

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALBION, NEW YORK 14411
February 09, 2026 SUMMARY
OF A REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
6:00 pm**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mrs. Linda Weller, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Moments of Silence

Board Member, Mr. Sidari shared "We were saddened to learn that George W. 'Bill' Parry, Jr., former educator and administrator for the Albion Central School District, passed away on Tuesday, October 28, 2025.

Mr. Parry came to Albion as a student teacher in 1963. After earning his certification, he was hired in September 1964 as a 6th grade teacher in the Grammar School. He was later appointed to a 7th grade math teaching position in the Albion Middle School. He pursued further education and earned his master's degree in School Administration. He applied for and was designated as Assistant Principal in the Middle School in January 1976. He later went on to become a Middle School Principal for the Medina Central School District.

An early evaluation in his file noted Mr. Parry to have many strengths including his 'reliability, initiative and friendliness; genuine enjoyment of children and teaching, and a desire to be a good teacher.'

His obituary notes, 'He will be remembered for his warm smile, infectious laugh, and larger-than-life personality. Bill had a remarkable gift for turning strangers into friends.'

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor the dedication and commitment George W. Parry, Jr. shared with community, staff and students in our Purple Eagle Family. He will be missed!"

Board Member, Mr. Kast shared "We were saddened to learn that Maralee J. Hicks, former administrative secretary for the Albion Central School District, passed away on Wednesday, January 14, 2026.

Mrs. Hicks was appointed as administrative secretary to the Superintendent of Schools, Ronald L. Sodoma, on June 4, 1990. She remained in this position until her retirement on June 30, 2000. One of her earliest evaluations noted; 'Maralee's greatest strength is her positive attitude toward her work and toward the school

district. Mrs. Hicks has the unique ability to find the silver lining that sometimes hides behind the challenges set before her; she is a very competent typist and does an excellent job of disseminating information to the staff and Board of Education.'

Superintendent Sodoma shared in her retirement acceptance letter; 'You have been very dedicated, supportive, and a very good listener; Your record keeping and organization has added so much to our office; I have come to depend on you to handle so much of the daily routine involved in running this district; it will not be easy to find your replacement; I am not sure we can find anyone who meets the standard you have set for your position.'

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor the dedication and commitment Maralee J. Hicks shared with community, staff and students in our Purple Eagle Family. She will be missed!"

Board Member, Ms. Taylor shared "We were saddened to learn that Sandra L. Sacco, former Aide for the Albion Central School District, passed away on Sunday, February 1, 2026.

Mrs. Sacco began working in the district as a Primary School teacher aide on April 10, 1981. In March 1982 she expressed interest in being transferred to a Middle School Clerical Aide position. She was approved for that transfer where she remained until she resigned on September 1, 1987.

Her obituary notes; 'Above all, her greatest joy was her family and being a Nani! Watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren grow, was her true happiness! She could always be found in the front row as a proud, dedicated parent and grandparent.'

Please join me in a moment of silence to honor the dedication and commitment Sandra L. Sacco shared with community, staff and students in our Purple Eagle Family. She will be missed!"

RECOGNITION

Middle School Student Awards

Zaya Ellis - Leadership Award

Mya Taylor - Character Award

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BOARD APPROVED

2. PUBLIC FORUM - None

Mr. Schmitt explained to those attending the meeting, that while it appeared the Board was moving quickly through the business items, they receive their packet the Wednesday before the meeting. This provides the Board with the opportunity to review the materials in the packet and ask questions prior to the meeting when items are approved.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Minutes of January 05, 2026 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Treasurer's Report December 2025
- C. Extra Classroom Activity Fund Report December 2025
- D. Quarterly Revenue and Expenditure Reports
- E. CSE & CPSE Recommendations
- F. Building Use Request
- G. Budget Transfer Request:
 - \$10,000 - OT and Speech Services

BOARD APPROVED

4. CORRESPONDENCE - None

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Academic Focus - Middle School Eagle Time Video Production - Ms. Sara Koppenhaver, Mrs. Jennifer Moreland and students

Ms. Sara Koppenhaver introduced herself to the Board as the unofficial advisor for the Leader in Me Eagle Time Program. She explained that there are three teams of students; Academic, Leadership and Cultural. She shared with the Board that the student representatives at the meeting were only a fraction of the students in grades sixth through eighth involved in the program.

