

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALBION, NEW YORK 14411
February 3, 2025 SUMMARY
OF A REGULAR BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
7:00 pm**

MEETING CALL TO ORDER

Board President, Mr. Wayne Wadhams, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

RECOGNITION

Award for Civil War Service Learning Project

Mary McCormick
Kendall Peruzzini

Middle School Student Awards

Madysin Austin - Leadership Award
Antwain Taylor - Character Award

Mr. Schmitt addressed the Boy Scouts in attendance at the meeting. He explained that while it might appear that the Board moves quickly through the meeting, they receive their packet the Wednesday before the meeting. This provides the Board with the opportunity to review the materials in the packet and reach out to Superintendent Edwards or the Board President, Mr. Wadhams, to ask questions prior to the meeting when items are approved.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BOARD APPROVED

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Ms. Robin Govanlu introduced herself as Director of Behavioral Health at Oak Orchard Health. She shared that they have drastically expanded behavioral health services for children and adolescents at their Albion Wellness Center. Four therapist positions have been added with three of the four being filled. They are currently recruiting for the fourth position. They have also expanded into Brockport where Ms. Marissa Douglas is the Lead Behavioral Health Care Manager. There is a growing need for these services. Referrals are made in an integrated care setting with the pediatrician. Not every child receives care at Oak Orchard Health but they can provide information to external providers by a release. Referrals can be made for these services by contacting Ms. Douglas at Care Management. She will assist with the referral process to locate a provider. They handle therapist intakes, crisis calls and offer

resources.

Ms. Govanlu thanked the Board and shared that they are here to help.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Minutes of January 13, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Treasurer's Report December 2024
- C. CSE & CPSE Recommendations
- D. Building Use Requests
- E. Fundraiser Requests
- F. Budget Transfer Requests:
 - \$10,000 - ES Field Trips

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- G. - \$ 1,500 - Service Calls for AV Issues
(for Information Only)

Board President, Mr. Wayne Wadhams, indicated that Business Item (G) is for information only.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

A thank you card from the Krull family was shared with the Board. The card expressed gratitude for the memorial book to be purchased for their family in memory of Mrs. Krull's mother.

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Academic Focus - Mid-Year Report on Building Goals
Mrs. Jennifer Ashbery, Mr. Brad Pritchard and Mrs. Angela Conway

Mrs. Angela Conway, Elementary School Principal reiterated the 2024-2025 Building Goals for the Elementary School with the Board.

Social-Emotional Learning - By June 2025, the Leader in Me framework will be established in the elementary building as evidence by the creation of the Lighthouse and Action Teams, all staff being introduced to the Core Paradigms, and the implementation of the curriculum in all grade levels Pre-K through 5th grade.

Mrs. Conway shared that faculty meetings have been focused on introducing and discussing the five paradigms. So far three of the paradigms have been covered at these meetings. Action teams have been created with Lighthouse Team members taking the lead. Mrs. Conway expressed gratitude to the leadership teams. Teachers in PreK-5th grade have been doing a direct lesson in their classrooms once a week since the start of the school year. A group of Lighthouse Team members visited two Leader in Me Schools in the Sweet Home School District in Amherst and connected with partners they can work with. All elementary teachers received the Core 1 training on January 29th.

Writing - By June 2025, all teachers in grade Kindergarten through 5th grade, will enhance student response to texts through writing as evidenced by the creation of monthly writing tasks, the use of a writing progression checklist to inform instruction, and continuous progress monitoring of student work.

Mrs. Conway shared that the Writing 2-credit response area follows a rubric from the state. It progressively becomes more intense. All teachers in grades K-5th have helped create and are utilizing a writing checklist to help students strengthen their constructed response writing skills. Each grade level continues to create monthly writing tasks for students to practice their constructed response writing skills. Teachers are able to have collaborative conversations around the common writing tasks which helps focus their instruction on specific student needs. Examples of grade level writing checklists were provided for Board members to review.

Reporting - By June 2025, the new grading system will be fully implemented and understood as evidenced by all teachers being trained in standards-based evidence collection and families receiving continuous communication regarding the transition to standards-based grading.

