



# Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

## May 2022

Dear Community Members:

The District has completed the proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year. We invite you to attend the annual school budget presentation to be held at AACS on May 3, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. For anyone who needs to register, voter registration will take place at AACS on May 3, 2022 from 1:00-8:00 p.m. The annual budget vote and BOE election will be held at AACS on May 17, 2022, from 1:00-8:00 p.m.

The AACSD BOE approved a 2022-23 school year budget in the amount of \$15,237,699. The following points highlight some of the factors which will help District residents understand the proposed budget.

- Compared to the 2021-22 budget, the proposed budget is \$300,200 more, approximately a 2 percent year-over-year increase. The 2 percent increase is primarily driven by the District’s normal “cost of doing business” and reflects items such as union contracts, health insurance premiums, NYS retirement contributions and necessary materials and supplies. For the first time in quite a few years, inflation is also contributing to cost increases, especially for fuel and energy needs.
- The budget increase is primarily being funded by two sources. First, an increase in NYS Foundation Aid to districts that were not funded at 100 percent of their foundation aid eligibility. Second, we are using some of our unappropriated fund balance.
- The proposed budget does not contain an increase in the tax levy.
- The proposed 2022-23 budget does not eliminate or reduce any academic programs, student support or extracurricular programs.

Each year, any proposed changes in a school district’s tax levy seems to cause some confusion and misunderstandings among many of a school district’s residents. Some elaboration regarding the tax levy may be helpful at this time.

The NYS education law that purports to limit the increase in a school district’s tax levy to a maximum of 2 percent is in fact more complicated than that. In any given year, the tax cap of each district is determined through a rather complex NYS formula that is nuanced by NYS annually. Each school district may have a tax levy limit below or above 2 percent.

It is important to understand that not proposing any 2022-23 district-wide tax levy

*Continued on pg. 2*

### Budget Hearing

Tuesday,  
May 3  
7 p.m.

High School  
Auditorium



### Voter

### Registration

Tuesday,  
May 3  
1-8 p.m.

A-A School



### Vote

Tuesday,  
May 17  
1-8 p.m.

High School  
Auditorium

*Continued from pg. 1*

increase does not mean that every resident in a district will see exactly the same tax bill as last year. Some residents may be above, and others could be below. A proposed tax levy is divided among the municipalities within a school district. The AACSD has six municipalities. The actual tax levy may differ for each municipality to meet their share of the district-wide levy. The outcome for each municipality depends on the status of their assessments (above, at or below value) and the NYS equalization rate for that municipality. Again, this is all driven by NYS mandated formulas, computed and applied by the county tax office. An individual school district does not have a role in the process other than proposing a district-wide tax levy for their budget.

When District residents vote on May 17, 2022, they will notice two propositions on the ballot for which some additional information and explanation would likely be helpful. The first is a proposition asking residents to approve a capital project not to exceed 5.2 million dollars. In addition to security improvements, this project would address the following three physical facility needs and issues: replace and upgrade the elementary and high school second floor HVAC systems; replace the existing athletic field lighting with LED lights (eliminating the current problematic generator powered light system); and replace the bus garage fuel island and fuel storage tanks which have reached the end of their useful life cycle. More detailed information regarding the proposed project is contained in this newsletter.

This project is not expected to contribute to an increase in the District's future tax levies. The funding for the capital project would come from the following three sources: NY State building aid; a \$945,000 payment from the District's current capital reserve account; and using funds which become available from debt service for previous projects as those bonds are satisfied.

The second proposition asks District residents to authorize the establishment of a \$6,000,000.00 capital reserve account for a 10-year period. The establishment of this reserve would allow the district to contribute a maximum of \$6,000,000.00 over the course of 10 years; the intent of these monies would be to help fund future capital project expenditures. The annual amount, if any, deposited in the account would depend on any unexpended budget funds at the close of each fiscal year and other possible needs for those funds. Under NY State laws governing capital reserve accounts, once a reserve account is authorized and the total amount is voted on by taxpayers the dollar threshold cannot be exceeded, regardless if funds have been utilized from the account. For this reason, it is necessary for the District to establish a new capital reserve account because the current capital reserve is close to meeting its voter approved threshold. Establishing this reserve does not mean that the district would simply have an account that held \$6,000,000.00, rather it would allow us to plan for long-term capital expenditures while responsibly managing any potential unexpended budget funds over the course of the next 10 years.