Student representatives introduced themselves and provided the Board with their presentation beginning with a short video clip. Students explained that during Eagle Time, there are twenty minutes at the end of each day when they meet as a class. Each day they watch video lessons that help them learn to become leaders through the 7 Habits. Each of the lessons have activities and discussion questions that help students better understand the habits. Fifty-six students have been part of the video process so far with that number growing each week.

Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) - Students explained that they work on these WIGs by setting a monthly goal and creating lead measures to track and help them plan how to reach their goals. An example was provided to the Board that identified the WIG; the academic goal to reach and the lead measures to achieve the goal.

Music Enrichment Class - Members of the Music Enrichment Class explained that their role in the Leader in Me group is to fill in for any actors, directors or editors who are not able to attend to their role in the videos. Many of the students in these roles also join in on some of the Eagle Time videos. In addition to being involved in the videos, they also assist students in preparing for the videos by having a read-through of the script helping them to be at ease before filming. Feedback is given on things that would make the videos seem better and of more interest to the viewers. They help the students learn how to speak in different tones and to give

feedback on how to add character in their voice. Students encourage new people to act and be in the videos to help them feel confident in themselves which is what Eagle Time is all about.

Eagle Time Student Leaders - Each classroom has two to three Eagle Time Student Leaders. Their role is to help their classroom with all of the different 7 Habits work. They lead the lessons during Eagle Time by playing the videos, running activities and leading discussions. Miss Koppenhaver provides them with a Student Leader Guide to help them direct the lesson in the classroom. There are over fifty student leaders currently and another group of fifty-sixty preparing to be trained. Some of the students present at the meeting shared that as a student leader, they have learned how to be a good public speaker; to be patient, confident, work with people and to go outside their comfort zone; how to explain things to students and how to help them. The first group of student leaders is finishing their turn and students are nominating classmates to be trained to be new student leaders.

Eagle Time Videos - Directors - The Leader in Me Video Directors learn from mistakes and are willing to help others learn filming. They are welcoming to anyone and want to allow people to feel comfortable when acting. As they progress in their work, they strive to do better and be more efficient and successful. They hope that more students will get involved in directing. They use OBS Studio to record the videos, using a webcam, microphone and a green screen to create fun, themed backgrounds. The Directors give directions, advice and tips to the actors to help them work through mistakes and any nervousness they have. When there are new directors brought in, they provide training on what to do.

Eagle Time Videos - Actors Process - For students to get in an Eagle Time video, they either talk with Ms. Koppenhaver or fill out the form on Google Classroom. The day before a video is filmed, students meet with Mrs. Kozody to do a dry read of the script a couple of times until they are comfortable with reading it. Then it's film day! The students explained that film day can be filled with nerves, especially for a first-time student, but once they get past the stage fright, it's a lot of fun. When filming is being done, the lines are on a TV screen like a teleprompter. The students also find a way to sneak in their "Mighty Eagle" mascot in each video.

Eagle Time Videos - Actors - The students explained that when they first started this journey, they had a Chromebook for a small teleprompter and a 90's style camcorder. They learned as they moved through the process and made any adjustments as needed. Over time the videos have gotten better and continue to improve. Making these videos has shown the students that there are a lot of talented people in the school and they expressed how proud they are of the students with the courage and bravery to contribute to helping the school.

Eagle Time Videos - Editors - The Eagle Time Video Editors put a lot of time into their workflow to ensure there is a video each week. Some of the things that go into the editing process are: cutting out

any bad takes; cutting out the audio of directors calling action; adding text boxes with directions to help when videos are viewed; adding title slides with the credits; making sure the video is smooth and ready to air using Screencastify to edit the videos.

Student Testimonials - Students expressed some of the things they have learned by being part of the program. These testimonials included:

- It's good to have a growth mindset
- Having proactive self-talk
- About the 7 Habits overall & how to use it in other parts of our lives
- How to be productive & manage my time
- To put more effort into work
- Social interaction
- It represents teamwork

Quotes from Students - Students shared some quotes with the Board that included:

- "It shows what being behind the scenes is really like."
- "It has gotten easier to talk in front of a big group of people."
- "It has made me more confident with my speaking."
- "Being a member of the lighthouse team has been fun."
- "I feel a strong connection to my school."

