ELIZABETH.KENT@MALAD.US**

**ONEIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT #351
195 S. 300 E.
MALAD, ID 83252**

February 17, 2020

Re: Supplemental Levy

Dear Parents, Faculty, and Community Members,

We want to thank the Idaho Enterprise for running an article about the Supplemental Levy in their February 6, 2020 edition. We appreciate the willingness of the Idaho Enterprise when it comes to printing information about the Oneida School District. Also, thank you to Jean Thomas for writing up the article that was published in the newspaper.

We want to make sure that everyone has the facts and understands why the Oneida School District is seeking a two-year Supplemental Levy. Supplemental Levies are not a new concept for Idaho's Schools. Over 90% of Idaho schools have Supplemental Levies in place. These levies are voted on every two years and require a simple majority to pass. Levies have become the new normal for Idaho schools due to the Idaho legislature cutting funding to education. As a response to those funding cuts, school districts in Idaho responded by implementing supplemental levies.

Many people ask where the money from Supplemental Levies goes. The funds are used in the expenses of maintenance and operating schools of the district. This means that the money is used to help support the basic operations and services within the school district. The levy helps keep our class sizes small, and assists with the hiring of classified staff to give targeted assistance to struggling learners. It also helps fund textbooks and computer purchases and funds many of the activities that the school district provides and supports. This Supplemental Levy is not a bond and has no bearing on a new elementary school. The levy will help continue to support the schools and students in Oneida County.

It is also important to point out that in 2010 the original levy was for \$350,000 and that the amount was lowered in 2016 and 2018. The amount requested for 2020 is \$290,000, which means your taxes

will not increase since the amount requested now is the same as 2018. This means that the amount is about \$6.80 per month per \$100,000 in property value.

The per-student cost for our Elementary, Middle, and High Schools comes to \$341. This is a thrifty amount when compared to the state cost, which is \$800 per student. The School Board strives to be careful in asking for financial support from our community and appreciate the past support of these levies. The School Board asks for your support once again, so we can continue to provide the quality service of our current programs within the district.

As a reminder, the Supplemental Levy will be on the March 10, 2020, ballot. There is a community meeting on March 3, 2020, at 6:00 pm in the Elementary Auditorium.

And lastly, the February 18, 2020, School Board meeting will be at the Middle School in the Media Center at 6:30 pm.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Kent
Public Relations Coordinator
Oneida School District #351