



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

May 2020

Dear Community Members:

The district is in the process of preparing for the annual election and budget vote for the funding of the 2020–21 school year budget. In view of that, we invite you to attend the annual school budget presentation on June 1 at 6:00 p.m. This presentation will take place virtually. Additionally, in accordance with the Governor’s executive order, all voting must take place through absentee ballot. Information is being mailed via post card to all residents with instructions on how to vote. Completed ballots must be at the district by 5:00 p.m. on June 9, 2020.

On May 13, 2020, the AACSD Board of Education (BOE) approved a 2020-21 school budget in the amount of \$14,355,618 to present to district residents. Developing this budget was a very difficult and challenging task in light of the current economic conditions and challenges placed on school districts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The budget can be best described as conservative and likely will be fluid as we move through the 2020-21 school year. It is based on the information provided to school districts by Governor Cuomo and the New York State Department of Education to date. However, it must be acknowledged that there are still numerous items related to school funding and opening schools for 2020-21 that are yet to be finalized and/or defined during the coming months and could impact our financial plans.

The following highlights some of the key factors related to the proposed budget:

- The proposed budget assumes no increase in New York State Foundation Aid for the 2020-21 fiscal year. This was approximately a \$300,000 decrease in anticipated revenues.
- Compared to the 2019-20 budget, the proposed 2020-21 budget is approximately \$199,000 more, a 1.4 percent increase.
- Depending on the final county property assessments, the proposed budget will have a tax increase of less than 2 percent. At this time, we are estimating 1.8 to 1.9 percent.
- The proposed budget does not eliminate or reduce any academic programs, student support services or student extracurricular programs.
- At this time, the BOE is not planning to eliminate any employee positions. However, the district’s administrative team has restructured several positions and functions to achieve fiscal efficiencies and meet organizational needs.
- During the past several years, the BOE has planned and set aside funds for the specific purpose of having some resources available to maintain the quality and excellence of our district’s educational services in difficult fiscal times. Some of this funding was used to balance the proposed 2020-21 budget. This is the same successful strategy we used prior to and during the recession that began in 2008.
- We do not anticipate that our upcoming capital projects focusing on energy efficiencies, school security, classroom renovations and building maintenance to be impacted. Funding for these endeavors seem secure and come from different state and federal sources, as well as the district’s capital reserve funds.
- Lastly, Governor Cuomo has stated several times that it may be necessary to “take back” some promised educational funding at some point in the 2020-21 fiscal year. The possible amount(s) and state aid sources have not been defined. The proposed 2020-21 budget and funds set aside would allow some limited flexibility to address any reductions. However, at this time, without knowing any specific details everything related to this would simply be speculation and we will have to address it if and when it happens.

Budget Hearing

Monday,
June 1
6 p.m.

The meeting
will be
held
via Zoom.
Go to the
district website
to access the
hearing.



Vote

Voting will
take place by
absentee ballot
only.
Ballots are due
back to the
district no later
than 5 p.m. on
Tuesday,
June 9.

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Monday, June 1
6:00 p.m.*

*The meeting will be held
via Zoom. Go to
www.aacsapps.com
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*Voting will take place
BY ABSENTEE BALLOT
ONLY.*

*Ballots are due back to
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Propositions to be voted on

Annual Budget

Shall the annual budget for the 2020-2021 school year, as proposed by the Board of Education of Alfred-Almond Central School, be approved in the amount of \$14,355,618?

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

Shall the proposition authorizing the Board of Education to purchase two (2) 66-passenger school buses at a maximum estimated cost of \$239,000 be approved?

Proposition 2 – 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 by \$185,302 annually, with annual distribution being \$100,939 to the Alfred Box of Books Library and \$84,363 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 Gary Acker.

Candidate: Gary Acker

Candidate for the Alfred-Almond Board of Education

One school board position is up for vote, with a term of five years. Gary Acker is seeking re-election to the Board of Education.

Gary Acker

I'm a 37 year resident of the Town of Almond, and for the past 20 years, I have been a teacher of Digital Media Arts to high school students at the Wildwood BOCES Career and Technical Education Center in Hornell. Prior to being a teacher, I was a local business owner for 25 years.

Serving as your representative on the board has been both challenging and rewarding. It's challenging because, at times, we are restrained by mandates of the state and federal governments. It's most rewarding however when we are able to celebrate how our students grow and excel in many areas. That's what our school is all about.