Miss Koppenhaver expressed that this has had a super positive impact on the students and who they've become with feedback. She shared that it is a privilege and joy to work with the students in this program.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the presentation and commended the students on their confidence in speaking and sharing with them.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Health and Safety Committee Report

Mr. Schmitt shared that the Health and Safety Committee met for a brief meeting. All emergency drills are being held as scheduled. The buildings and grounds department have been doing some extra salting with the recent snowfall. There were no concerns expressed.

Mrs. Stirk added that a new UConnectCare Prevention Educator was introduced as our current educator is taking a job in another district. The current educator noted that she has worked for a lot of districts but found Albion to be the best district she has ever been in.

B. Finance and Audit Committee Report

Mr. Kast shared that the Finance Committee met on Tuesday, February 3, 2026. Mr. Recckio reviewed Internal Claims Audit Reports for October, November and December 2025. These reports point out claims over \$20,000. They generally have the same vendors and are usually for tuition for private placements, BOCES billing, food service, transportation and health services. He noted that manual checks to Arbiter Sports are used to pay officials. Mr. Recckio reviewed the 2025-2026 Internal Control Risk Assessment and the two areas in the Corrective Action Plan that have been addressed and corrected. The committee reviewed the Control Cycle Audit Selection for next year. Mr. Recckio recommended focusing on employee absences and record retention and if possible, to have attendance reporting added. The committee expressed interest in having these areas reviewed. Mr. Recckio provided the committee with a budget development agenda that included enrollment information, fund balance review and the hold harmless provision. The main focus areas for developing this year's budget include continuing to reduce the unassigned fund balance, living within our means and improving efficiency. Enrollment continues to be a large piece of budget planning as numbers are declining across the state. It places demands on districts for budget planning. The 2026-2027 Executive Budget Proposal indicates a 4.32% increase which is a little less than the prior year; however, this could change when the state finalizes its enacted budget in April.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Agreement Regarding Shared Football Program

BOARD APPROVED

B. 2025-2026 Fall Field Placement and Student Teacher Notifications

Board members were provided with an updated list of the 2025-2026 Fall Field Placement and Student Teacher Notifications.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Resignations:

- a. Jeanine Campisano
Position: Monitor @ ES
Effective: 01/09/26
- b. Kaylee Wilston
Position: Substitute Teacher Aide
Effective: 01/16/26 (retroactive)
- c. Evan Steier
Position: Supporting Track Coach
Effective: 01/05/26

- d. Kyra Burgess
 - Position: Junior Varsity Softball Coach
 - Effective: 01/27/26
- e. Brittany Barleben
 - Position: Modified Softball Coach
 - Effective: 01/28/26

2. 2025-2026 Appointments:

- a. James Dunn
 - Position: Building Maintenance Worker
 - Start Date: TBD*
 - *Pending fingerprint clearance
drug test, TB Test and Physical
 - Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
 - Probationary Period: TBD
 - Salary: \$52,000 plus \$900 Stipend
(to be prorated)
- b. Heather Johnston
 - Position: Monitor
 - Start Date: TBD*
 - *Pending fingerprint clearance
drug test, TB Test and Physical
 - Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
 - Probationary Period: TBD
 - Salary: \$16.00/hr.
- c. Kylie Ames
 - Position: Long-Term Substitute
Teacher @ ES
 - Effective: 01/16/26 (retroactive)-
06/30/26
- d. Miranda Smith
 - Position: Long-Term Substitute
Teacher @ ES
 - Effective: 01/07/26 (retroactive) - TBD

3. Adult Pit Orchestra Musician Appointments,
for instrumental services in the 2026 High School
spring production pit orchestra to be compensated at
\$150 each:

- a. Lindsey Almeter
- b. Teressa-Jo Izzo
- c. Clarissa Steier
- d. Cayla Hutteman
- e. Shannon Vanderlaan
- f. James Ruiz
- g. Martin Whiteford
- h. Kyle Gustafson

4. 2025-2026 Extra-Curricular Athletic Appointments:

- a. Jennifer Burden
Position: Modified Softball Coach
*pending all coaching requirements are met
- b. Brittany Barleben
Position: JV Softball Coach
*pending all coaching requirements are met

5. Substitutes:

Certified Substitute Teachers

- Sandra Climenhaga
- Elisa Sheehan

Non-Certified Substitute Teachers

- Nicole Bower
- Cianna Burr
- Finnegan Harvey
- Ava Quincey

Non-Instructional: Clerical, Teacher Aide, Monitor and Cleaner Substitutes

- Kylie Conway

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- B. 2025-2026 Internal Control Risk Assessment
And Corrective Action Plan

BOARD APPROVED

- C. Orleans/Niagara BOCES Board Member Nomination

Board President, Mrs. Weller, explained to the Board that the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Board Member information is provided to indicate which districts have board seats open for nomination. Albion does not have an open seat so these Board Member nominations will not be voted on until the Board votes on the BOCES budget in April.

