

IOWA VALLEY TIGER TRACKS

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PPEL Levy Vote Coming with School Elections

The school district has placed the Physical Plant and Equipment Levy (PPEL) on the November 5th ballot for voter consideration. This levy has been in place for the past ten years.

The PPEL generates the equivalent of 67 cents per \$1000 of taxable evaluation. The Iowa Valley District has chosen to fund this levy through a combination of property tax and income surtax. If voters approve the continuation of the PPEL, **tax rates won't increase**; rather the 67 cents per \$1000 that patrons are currently paying as a portion of their property tax will continue. The contribution from districts residents will result in approximately \$1,800,000 in district improvements over the course of ten years.

The PPEL is used by most school districts on an ongoing basis to fund necessary repairs on facilities and purchase equipment and technology. Allowable uses set by Iowa law include:

- Purchase or improvement of property
- Construction of schools, buildings and roads
- Purchase or lease purchase of equipment and technology exceeding \$500 per invoice (includes computers, musical instruments, copiers, projectors, etc.)
- Payment of debt for schools or buildings
- Procuring or acquiring library facilities
- Repair, remodeling and reconstructing of existing facilities
- Expenditures for energy conservation
- Rental of facilities under 28E
- Purchase of transportation equipment for transporting students (buses) and repair of transportation equipment exceeding \$2,500 per repair
- Purchase or lease purchase of buildings
- Equipment for recreational purposes
- Safety and Security equipment/technology

This has been a vital funding source for the purchase of computers, buses, vans, mowers, and numerous other items. PPEL has also provided funding for repairs and improvements to the district's buildings and grounds. The district has used these funds to replace roofs, install sidewalks, purchase playground equipment, and finish building projects in recent years.

Recurring maintenance supplies, boiler repairs, plumbing repairs and carpeting are all examples of how this fund has been put to good use.

Many of these items are recurring expenditures for the district. For that reason, PPEL funding has been vitally important to the total education program.

The Physical Plant and Equipment Levy will be presented to the voter at the City/School election on November 5th. Polling times are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at election poll locations and are open to any eligible voter who resides in the Iowa Valley School District.

EDUCATION A COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP

NOVEMBER 2019

Special Points of Interest:

- *4 Nov. Jr/Sr High Concert @ Colfax-Mingo*
- *5 Nov. NHS Banquet-HS Media Center*
- *7 Nov. Variety Show-HS Auditorium*
- *13 Nov. 1 pm Early Dismissal*
- *19 Nov. HS Honor Choir @ HLV*
- *27-29 Nov. No School*

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Go Tigers!

Vote - Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) Tuesday, November 5th, 2019



What is PERL?

Revenues from the Public Education and Recreation Levy (PERL) are used to establish and maintain public recreation places and playgrounds in the public school buildings and grounds of the district. The PERL are also used to provide public educational and recreational activities within the district boundaries and for community education as defined in Iowa Code. The levy provides \$0.135 per \$1,000 to support public education and recreation opportunities in the Iowa Valley School District. If approved, the tax would take effect for the 2020-21 school year. The goal of this levy is to elevate an already strong sense of community in Marengo through expanding opportunities for community recreation and engagement for all ages.

PERL Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the tax impact on me if this levy is passed?

A: The tax impact per \$1,000 valuation is \$0.135; meaning for a home valued at \$100,000, homeowners would pay \$69.23 per year after the residential tax rollback OR \$5.77 a month for residential properties. Once approved, this amount is set for the life of the levy. The levy cannot exceed \$0.135.

Q: What are my school taxes and how do they compare to surrounding districts?

A: Marengo residents have the lowest taxes of all the surrounding districts. In the 2019-2020 school year, our tax rate per \$1,000 was \$13.70. Each district bordering Iowa Valley has a higher rate.

Q: Why am I being asked to vote on this?

A: The school board continuously looks for ways to support students and the community, one way to accomplish this is to expand recreational opportunities in the district while also being fiscally responsible. The purpose of the PERL levy is to provide public funds to achieve this mission for our students and community.

Q: How much money will PERL generate per year?

A: If approved, PERL will generate approximately \$23,600 per year (based on yearly valuation) to support:

- new playground equipment
- before and after school programming
- summer school programming

adult education programs

repair, maintain and purchase of new equipment in our community fitness center

Q: How will PERL help create recreational opportunities?

