



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

May 2025

Budget Hearing

Tuesday,
May 6
7 p.m.

High School
Auditorium



Voter Registration

Tuesday,
May 6
2-8 p.m.

A-A School



Vote

Tuesday,
May 20
1-8 p.m.

High School
Auditorium

Dear Community Members,

We are pleased to share that the proposed budget for the 2025–2026 school year has been completed and was approved by the Board of Education at our meeting on Tuesday, April 8. Despite ongoing inflation and rising costs, we are proud to report a reduction in our annual operating budget.

While the overall budget figure may appear slightly higher, this is due to a planned transfer of funds from our reserve account to reduce the amount we will have to borrow for capital projects. This does not represent an increase in spending but rather a strategic reallocation of existing resources.

Thanks to greater operational efficiency and proactive planning to address rising costs, the district continues to thrive. We are maintaining our 126 dedicated employees, expanding student-centered programs and continuing the upkeep of our beautiful school building. On the ballot in May, you will see a purchase of a small piece of land that neighbors the district's property. This land will support a new partnership with the Cumming Nature Center Forest School, launching as a pilot program within our early elementary grades. Through this collaboration, the district aims to offer a more holistic curriculum, allowing for curiosity-driven learning and hands-on projects, along with basic outdoor skills.

The district and the Board had the option to raise the tax levy to in the two percent range. Regionally, districts are implementing small raises in the one to two percent range, and some even in the six to seven percent range. Alfred-Almond is proud to report we are implementing a zero percent increase in our tax levy for the 2025-2026 year.

Alfred-Almond is continuing to demonstrate levels of academic achievement that are unmatched for the region. Our students easily tell the story, and the data reinforces it; our high school ranks first of all 21 component districts in GST BOCES, first in Allegany and Steuben Counties and first in the Southern Tier. These accomplishments are a direct result of the collective commitment of our educators, students, families and community. This level of excellence would not be possible, and cannot be sustained, without your ongoing support.

We invite you to learn more and ask questions at our budget presentation on May 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the AACSD auditorium. Budget voting will take place on May 20 from 1:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., also in the auditorium. If you are not yet registered, voter registration will be available on May 6 from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at AACSD.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our schools.

Sincerely,
Alfred-Almond Board of Education
Maeghen Kuhn, President
John D'Angelo
Gary Acker
Jason Burdick
Heather Miller

Propositions to be voted on

Annual Budget

Shall the annual budget for the 2025-2026 school year, as proposed by the Board of Education of Alfred-Almond Central School, be approved in the amount of \$17,810,031?

Proposition 1 – Purchase of One (1) 66-Passenger School Bus

Shall the Board of Education of the Alfred-Almond Central School District be authorized to purchase and finance one (1) 66-passenger school bus, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$180,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and said amount, or so much thereof as may be necessary, 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 \$180,000, be issued?

Proposition 2 - Capital Project

Shall the Board of Education of the Alfred-Almond Central School District be authorized to undertake a capital improvement project consisting of the reconstruction and renovation of, and the construction of improvements, additions and upgrades to various District buildings and facilities and the sites thereof, including the K-12 Building and Bus Garage, as well as the purchase of original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required in connection with the purposes for which such buildings, facilities and sites are used, all to include site, access, lighting, parking, athletic field, stadium and playfield improvements, demolition, utility, mechanical, plumbing and electrical improvements as well as payment of professional fees and all other necessary costs incidental to such work (collectively, the “Project”) and expend therefore a total sum not to exceed \$24,000,000, which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and to pay for the Project by spending \$4,200,000 on deposit in the District’s existing Capital Reserve Fund approved by the voters in May of 2022, and by the levy of a tax which is hereby voted in the amount of \$19,800,000, subject to available State aid or to any other revenues available for such purpose, 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 \$19,800,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due?

Proposition 3 – Land Purchase

Shall the Board of Education of the Alfred-Almond Central School District, be authorized to expend an amount not to exceed Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) from existing undesignated fund balance to purchase the undeveloped real property located on Twin Valley Ter, Almond, New York, which is identified as SBL# 139.-1-55.4 on the Tax Map of the Town of Almond?

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: \$267,630 annually, with annual distribution being \$147,630 to the Alfred Box of Books Library and \$120,000 to the Almond Library?

Candidates for the Alfred-Almond Board of Education

Elect a member of the Board of Education for a five-year term to fill a vacancy caused by the expiration of term of Gary Acker.

Candidates:
Nathan Ahrens
Andrew Diestler

Capital Outlay

This year’s Capital Outlay Project will consist of domestic water filtration system upgrades, unit ventilator power actuator replacements, temperature control upgrades and associated HVAC improvements as funds allow.

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.