We believe this budget considers the need to be fiscally responsible to our district residents while balancing our commitment to provide a safe and engaging learning environment that offers diverse opportunities for our students.

We appreciate and thank you for your past support of the District and its mission. We look forward to continuing to work with you in the future to maintain the educational quality and opportunities available at AACSD.

Sincerely,  
Alfred-Almond Central School  
Board of Education

# Candidates for the Alfred-Almond Board of Education

One school board position is up for vote, with a term of five years. Information on the candidates who are running is provided below.

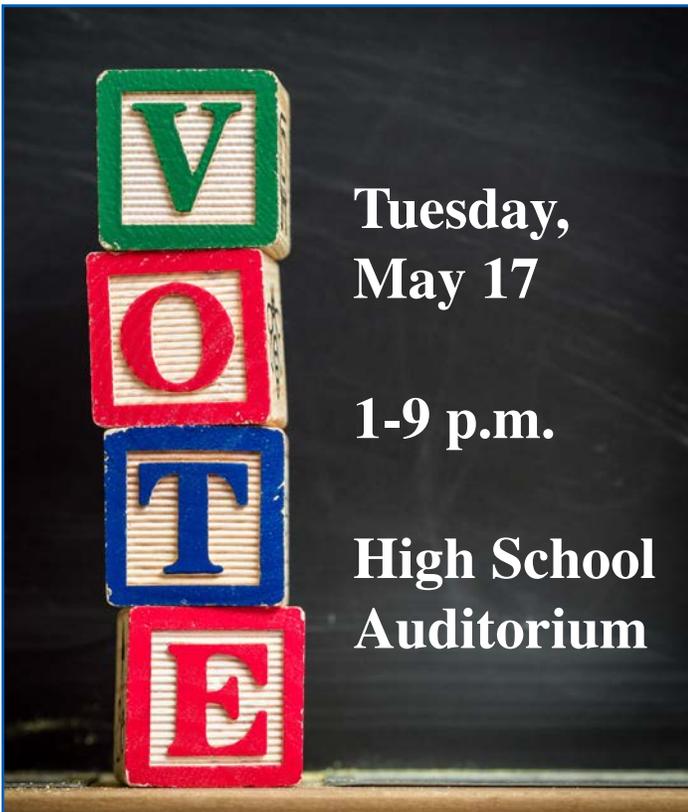
## John D'Angelo

I relocated to this area 14 years ago to work at Alfred University, and I have lived in the Alfred-Almond school district since 2013. My stepdaughter, currently an eighth grader, has been a student at the school since Pre-K. I appreciate the education she is receiving and hope to be able to contribute to the district that is providing it. During my time at Alfred, I've served on the Faculty Senate where I gained experience collaboratively working with the University administration and Board of Trustees on behalf of the faculty. I've also been an active community member of St. Ann's Church in Hornell where I served as an assistant youth group leader for several years and I am currently a member of the Parish Council. Through my work with committees in the community, as well as my experience on Faculty Senate, I have learned the importance of listening to all stakeholders when considering decisions. I am very excited for this opportunity to actively engage in our school's community and governance.

## Sandra Quick

My name is Sandra Quick and I am running for AA School Board. We built our house in Almond in 1997 for the exemplary education at Alfred-Almond. I was a hairdresser at the time, without any children, but valued education so much and loved what AA had to offer. I decided to continue my education, receiving my Associates degree in Math and Science from Alfred State, my Bachelor's degree in Biology and Education from Alfred University, and my Master's degree in Childhood Literacy from Alfred University. I later received another Master's degree in Biology through Clemson University. Prior to getting my current full-time teaching position, I was a substitute for multiple local schools and continued to fall in love with the amazing educational opportunities available at AA. My husband and I were extremely pleased at the decision to move to Almond.