A: PERL will provide a funding stream for many years to come to maintain and purchase new playground equipment, before/after school programming, summer school programming, adult education programs and repair, maintain and purchase new equipment in our community fitness center.

Q: If passed, when will the funds be available?

A: If passed, the funds would not be levied until the 2020-21 school year

Q: Who decides how the money is allocated?

A: The PERL money itself is allocated by the Iowa Valley Board of Education.

Q: Where do I vote?

A: The Public Education and Recreation Levy will be presented to the voter at the City/School election on November 5th. Polling times are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at election poll locations and are open to any eligible voter who resides in the Iowa Valley School District. The vote will need a simple majority (of the people who vote) to pass.

Q: If I have questions who do I ask?

A: You may contact Iowa Valley Superintendent, Mark Olmstead by emailing him at molmstead@ivcsd.org if you have questions or need more information.

PERL BALLOT LANGUAGE

Shall the following public measure be adopted?

YES []

NO []

Shall the Board of Education at Iowa Valley Community School District in the County of Iowa, State of Iowa, be authorized to levy a tax upon all the taxable property within the School District not to exceed thirteen and one-half cents (\$0.135) per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of the taxable property within the School District for public educational and recreational activities and community education purposes?

THANKFUL

As Thanksgiving approaches, the kindergarten students in Mr. Andreassen's class are discussing the many things in their lives that make them thankful. Here are their responses:

Kathryn is thankful for the blanket she sleeps with.

Mackinsey is thankful for Blankie.

Jude is thankful for Bear.

Lakynn is thankful for her

little sister.

Karter is thankful for his mom.

Nicholas is thankful for his soft blanket.

Gatlin is thankful for his Mickey blanket.

Zelda is thankful for her boy Barbie.

Andrew is thankful for his army bear.

Emery is thankful for her

teddy bear.

Riley is thankful that Santa Claus brings him presents.

Nash is thankful for his parents.

Ava is thankful for her teddy bear.

Zoey is thankful for her mom.

Chase is thankful for his mom.

Layton is thankful for his

mom and dad.

Shaelyn is thankful for her mom and dad.

2ND GRADE NEWS

On October 8th, the second graders had the opportunity to see the play Madagascar at The Old Creamery Theatre! The students were entertained by the costumes, music, and, of course, the story! Our favorite part was to Move It, Move It as we joined in

singing with the many animal characters!

Thank you to PTO for providing the second graders with a theater experience they will remember!

Pat Kooiker and Susan Zozaya

Teachers Take a Professional Learning Field Trip

During the month of October, students had a no-school day while teachers had their own “field trip” for professional learning. The entire district faculty spent the day in Cedar Rapids at the Double-Tree Convention Center where they listened and learned from two national speakers: Dr. John Hattie and Peter DeWitt.



Dr. John Hattie is a Professor of Education and Director of the Melbourne Education Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, Australia. He has been recognized in his Visible Learning research for over twenty-five years. This research has examined what works best for student learning and achievement. Hattie shared his latest research on Visible Learning and effective Feedback practices.



Peter DeWitt, Ed.D., is a former K-5 teacher, principal, and current school leadership coach. His work is based on collaborative leadership and fostering inclusive school climates that have been adopted at state and university levels. He has also worked with numerous school districts and school boards around North America and the UK.

The district planned this professional learning day last year, trying to make sure all teachers would have the opportunity to learn from two exceptional speakers in their fields. As the district follows the Iowa Professional Development Model, we try to incorporate high quality teacher learning within our professional development days. Our teacher leadership team has participated in some of this learning in previous years and we thought it would be a great learning experience if all teachers could take away some exceptional learning practices.

This one-day event was designed to provide our teachers with the tools to identify key takeaways from research and the five strands of Visible Learning:

1. Visible Learners - How can we build assessment capable learners?
2. Know Thy Impact - Teachers should be evaluators of their own teaching.
3. Inspired & Passionate Teachers - How teachers think matters!
4. Effective Feedback - How can we give feedback that has the biggest impact on student learning?
5. Visible Learning Schools - What are the major factors that influence student achievement?

After spending the day together, we will get together and have some collaborative conversations with our learning, knowing that all teachers will have heard the same common conceptions. In the Visible Learning Institute, teachers gain clarity about the effect they can have on student learning. In the same aspect, every student gains knowledge about what they need to be learning, making it visible to all.

Submitted by Patty Miles (Instructional & Curriculum Coach)