



# Alfred-Almond Central School District Newsletter

## May 2023

**Budget  
Hearing**  
Tuesday,  
May 2  
7 p.m.  
High School  
Auditorium



**Voter  
Registration**  
Tuesday,  
May 2  
2-8 p.m.  
A-A School



**Vote**  
Tuesday,  
May 16  
1-8 p.m.  
High School  
Auditorium

Dear Community Members:

The District has completed the proposed budget for the 2023-24 school year. We invite you to attend the annual school budget presentation to be held at AACS on May 2, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. For anyone who needs to register, voter registration will take place at AACS on May 2, 2023 from 2:00-8:00 p.m. The annual budget vote and BOE election will be held at AACS on May 16, 2023, from 1:00-8:00 p.m.

The AACSD BOE approved a 2023-24 school year budget in the amount of \$16,513,631. The following points highlight some of the factors which will help District residents understand the proposed budget.

- Compared to the 2022-23 budget, the proposed budget is \$1,275,932 more, approximately an 8.4 percent year-over-year increase. The 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, necessary materials and supplies and inflation is also contributing to cost increases, especially for fuel and energy needs. As a point of comparison to the budget increase, the Consumer Price Index increased 8 percent over the past year.
- The budget increase is primarily being funded by three sources. First, a large 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. Third, we are proposing a small increase to the tax levy.
- The proposed budget contains one percent increase in the tax levy. (For 2023-24, NYS Education Law would allow a tax levy increase of 4.43 percent for AACS.)

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 the proposed 2023-24 district-wide tax levy increase does not mean that every resident in the District will see a one percent increase in their school tax bill. 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.

# Candidate for the Alfred-Almond Board of Education

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

## Dr. Maeghen Kuhn

Dr. Maeghen Kuhn is a resident of Alfred Station. Currently, she serves on the Elementary School Improvement Team (SIT).

Maeghen has significant educational leadership experience, with a doctorate in Higher Education, a minor in Adult Education, and an additional graduate certificate in Institutional Research from the Pennsylvania State University.

Maeghen currently serves on the Academic Affairs leadership team at the University of the Cumberland. The Kuhn family has two daughters, one elementary school student and one upcoming Eaglet. You may see her around town serving as the Cookie Mom for the Alfred-Almond Girl Scouts or at Lions Park watching the soccer and t-ball games with her family.

Maeghen hopes to contribute her skills of partnership building, communication, creative problem-solving, and assessment to the school district.

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- The proposed 2023-24 budget does not eliminate or reduce any academic programs, student support or extracurricular programs.
- The proposed 2023-24 budget does add one new position to our maintenance staff. The position is a HVAC mechanic to service and repair the District's heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. In addition to providing flexibility and expertise on site, this position will eliminate the need to engage contractors for this work which offsets some of the position costs.

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 many opportunities available at AACSD.

Sincerely,

Alfred-Almond Central School Board of Education

# Propositions to be voted on

## Annual Budget

Shall the annual budget for the 2023-2024 school year, as proposed by the Board of Education of Alfred-Almond Central School, be approved in the amount of \$16,513,631?

## 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 student transport vehicles, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$165,000, 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 \$165,000, 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: \$259,793 annually, with annual distribution being \$140,600 to the Alfred Box of Books Library and \$119,193 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 Nadine Shardlow.

Candidate: Dr. Maeghen Kuhn

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## Capital Outlay

This budget includes a \$200,000 transfer from the General Fund to the Capital Projects Fund to continue district-wide security and notification upgrades and improvements to our gymnasium facilities, including wall pad and finish replacement, bleacher improvements and motor replacement, and other associated building system upgrades.

FUNCTION OR ACCOUNT	SBM CODE	2023-24 TOTAL BUDGET	ADMIN		PROGRAM		CAPITAL	
			23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23	23-24	22-23
Board of Education	1099	68,247	68,247	63,894				
Central Admin	1299	187,370	187,370	179,400				
Finance	1399	371,355	371,355	311,482				
Legal Services	1420	46,183	46,183	40,155				
Personnel	1430	550	550	550				
Records Mgmt.	1460							
Public Information	1480							
Op. Of Plant	1620	967,130					967,130	514,687
Maint. Of Plant	1621							400,362
Sec of Plant	1622	61,395					61,395	59,675
Other Cent. Serv.	1699	473,523	473,523	422,656				
Judgments & Cl.	1930.4							
Refund of Taxes	1964.4							1,000
Other Spec. Items	1998	332,622	332,622	331,837				
Curr. Dev. & Sup.	2010	179,135	179,135	148,694				
Sup. Reg. Schl.	2020	284,980	284,980	279,228				
Sup. Spec. Schl.	2040							
Res. Eval. & Plan.	2060							
Instruction (Net of supervision)	2999	7,745,166			7,745,166	7,055,011		
Purchase of Buses	5510.21							
Other Dist. Trans.	5510	717,168			717,168	710,480		
Garage Bldg.	5530	33,500			33,500	32,750		
Contract Trans.	5540							
Community Service	8998	1,150			1,150	1,150		
Employee Benefits	9098	3,258,723	346,945	322,748	2,633,294	2,466,827	278,484	256,787
Debt Service	9898	1,585,434					1,585,434	1,538,326
Trans. to Capital	9950.9	200,000					200,000	100,000
Trans. to Debt	9901.96							
Other Transfers	9951							
		<b>16,513,631</b>	<b>2,290,910</b>	2,100,644	<b>11,130,278</b>	10,266,218	<b>3,092,443</b>	2,870,837

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

2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
\$1,614.96	\$1,678.05	\$1,696.23	\$1,663.75

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
\$1,674.40	\$1,649.20	\$1,662.50	\$1,589.77

2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Projected 2023-24
\$1,620.37	\$1,651.48	\$1,651.48	\$1663.77

NOTE: The average assessment in the Alfred-Almond School District is \$78,740 in 2022-23.



## 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 2023-24 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 16, 2023, between the hours of 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.

## 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</b>	<b>\$142,900.00</b>
<b>Annualized Fringe Benefits</b>	<b>\$27,550.00</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.