Mrs. Conway shared that the first trimester has finished and parents were provided with a Parent Questionnaire on January 6th that contained three questions. Parents were asked how clear and easy to understand the new standards-based report card was. Out of the 73 responses received, 60.3% found it very clear to understand and 26% found it somewhat clear. Parents were also asked if the resources provided (e.g., teacher explanations, guide to understanding the new report card and Google Meet sessions) were helpful. Out of the 73 responses received, 49.3% found the resources extremely helpful; 27.4% found them somewhat helpful and 17.8% were neutral. The third question asked for feedback which was positive overall. The results were shared with staff who will be working on any areas of growth and refinements that can be made.

Mr. Pritchard, Middle School Principal reiterated the 2024-2025 Building Goals for the Middle School with the Board.

Reading - By June 2025, Albion Middle School students will meet or exceed the expected growth proficiency beyond national norms (35%-65%) as measured by the STAR Assessment.

Mr. Pritchard shared a graph comparing the 2023-2024 (57.1%) and 2024-2025 (65.6%) Fall to Winter STAR Reading Student Growth Percentile. Over 34,000 schools utilize the STAR Assessment. Students in the Middle School (65.6%) scored at or above the typical growth from the fall to the given test period in January. From fall of 2023 to Winter of 2025 the students in grades 6-8 increased 8% on this growth measure.

Writing - By June 2025, Albion Middle School will increase the percentage of students receiving full credit on 2 pt. questions based on NYS ELA writing benchmarks.

Mr. Pritchard shared that teachers continue to work on grammar, punctuation skills and what students need to receive full credit on two-point questions. Graphs were shared showing growth in these areas. This information is reviewed by departments and grade-levels to see what they can do in class daily to improve. These skills are used in Social Studies, Science and ELA.

Social-Emotional Learning - The Albion Middle School will begin the implementation of Leader in Me by completing the following throughout the 2024-25 school year:

- Survey (staff, students, parents)
- Establish a Lighthouse Team
- Training Implementation
- Action Plan Established
- Core One Training

Mr. Pritchard shared that each of the goals that were set have been completed through the Superintendent's Conference Day, the Leader in Me Portal and lesson plans and are ready to implement.

Mrs. Ashbery, High School Principal reiterated the 2024-2025 Building Goals for the High School with the Board.

Writing - By June 30, 2025, high school students will strengthen their written response to texts as demonstrated by an increase in student performance from the October 2024 pre-assessment to the June 2025 post-assessment.

Mrs. Ashbery shared the Fall 2024 pre-assessments. Scores for 9th and 10th grade students indicated that 80% of responses were either not proficient or partially proficient. Scores for 11th and 12th grade students indicated that 74% of responses were either not proficient or partially proficient. Students are given two texts and are to find a common theme and pull evidence from both. The writing focus for second semester is that students will engage in daily writing activities across all content areas. High School teachers will provide a writing prompt during class at least four days per week. Students will respond by hand (not on the computer) with one to two sentences. Writing samples will be kept in a folder in the classroom. Editing will take place on the 5th day using one prompt during the week.

Instruction - By June 30, 2025, all high school teachers will be trained in and implementing elements of Explicit Instruction as measured by lesson plan review and informal observations during building walkthroughs.

Mrs. Ashbery shared the Explicit Teaching Gradual Release of Responsibility Model. There are sixteen elements of Explicit Instruction but staff will be strategically targeting two of the Elements of Explicit Instruction; 1) Focus instruction on critical content and 2) Begin lessons with a clear statement of the lesson goals and the expectations.

Social-Emotional Learning - By June 30, 2025, high school staff will strengthen their understanding of the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People. This will include:

- Developing proficiency with the 7 Habits/LIM vocabulary
- Deepen understanding of the 7 Habits through training on the practices associated with each habit

Mrs. Ashbery shared a diagram of the Principles of Effectiveness which showed the Paradigms are what we see; Behaviors are what we do and Results are what we get. Later this spring staff will be working on the Circle of Influence. "When we're proactive, we focus our efforts on our Circle of Influence®. We work on the things we can do something about. This allows us to expand our influence over time and create more choices and opportunities. When we're reactive, we get stuck focusing on our Circle of Concern™ - on things over which we have little or no control."

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Ad Hoc Committee - Number of Board Members and Length of Terms

The Board discussed the information provided by the Ad Hoc Committee regarding the number of Board Members and length of their terms.