As a high school biology teacher at Wellsville for 17 years now, I have seen many changes to education and witnessed schools rise and fall. Unfortunately, AA has been one of those on the decline. Since moving to Almond, we have had 2 daughters. One is a 2019 of Alfred-Almond and the other daughter is currently attending AA. Throughout this time, I have been able to observe this change in education as a parent and a tax payer. The change in the education and environment at AA is what inspired my decision to run for the School Board position. I want to revive the education at AA and make people proud of living in the district again. I will be able to bring first hand knowledge what it is really like on the frontline of education in the public schools of our area, a view point currently lacking with the Board. I know what it takes for these children to be prepared and succeed in the world today. As a taxpayer, I know the struggles that high taxes can have on people and ways to help reduce spending without reducing the quality of education for our youth. I am not afraid to voice my opinion and advocate for those who are not able to do so themselves. I hope you will vote for me on election day as your newest member of the AA School District Board of Education.



# Capital Improvements Project 2022

Our District has a strong history of providing quality programs and facilities for our children as well as maintaining the historic integrity of our campus. On May 17, 2022, the Alfred-Almond Central School District residents will be voting on a “no additional tax impact” Capital Improvement Project. It will be fully funded by leveraging New York State Building Aid, managing debt service payments and using the District’s existing capital reserve funds.

This \$5.2 million project is another step toward enhancing our buildings and programs for current and future students by focusing on safety and security improvements and the replacement of aging infrastructure items.

In an effort to protect our past investments, the District and the Board of Education worked hard to develop a plan. The work began with the Building Condition Survey as required by the New York State Education Department to ensure school districts are planning for and maintaining District facilities. Plans include replacement of items that have the potential to fail and/or are substandard as they are at the end of their warranties or expected useful life. Upgrading these items now will not only provide better experiences for students and staff, but it will also allow for our facilities to run at maximum efficiency. Other improvements focus on enriching the experience of our students to promote the highest level of education.

The project work includes security improvements at the assembly and office areas in each building, HVAC upgrades to improve air quality, LED lighting installation at the athletic fields and the replacement of the bus garage fuel storage tanks.

The safety and security of students and staff are always a top priority. Additional security improvements at the points of entry in each school will ensure those entering the building are vetted and properly signed in. These improvements will also help staff members keep an eye on students who are leaving the building.

HVAC upgrades will be made on the second floor of both the Elementary Wing and the Jr./Sr. High Wings. These upgrades will include climate controls so rooms can be kept at a comfortable temperature all year round. Air quality and temperature-controlled classrooms are essential for the education process. Studies prove that students working in an area that is

too hot or too cold affects their success negatively, and by making these improvements we can provide our children with the best possible learning environment and promote success.

Currently, the lighting at the athletic facilities is unreliable and insufficient to support our after-school programs and athletics. LED lighting is not only more reliable, but it also is more energy efficient, has a longer lifespan and is more cost effective than traditional bulbs. This will allow our students to participate in their outdoor activities whenever they occur, without fear of a loss of light.

The bus garage fuel storage tanks are more than 30 years old and at the end of their useful lives with a potential to fail. The tanks will also soon become uninsured due to providers turning down service due to their age. If they are not replaced and fail during the next school year, the District will need to use money from their general budget to remedy the situation.

At Alfred-Almond Central School District, we strive to improve our facilities to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff. During these renovations, we greatly value the heritage and history of our buildings and aim to uphold their visual integrity. We believe you will find that the proposed project will only improve our school district and positively impact our community as a whole.

This project has been designed to best take advantage of the District’s high state aid ratio combined with the availability of funds from prior projects that will be paid off once this new project starts. This project will result in no additional tax impact for Alfred-Almond CSD residents and is fully funded by leveraging New York State Building Aid, managing debt service payments, and using the District’s existing capital reserve funds.

