



Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

May 2021

**Budget
Hearing**
Tuesday,
May 4
7 p.m.
via Zoom
*Link will be
available on the
District website*



**Vote
Registration**
Tuesday,
May 4
1-5 p.m.
A-A School



Vote
Tuesday,
May 18
1-8 p.m.
High School
Auditorium

Dear Community Members:

The District has completed the proposed budget for the 2021-22 school year. In light of that, we invite you to attend the annual school budget presentation on May 4, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom link will be available on the AACSD website under the Board of Education (BOE) section. The annual budget vote and BOE election will be held at AACSD on May 18, 2021 from 1:00-8:00 p.m. Appropriate face masks and social distancing will be required.

On April 21, 2021, the AACSD BOE approved a 2021-22 school year budget in the amount of \$14,937,499. The following points highlight some of the factors which will help District residents understand the proposed budget.

- Compared to the 2020-21 budget, the proposed budget is approximately \$582,000 more, a 4 percent year-over-year increase. The 4 percent increase is a higher increase than the past several years. The higher increase is primarily the result of two factors. First, we have had fewer retirements of senior employees being replaced by lower-salaried new employees. Second, we anticipate the enrollment of two to four new high-needs special education students who will require extensive support and services.
- The budget increase is primarily being funded by three sources. First, the enacted NY State (NYS) budget provided a healthy increase in NYS Foundation Aid to districts that were not funded at 100 percent of their foundation aid eligibility. AACSD received an increase of \$290,000 because we were well below our 100 percent eligibility. Second, we are using some of our unappropriated fund balance. Third, the proposed budget contains a 1 percent increase in the tax levy.
- The proposed 2021-22 budget does not eliminate or reduce any academic programs, student support or extracurricular programs. It also does not eliminate or add any employee positions.
- Lastly, there has been a lot of press and hype over the large amounts of federal stimulus dollars recently made available to school districts. While the state budget includes some provisions related to how some funding may be spent, full details and guidance on these funds are still being developed by federal and state authorities. Consequently, the federal stimulus dollars have not been used in any way to develop the proposed 2021-22 budget by the District. The State Comptroller's Office requires these funds be recorded by school districts within their special aid fund and not the general fund. The BOE has discussed the possible federal stimulus dollars and decided that we would not use any of this funding that would create ongoing expenses that would fall back to the District and its residents after the funds have been exhausted. We simply would not be able to absorb those expenses into our annual budgets and tax levies.

However, we will take full advantage of any dollars available to support a variety of needs, including, but not limited to: safely returning students to in-person instruction, addressing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on students, and implementing evidence-based strategies to meet students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs. All of these initiatives will have a start and end date that coincides with the availability of the stimulus dollars.

Each year the projected increase in the tax levy seems to cause some confusion and misunderstandings among many District 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.

For AACSD, the total District-wide maximum allowable 2021-22 tax levy is 3.01 percent under this year's NYS-mandated school tax levy formula. The BOE proposed budget tax levy is 1 percent. We understand and appreciate the NYS tax challenges district residents face, particularly this year.

It is important to understand that a proposed district-wide tax levy increase does not mean that every

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.

Jason Burdick

I'm Jason Burdick, from the class of 1994. I have lived in Alfred since 1984, and chose to stay here and operate a construction business with my dad after I graduated high school. I have four kids with my wife, Heidi, two of which are still attending AACCS. My daughters, Anna and Ellie, are both AACCS graduates. I like the Alfred-Almond community, and plan on living in Alfred for a long time to come. I am running for school board in the hope of making the AACCS experience the best it can be.

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 a seventh 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.

Propositions to be voted on

Annual Budget

Shall the annual budget for the 2021-2022 school year, as proposed by the Board of Education of Alfred-Almond Central School, be approved in the amount of \$14,937,499?

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

RESOLVED, that the Alfred-Almond Central School District, is hereby authorized to purchase and finance student transport vehicles, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$129,000 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 \$129,000, shall be issued?

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: \$189,997 annually, with annual distribution being \$102,780 to the Alfred Box of Books Library and \$87,217 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 Vicky Westacott.

Candidates: Jason Burdick
John D'Angelo

Continued from pg. 1

resident in a district will see exactly the same percent increase. Some residents may be above, and others could be below the proposed increase. A proposed tax levy is divided among the municipalities within a school district. The AACSD has six municipalities. The actual tax levy increase 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.

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 are extremely grateful 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

Account	Code	2021-2022 Budget	2021-22 Administrative	2020-21 Administrative	2021-22 Program	2020-21 Program	2021-22 Capital	2020-21 Capital
Board of Education	1000	\$ 55,245	\$ 55,245	\$ 54,255				
Central Administration	1200	\$ 203,289	\$ 203,289	\$ 190,976				
Finance	1300	\$ 282,620	\$ 282,620	\$ 319,720				
Legal	1400	\$ 35,000	\$ 35,000	\$ 30,900				
Central Services	1600	\$ 1,826,995	\$ 487,828	\$ 253,000			\$ 1,339,167	\$ 866,261
Special Items	1900	\$ 308,858	\$ 307,858	\$ 308,482			\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Admin. & Improvement	2000	\$ 408,652	\$ 30,136	\$ 220,083	\$ 378,517	\$ 181,852		
Instructional Area	2399	\$ 5,452,972			\$ 5,452,972	\$ 5,952,784		
Instructional media	2600	\$ 142,558			\$ 142,558	\$ 149,092		
Pupil Services	2800	\$ 496,246			\$ 496,246	\$ 461,228		
Pupil Transportation	5999	\$ 706,664			\$ 681,664	\$ 570,745	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Community Service	8000	\$ 1,350			\$ 1,350	\$ 1,350		
Employee Benefits	9000	\$ 3,219,189	\$ 173,881	\$ 189,013	\$ 2,774,222	\$ 2,619,936	\$ 271,087	\$ 281,764
Debt Service	9700	\$ 1,697,861					\$ 1,697,861	\$ 1,578,177
Interfund Transfer	9900	\$ 100,000					\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000
Subtotals			\$ 1,575,856	\$ 1,566,429	\$ 9,927,528	\$ 9,936,987	\$ 3,434,115	\$ 2,852,202
Grand Total Yearly		\$ 14,937,499					\$ 14,937,499	\$ 14,355,618

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

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
\$1,533.42	\$1,545.00	\$1,614.96	\$1,678.05
2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18
\$1,696.23	\$1,663.75	\$1,674.40	\$1,649.20
2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	Projected 2021-22
\$1,662.50	\$1,589.77	\$1,620.37	\$1,651.48

NOTE: The average assessment in the Alfred-Almond School District was \$76,923 in 2020-21.



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 2021-22 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 18, 2021, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. 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.

Total Salary – Superintendent	\$170,000.00
Annualized Fringe Benefits	\$46,370.00
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.