Board President, Mr. Wayne Wadhams, asked the Board if anyone would like to make a motion on reducing the number of Board Members from nine (9) to seven (7). No response was received from any Board Member so no Motion was made. The number of Board Members will remain at nine (9).

Board President, Mr. Wayne Wadhams, asked the Board if anyone would like to make a motion on reducing the length of the term for Board Members to serve from five (5) years to three (3) years.

BOARD DISAPPROVED

The length of the term for Board Members to serve will remain at five (5) years.

B. Health and Safety Committee

Superintendent Edwards reported that the Health and Safety Committee held a brief meeting. Lockdown drills are planned in February and March. Fire inspections are under way with our BOCES Safety

Representative, Mr. Jim Combs, handling them. At the roundtable portion of the meeting, a committee member asked about the window blinds for classroom doors. Mrs. Kathy Winans' class will be making them.

C. Finance and Audit Committee

Board Member, Mr. John Kast reported that the Finance Committee met last week. A number of items were reviewed that included Internal Claims Audit Reports. The 2024-2025 Internal Control Risk Assessment and Corrective Action Plan were reviewed. Two weaknesses were noted but have already been corrected. The Committee has started the budget development process. Information was provided regarding the Rockefeller Study of the Foundation Aid Formula, a very outdated formula that the state has set aside \$2 million to review. Public hearings have been held and recommended changes submitted.

Mr. Kast noted he found some of the statistics that Mr. Recckio shared at the meeting very interesting. New York provides the 8th lowest proportion of state spending on education, less than half. New York is also one of four states with the local share of more than 50% of state contributions. New York State spends \$29,873 per pupil, ranking it #1 in the country against a national average of \$15,633. New York State also ranks 4th in having the largest decrease in student enrollment.

Mr. Kast shared that the next Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for March 25th with no February meeting being held.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Resolution - Organizational Business Appointments

BOARD APPROVED, amending the July 8, 2024 Reorganizational Meeting, Organizational Business Appointments, to appoint Jeffrey Current as the Chemical Hygiene Officer, School Pesticide Representative and Asbestos Designee, effective October 9, 2024.

B. Resolution - Organizational Business 2024-2025 Sub Pay Rate

BOARD APPROVED, amending the July 8, 2024 Reorganizational Meeting, Organizational Business, increasing the Substitute Pay Rate for Non-Certified Instructors from \$100 daily to the amount of \$105 daily, effective January 11, 2025, to meet the current minimum wage requirements.

C. 2024-2025 Field Experience Students - Updated

A list of 2024-2025 Field Placement Notifications was provided to Board Members with updated information on placements.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel

1. Resignations:

- a. Jessica Beal
Position: Director of Special Education
Effective: 02/04/25, upon appointment to the Special Education Teacher position at the Elementary School
- b. Amy Williams
Position: Teacher Aide @ ES
Effective: 01/27/25
- c. David Reamsnyder
Position: Custodian
Effective: 02/04/25 (end of work day) and upon appointment to a full-time Building Maintenance Worker position

2. 2024-2025 Appointments:

- a. Anne Marie Holland
Position: Interim Director of Special Education
Certification: School District Leader, Professional
Special Education, Permanent
Effective: 01/28/25 (retroactive) - TBD
Salary: Per Employment Agreement
- b. Jessica Beal
Position: 8:1:3 Teacher @ ES
Certification: Special Education, Permanent
Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and Grades 1-6, Permanent
School District Leader, Professional
Effective: 02/04/25
Tenure Area: Special Education
Salary: Step 22

c. David Reamsnyder

Position: Building Maintenance Worker
Start Date: 02/05/25
Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
Probationary Period: 02/05/25 - 02/04/26
Salary: \$39,060 plus \$940 stipend
(to be prorated 02/05/25 -
06/30/25)

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B. 2024-2025 Internal Control Risk Assessment
and Corrective Action Plan

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C. Orleans Niagara BOCES Board Nominations/
Annual Meeting

Mr. Wadhams reviewed information provided for the Orleans Niagara BOCES administrative budget vote and election of members for board member terms that will expire on June 30, 2025. Our district does not have a vacant seat so we would have no nomination for the BOCES election. The BOCES budget vote and election must be held on Tuesday, April 22, 2025 and is ordinarily scheduled for 7:00 am.