The vote will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 1:00 and 8:00 p.m. at the School Auditorium at 6795 NY-21, Almond, NY 14804. Applications for absentee ballots to vote on the proposition may be applied for at the office of the School District Clerk. All District residents are encouraged to exercise their right to vote.

# Capital Project FAQs

## Q. How was the project developed?

**A.** In 2015, the Alfred-Almond Central School District completed the state-required Building Condition Survey (BCS). This survey is conducted every five years and is needed to identify capital improvements that fall into urgent, timely and long-range categories that are both recommended and necessary. Building off of this assessment and our previous Capital Project, the District has been exploring and considering this project as part of its long-range strategic plan and Board of Education goals relating to fiscal stability and financial planning. This capital improvement project falls into three main focal points:

- 1) To invest in and maintain our facilities.
- 2) To maximize and leverage the highest possible levels of state, federal and other building aid sources.
- 3) To address enrollment, instructional and learning issues impacting our students today, tomorrow and well beyond into the next 25 years.

The Board of Education had given the Capital Project Committee the charge of presenting a project that would have zero tax impact on the community. After many months of discussion and collaboration with architects, construction management, fiscal advisers and the New York State Education Department, the goal of developing a project with zero impact to taxes was met.

## Q. What will this project do for our children and community?

**A.** The proposed project is mainly a “nuts and bolts” project that was developed to address health and safety issues as well as building infrastructure needs. This project, which, among other things, replaces items giving way to years of normal wear and tear such as the fuel storage tank replacements at the bus garage. Other improvements such as upgrading our HVAC systems to include climate control and improve air quality, replacing the athletic field lighting to LED and installing new safety measures throughout the buildings will ensure our students and staff not only have a safe and healthy environment to work in, but also one that promotes the highest level of learning and engagement.

## Q. Why is it important to do this project now?

**A.** The proposed project is a needs-based plan that was developed to address health and safety issues as well as building infrastructure needs. Plans include replacement of items that have the potential to fail and/or are substandard as they are at the end of their warranties or expected useful life. Upgrading these items now will not only provide better experiences for students and staff, but it will also allow for our facilities to run at maximum efficiency. Improvements also include items that will greatly enhance the experience for students and provide them with the best learn-

ing environment possible. If these items are not addressed through this Capital Project, the District will not be able to leverage state funding and will need to use the general budget to accomplish some of the immediate health, safety and system life cycle needs, which may impact taxes.

## Q. We’ve just completed years of building projects. Why do we need this one?

**A.** While some of our facilities were recently renovated or had additions built, this project focuses on rectifying many underlying issues in our buildings and areas not yet renovated. There are spaces across the District that have not been touched and need to be upgraded to ensure the health and safety of students and staff. The District has the opportunity to continue its investment the community has already made into our facilities at no additional tax impact.

## Q. With the recent legislation regarding the switch to electric buses by 2035, why is the District replacing the Bus Garage fuel storage tanks?

**A.** While New York State has confirmed the Governor’s proposal for 100% of school bus fleets to be zero emission by 2035, there is still a current need for the replacement of our fuel storage tanks to support our existing buses. These tanks are more than 30 years old and at the end of their useful life with a potential to fail. The tanks will also soon become uninsured due to providers turning down service due to their age. Replacing these tanks now will make sure that our existing transportation systems are maintained as we then transition to a zero emission fleet.

## Q. How is this project being paid for? What is the tax impact?

**A.** The total cost of the capital project is \$5.2M. This project has been designed to best take advantage of the District’s high state aid ratio combined with the availability of funds from prior projects that will be paid off once this new project starts. This project will result in no additional tax impact for Alfred-Almond CSD residents and is fully funded by leveraging New York State Building Aid, managing debt service payments, and using the District’s existing capital reserve funds.