I am seeking to continue building on the experience and training that I have gained during the past years on the board. While our district has a track record of excellence, we certainly should not rest on that. We are making progress, but we have much more to accomplish in making success universal for all students.

At this time of diminished state funding for our district, we are continually challenged to keep the local financial commitment as low and stable as possible. We have done this by establishing a good financial base, and by working hard to keep our district operating at peak efficiency. This is evidenced by our published costs per student compared with most other districts in our area.

During this time of transition in leadership, I believe that my experience on the board will contribute to the stability needed to keep our district on the path to both educational and financial success.

Letter from the Board, continued

We believe this budget considers the need to be fiscally responsible to our communities while balancing our ability to maintain our commitment to providing a safe and engaging learning environment that offers diverse opportunities for all students.

We are extremely grateful to you for your past support of our mission to continue providing our students with some of the strongest educational opportunities in our area and look forward to our continued work together to support the Alfred and Almond communities.

Sincerely,

Alfred-Almond Central School
Board of Education

Account	Code	2020-2021 Budget	2020-21 Administrative	2019-20 Administrative	2020-21 Program	2019-20 Program	2020-21 Capital	2019-20 Capital
Board of Education	1000	\$ 54,255	\$ 54,255	\$ 62,726				
Central Administration	1200	\$ 190,976	\$ 190,976	\$ 167,015				
Finance	1300	\$ 319,720	\$ 319,720	\$ 276,484				
Staff	1400	\$ 50,000	\$ 30,900	\$ 30,900				
Central Services	1600	\$ 1,119,261	\$ 253,000	\$ 251,577			\$ 866,261	\$ 784,881
Special Items	1900	\$ 309,482	\$ 308,482	\$ 292,482			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Admin. & Improvement	2000	\$ 401,935	\$ 220,083	\$ 278,052	\$ 181,852	\$ 156,294		
Instructional Area	2399	\$ 5,933,684			\$ 5,952,784	\$ 5,858,730		
Instructional media	2600	\$ 149,092			\$ 149,092	\$ 114,588		
Pupil Services	2800	\$ 461,228			\$ 461,228	\$ 402,270		
Pupil Transportation	5999	\$ 595,745			\$ 570,745	\$ 548,608	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Community Service	8000	\$ 1,350			\$ 1,350	\$ 1,500		
Employee Benefits	9000	\$ 3,090,713	\$ 189,013	\$ 194,801	\$ 2,619,936	\$ 2,788,748	\$ 281,764	\$ 272,635
Debt Service	9700	\$ 1,578,177					\$ 1,578,177	\$ 1,472,979
Interfund Transfer	9900	\$ 100,000					\$ 100,000	\$ 175,000
Subtotals			\$ 1,566,429	\$ 1,554,037	\$ 9,936,987	\$ 9,870,738	\$ 2,852,202	\$ 2,731,495
Grand Total Yearly		\$ 14,355,618					\$ 14,355,618	\$ 14,156,270

Alfred-Almond Central School District
6795 Rte. 21
Almond, NY 14804

Returned Services Requested

Non-profit organization
US postage
Paid
Alfred, NY 14802
Permit #20

POSTAL PATRON

Voters will have the opportunity to vote on:

- the budget
- one candidate for a five-year position on the Board of Education
- the purchase of two (2) 66-passenger school buses
- a library proposition

The vote will take place remotely and eligible voters will vote **ONLY BY ABSENTEE BALLOT.**

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.

Absentee ballots will be provided

In accordance with Executive Order 202.26, absentee ballots will be mailed to eligible voters by the District on or about May 22, 2020. If an eligible voter does not receive an absentee ballot, please contact District Clerk Joanne Demetreu at 607-276-6501 or email jdemetreu@acsapps.com.

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 – Superintendent	\$160,000.00
Annualized Fringe Benefits	\$37,269.54
Teachers' Retirement, Workers' Compensation, Social Security, Medicare, Health, Unemployment & Association Dues	

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

2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13
\$1,516.37	\$1,533.42	\$1,545.00	\$1,614.96

2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
\$1,678.05	\$1,696.23	\$1,663.75	\$1,674.40

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	Projected 2020-21
\$1,649.20	\$1,662.50	\$1,589.77	\$1,620.37

NOTE: The average assessment in the Alfred-Almond School District was \$72,569 in 2018-19.