- D. Contract with Hilton Central School District
- E. Approval of TIF Participant(s) - Spring 2026
- F. Donations:
 - Donation of hats, gloves and jackets to the Elementary School
 - Monetary Tops for Education annual payment to the Albion Elementary School
 - Donation of socks and winter hats to The Elementary School Nurse's Office

- Donation of trumpet to the Albion Elementary School
- Monetary donations to the Close Up/History Club

BOARD APPROVED, New Business Items 8(D) Contract with Hilton Central School District; 8(E) Approval of TIF Participants - Spring 2026, Olivia Flaitz and Christina Solanto; 8(F) Donations - donation of hats, gloves and jackets to the Albion Elementary School by an anonymous donor; Monetary Tops for Education annual payment of \$81.58 to the Albion Elementary School; Donation of socks and winter hats to the Albion Elementary School Nurse's Office by the Genesee Orleans Ministry of concern with a value of \$150; Donation of a trumpet with an unknown value to the Albion Central School District by Mr. and Mrs. Michael Neidert; Monetary donation of \$1,000 to the Close Up/History Club by the Gaines Carlton Community Church; Monetary donation of \$20 to the Close Up/History Club by Mr. and Mrs. Gary Simboli; Monetary donation of \$250 to the Close Up/History Club by Mrs. Sandra Climenhaga; Monetary donation of \$50 to the Close Up/History Club by Ms. Chris Borner; and Monetary donation of \$326 to the Close Up/History Club by Mr. Billy Martin. Thank you letters will be sent to each donor on behalf of the Board of Education.

G. Volunteers

A list of volunteers was submitted for Board Members' information.

9. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

A. BOE President Report

Board President, Mrs. Weller shared that she attended the Strategic Planning meeting.

B. Building Principal Reports

Building Principal Reports were submitted for Board Members' review.

C. Attendance Report

Board Members were provided with the Attendance Report for review.

D. Ex-Officio Student Board Member Report

Miss Phoebe Allen, student Board Member shared that it was nice to have Regents week off of school. She looks forward to the new semester when students have all new classes and teachers and new experiences to share.

Miss Allen shared that the Circus was held which is a big fundraiser to the Close Up.

Miss Allen shared that students enjoyed the Snow Ball, a high school dance. Students were happy to have dance; it offered a lot of enjoyment to everyone. While it wasn't as well attended as hoped, it

was still a very nice experience. It has been a slow year for student involvement but work is being done to improve this. It really depends on the group of students each year.

E. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report

Mrs. Manfreda shared with the Board STAR data that Mr. Sidari had requested. This material was printed right from the STAR Assessment. She reviewed the materials for K-8th grade comparing the fall data to the winter. She explained that the green or blue bars indicated students were on or very close to their benchmark; yellow areas indicating concern and red areas of high concern.

Kindergarten and 1st grade Star Early Literacy is not one to one to 2nd grade. Most grade levels from fall to winter in 2nd through 8th grade follow a Lexile scale for reading. Levels 3 and 4 are the state assessment level. She explained further that while some students fall into the yellow areas, they still fall within the national range.

F. Athletic Director's Report

The Athletic Director's Report was submitted for Board Members' review.

G. Superintendent's Report

Acting Superintendent, Rebecca Manfreda, shared with the Board that the Albion Student Leadership team won the 2026 Excellence in Student Services Award at the Genesee Valley BOCES Legislative Breakfast.

10. BOARD DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday	March 09, 2026 (2 nd Monday)	Regular Board of Education Meeting	6:00 pm
Tuesday	March 31, 2026	Finance and Audit Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
Monday	April 13, 2026 (2 nd Monday)	Regular Board of Education Meeting	6:00 pm
Tuesday	April 21, 2026	Annual BOCES Budget Vote & Election	TBD

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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

BOARD APPROVED

12. OPEN SESSION

BOARD APPROVED

13. ADJOURNMENT

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