## Q. If this bond vote does not pass, how will we pay for the needed repairs?

**A.** We will need to diminish the scope of the project and go back to the public with another proposal if we are not successful with the May 17 vote. As stated, the majority of items included in this proposal have been taken from past Building Condition Surveys and are in need of immediate repair or replacement.

*Please visit our website at [www.aacsapps.com](http://www.aacsapps.com) or visit our Facebook page for continued updates.*

# Propositions to be voted on

## Annual Budget

Shall the annual budget for the 2022-2023 school year, as proposed by the Board of Education of Alfred-Almond Central School, be approved in the amount of \$15,237,699?

## Proposition 1 – Purchase of two (2) 66-passenger School Buses

Shall the Board of Education of the Alfred-Almond Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance the replacement student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$266,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable property of said School District and collected in annual installments as provided by Section 416 of the Education Law; and, in anticipation of such tax, obligations of said School District, in the principal amount not to exceed \$266,000, shall be issued?

## Proposition 2 - Capital Improvement Project

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to undertake a capital improvement project (the “Project”) consisting of certain renovations, alterations and improvements to all District facilities, including the Bus Garage, K-12 Building, athletic fields and campus, including door assembly/door hardware replacement, security improvements and technology improvements, replacement of fuel tanks at the Bus Garage and lighting improvements at the athletic fields, all to include site, access, parking and play-field improvements, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing, HVAC and electrical improvements, the acquisition of original furnishings, fixtures and equipment and payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$5,200,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for the project by spending \$945,000 from the Capital Reserve approved by the District’s voters on May of 2017 and by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted for the project in the amount of \$4,255,000, subject to available State Aid, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in

such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$4,255,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due?

## Proposition 3 - Capital Reserve

Shall the Board of Education be authorized to establish a new ten-year capital reserve pursuant to Section 3651 of the Education Law in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 to be used for renovations and additions to all District facilities, including the purchase of equipment, technology upgrades, classroom equipment and/or school infrastructure equipment, security and safety improvement, site development, athletic fields, plumbing, storm and sanitary sewers, boilers, driveways, and parking lots, such reserve fund to be funded from (i) year-end budget surplus funds known as unassigned fund balance, as available, for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter for the term of the reserve fund, (ii) transfers of excess monies from Board of Education designated reserves, (iii) amounts from budgetary appropriations from time to time, and (iv) New York State Aid received and made available by the Board of Education from time to time, all as permitted by law?

## Proposition 4 – Almond Library and Alfred Box of Books Library

Shall the Board of Education of the Alfred-Almond Central School District, at the request of the Alfred Box of Books Library and the Almond Library, be authorized to levy the following appropriation for the support of the libraries: \$222,793 annually, with annual distribution being \$133,600 to the Alfred Box of Books Library and \$89,193 to the Almond Library?

## Member of the Board of Education – Five-Year Term

To elect a member of the Board of Education for a five-year term to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of term of John D’Angelo.