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Total Salary | \$154,440 |
| Annualized Fringe Benefits | \$29,045 |
| Teachers’ Retirement, | |
| Workers’ Compensation, | |
| Social Security, Medicare, | |
| Health, Unemployment and Association Dues | |

Proposed 2025-26 tri-part budget by function

| FUNCTION OR ACCOUNT | SBM CODE | 2025-26 TOTAL BUDGET | ADMIN. | | PROGRAM | | CAPITAL | |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------------------|------------------|-----------|-------------------|------------|------------------|-----------|
| | | | 25-26 | 24-25 | 25-26 | 24-25 | 25-26 | 24-25 |
| Board of Education | 1099 | 69,931 | 69,931 | 79,929 | | | | |
| Central Admin | 1299 | 196,622 | 196,622 | 190,898 | | | | |
| Finance | 1399 | 313,885 | 313,885 | 337,314 | | | | |
| Legal Services | 1420 | 47,942 | 47,942 | 47,900 | | | | |
| Op. & Maint. Of Plant | 1620 | 946,579 | | | | | 946,579 | 1,017,223 |
| Sec of Plant | 1622 | 66,820 | | | | | 66,820 | 65,334 |
| Other Cent. Serv. | 1699 | 587,063 | 587,063 | 564,110 | | | | |
| Judgments & Cl. | 1930.4 | | | | | | | |
| Refund of Taxes | 1964.4 | | | | | | | |
| Other Spec. Items | 1998 | 355,819 | 355,819 | 349,655 | | | | |
| Curr. Dev. & Sup. | 21 | 182,453 | 182,453 | 173,175 | | | | |
| Sup. Reg. Schl. | 2020 | 312,619 | 312,619 | 330,972 | | | | |
| Sup. Spec. Schl. | 2040 | | | | | | | |
| Res. Eval. & Plan. | 2060 | | | | | | | |
| Instruction (Net of supervision) | 2999 | 7,931,173 | | | 7,931,173 | 7,694,130 | | |
| Purchase of Buses | 5510.21 | | | | | | | |
| Other Dist. Trans. | 5510 | 812,583 | | | 812,583 | 820,552 | | |
| Garage Bldg. | 5530 | 27,500 | | | 27,500 | 36,223 | | |
| Contract Trans. | 5540 | | | | | | | |
| Community Service | 8998 | 1,150 | | | 1,150 | 1,150 | | |
| Employee Benefits | 9098 | 3,555,442 | 328,254 | 357,530 | 2,983,942 | 2,761,248 | 243,246 | 280,655 |
| Debt Service | 9898 | 2,302,450 | | | | | 2,302,450 | 2,117,115 |
| Trans. to Capital | 9950.9 | 100,000 | | | | | 100,000 | 100,000 |
| Trans. to Debt | 9901.96 | | | | | | | |
| Other Transfers | 9951 | | | | | | | |
| | | 17,810,031 | 2,394,588 | 2,402,031 | 11,756,348 | 11,329,689 | 3,659,095 | 3,544,464 |

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

| 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | 2022-23 | 2023-24 | 2024-25 | 2025-26 Projected |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------------|
| \$1,678.05 | \$1,693.23 | \$1,663.75 | \$1,674.40 | \$1,649.20 | \$1,662.50 | \$1,589.77 | \$1,620.37 | \$1,651.48 | \$1,651.48 | \$1,663.77 | \$1,688.41 | \$1,688.41 |

NOTE: The average assessment in the Alfred-Almond School District is \$102,331 in 2024-25.

Candidates for the Alfred-Almond Board of Education

One school board position is up for vote, with a term of five years. Below are biographies of the candidates.

Nathan Ahrens

I'm excited to announce my candidacy for the Alfred-Almond Central School Board in 2025. I am a proud resident of Almond, NY and a third-generation member of this community. I have two children attending the school and a wife who teaches there. After attending the Board of Education meetings at AACCS for the past two years, I've gained valuable insight into the education system. I am committed to prioritizing education, strengthening community ties and being a dedicated voice for students, parents and community members. Thank you for your support!

Andrew Deistler

As a proud resident of Alfred Station for more than twenty years, I am deeply invested in the continued success of the Alfred-Almond Central School District. My family

has been an active part of this community for almost 20 years, with three children who have and are attending our schools.

This personal connection has given me a strong understanding of the needs, challenges and aspirations of our students, families and educators. I believe every child deserves access to a supportive, well-rounded and high-quality learning experience. I am committed to fostering a transparent and collaborative environment where students thrive, teachers feel valued and the community stays engaged.

I would be honored to serve on the Alfred-Almond School Board and bring a thoughtful, balanced and community-focused perspective to the table. I respectfully ask for your support and your vote.

Alfred-Almond Central School
6795 Route 21
Almond, New York 14804

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Non-Profit Organization

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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 2025-26 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 20, 2025 between 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., prevailing time in the Alfred-Almond school, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot.

Ballot information

Voters will have the opportunity to vote on the budget, to elect one candidate for a five-year position on the Board of Education, the purchase of one (1) 66-passenger school bus, Capital Project, Land Purchase and on a library proposition on Tuesday, May 20, 2025 between 1:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the High School Auditorium.

Absentee and/or early mail ballots available

Absentee and early mail ballots are available for voting purposes. Qualified voters must fill out an Application for Absentee and/or Early Mail Ballot. Applications for absentee and early mail ballots will be obtainable and are returnable no earlier than April 22, 2025 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except holidays, from the District Clerk.

Completed applications for absentee and early mail ballots must be received by the District Clerk at least seven (7) days prior to the vote if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, May 13, 2025; or the day before the election, if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter, May 19, 2025. Absentee and early ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 20, 2025.