Candidates: John D’Angelo  
Sandra Quick

FUNCTION OR ACCOUNT	SBM CODE	2022-2023 TOTAL BUDGET	ADMIN.		PROGRAM		CAPITAL	
			22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22	22-23	21-22
Board of Education	1099	\$ 63,894	\$ 63,894	\$ 55,245				
Central Admin	1299	\$ 179,400	\$ 179,400	\$ 203,289				
Finance	1399	\$ 311,482	\$ 311,482	\$ 282,620				
Legal Services	1420	\$ 40,155	\$ 40,155	\$ 35,000				
Personnel	1430	\$ 550	\$ 550					
Records Mgmt.	1460	\$ -						
Public Information	1480	\$ -						
Op. Of Plant	1620	\$ 514,687					\$ 514,687	\$ 724,652
Maint. Of Plant	1621	\$ 400,362					\$ 400,362	\$ 614,515
Sec of Plant	1622	\$ 59,675					\$ 59,675	
Other Cent. Serv.	1699	\$ 422,656	\$ 422,656	\$ 487,828				
Judgments & Cl.	1930.4	\$ -						
Refund of Taxes	1964.4	\$ 1,000					\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Other Spec. Items	1998	\$ 331,837	\$ 331,837	\$ 307,858				
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	2010	\$ 148,694	\$ 148,694	\$ 30,136		\$ 378,517		
Sup. Reg. Schl.	2020	\$ 279,228	\$ 279,228					
Sup. Spec. Schl.	2040	\$ -						
Res. Eval. & Plan.	2060	\$ -						
Instruction (Net of supervision)	2999	\$ 7,055,011				\$ 7,055,011	\$ 6,091,776	
Purchase of Buses	5510.21	\$ -						\$ 25,000
Other Dist. Trans.	5510	\$ 710,480				\$ 710,480	\$ 681,664	
Garage Bldg.	5530	\$ 32,750				\$ 32,750		
Contract Trans.	5540	\$ -						
Community Service	8998	\$ 1,150				\$ 1,150	\$ 1,350	
Employee Benefits	9098	\$ 3,046,362	\$ 3,046,362	\$ 173,881		\$ 2,466,827	\$ 2,774,221	\$ 256,787
Debt Service	9898	\$ 1,538,326						\$ 1,538,326
Trans. to Capital	9950.9	\$ 100,000						\$ 100,000
Trans. to Debt	9901.96	\$ -						
Other Transfers	9951	\$ -						
		\$ 15,237,699	\$ 2,100,644	\$ 1,575,856	\$ 10,266,218	\$ 9,927,528	\$ 2,870,837	\$ 3,434,115

Alfred-Almond Central School  
6795 Rte. 21  
Almond, New York 14804  
*Return Services Requested*

U.S. Postage Paid  
Alfred, New York 14802  
Permit No. 20  
Non-Profit Organization

## POSTAL PATRON

### Taxes paid on a hypothetical \$100,000 home in our district

<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>2014-15</b>
\$1,545.00	\$1,614.96	\$1,678.05	\$1,696.23
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
\$1,663.75	\$1,674.40	\$1,649.20	\$1,662.50
<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Projected 2022-23</b>
\$1,589.77	\$1,620.37	\$1,651.48	\$1,651.48

NOTE: The average assessment in the Alfred-Almond School District was 80,273.00 in 2021-22.



## Voter qualifications

A person is entitled to vote in the annual school district election if he or she is:

- A citizen of the United States.
- Eighteen (18) years of age on or before the election.
- A resident of the district for 30 days prior to the vote.
- Registered as a qualified voter.

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2022-23 by the qualified voters of the Alfred-Almond School District, Allegany County, New York, will be held at Alfred-Almond Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 17, 2022, between the hours of 1:00 and 8:00 p.m., at which time the polls will be opened to vote by ballot.

## Compensation Disclosure

Terms and Information for Required Compensation Disclosure Pursuant to Sections 1608(4) and 1716(4) of the Education Law as Amended by Chapter 474 of the Laws of 1996.

<b>Total Salary – Superintendent</b>	<b>\$137,500.00</b>
<b>Annualized Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$27,500.00</b>
Teachers' Retirement, Workers' Compensation, Social Security, Medicare, Health, Unemployment & Association Dues	

## Absentee ballots available

Absentee ballots are available for voting purposes. Qualified voters must fill out an Application for Absentee Ballot. Voters who meet the following criteria are eligible for an absentee ballot:

- Voter is a patient in a hospital or unable to appear personally at the polling place on voting day because of illness or physical disability;
- Duties, occupation, business or studies will require the voter to be outside the county of residence on voting day;
- Voter will be on vacation outside the county of residence on voting day;
- Voter will be absent from voting because he/she is detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial or is confined in prison after conviction of an offense other than a felony.

The district clerk must receive applications for an absentee ballot at least seven days before the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter or one day prior to the vote, if the ballot will be picked up in person. Applications are available from the District Office.