D. Contract with Hilton Central School District

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E. 2024-2025 Surplus Items for Auction

SURPLUS ITEMS FOR AUCTION 2025

- 10 student desks
- 3 metal file cabinets (worn out)
- Harnesses (1 yellow)
- Harnesses (4 blue)
- Harnesses (2 purple)
- Climbing ropes (1 grey)
- Climbing ropes (1 black)
- Climbing ropes (1 orange)
- 8 knotted ropes
- 1 thin white rope
- 5 rope guides
- 1 rope break
- 6 rope breaks with springs
- Climbing clog

- 1 backpack
- Box of stakes
- 7 carabiners
- 8 climbing carabiners
- 14 metal screw locking carabiners
- Tennis balls
- 1 storage tote
- 1 eight-foot ladder
- 2 file cabinets (1 from HS/1 from MS both not usable/broken)
- Generator (replaced with new one at ES during project)
- 2 pallets of tile ceiling speakers
- Pallet of carpet tiles (various colors not used in school)
- Old purple eagle score table from HS
- 3 empty band equipment cases
- 2 tubas in cases
- Yamaha keyboard in case
- 9 boxes of old cafeteria trays
- 4 science scales in box
- 9 microscopes in box
- Old kiln that was replaced at HS
- Old gator broadcast spreader (not used & not in working order)
- 2 push mowers
- Turfco turf cutter
- Yellow flammable cabinet
- Stihl leaf blower
- Stihl pole saw/trimmer
- 18-20,000 lumen 165w led screw in bulbs (Old lights from Pool area)
- 3 white speakers
- 1 liberty portable PA system
- 2 JBL speakers
- 1 portable PA system
- Alexis dual output PA system
- Audioutex mic pac receivers
- Line 6 microphones in case x 6
- Line 6 mic packs
- QSC amplifier
- Shure digital system processor
- Vamaha mixing console
- Tascam cd/cassette player
- Pulse ttreter I 300 portable PA
- Empty audio shelf cabinet

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F. Volunteers

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

9. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

A. BOE President Report

Board President, Mr. Wadhams shared that on Saturday, January 18th he attended the Genesee Valley School Boards Association Legislative Breakfast at Elba Central School with Superintendent Edwards and Mr. Sidari. It was considerably different but was very interesting. There were various break-out sessions offered. Superintendent Edwards and Mr. Wadhams attended the sessions with Assemblyman Steve Hawley and Senator Chuck Schumer's office.

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. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Mrs. Rebecca Manfreda shared that the Elementary and Middle School faculty participated in Core 1 training at the end of January to deepen their understanding of the 7 Habits and how to teach it to our students. Core 1 training serves as a foundational program for staff to implement the Leader in Me initiative. It focuses on essential leadership skills and frameworks, equipping educators to effectively design and implement the program. The training emphasizes teaching the 7 Habits to students through both modeling and direct instruction.

The training also emphasizes the importance of shifting paradigms, whether consciously or unconsciously held. A paradigm shift involves adopting a new way of thinking or embracing a fresh perspective on how things are done. Our paradigms-the way we perceive the world-shape our actions, which in turn influences the outcomes we achieve. Changing how we view the world can transform our behaviors and ultimately, the results we produce.

F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Edwards reported that we are in the final stretch of the Capital Project. Work is still being completed on punch list items primarily involving doors (approximately 20 of them). Some of the doors have trim kit issues, some with broken or scratched glass and others with hardware issues.

Superintendent Edwards provided an update on the Ex-officio Student Representative on the School Board that will take effect July 1, 2025. The new law requires a student representative on all school boards that have a high school and all BOCES. Student board members will not be able to vote or attend executive sessions, nor can they attend meetings that are not open to the public. Mrs. Ashbery will be meeting with our Student Council Advisory tomorrow to start having conversation about who that representative might be.

Superintendent Edwards shared that Executive Orders have been coming out of Washington and have obviously raised the anxiety levels of a lot of people. He felt it necessary to send something out to staff last week and shared it with the Board as follows: "Good Morning Team, I've received a few questions regarding the recent Executive Orders coming out of Washington and their potential impact on us. At this time, it's business as usual. These orders are being issued rapidly, often followed by challenges, interpretations and misunderstanding, making it difficult to determine their actual effect, if any, on our work. Unless you hear otherwise directly from me, please continue as usual. Let's stay focused, take a deep breath and continue doing what we do best - educating and caring for our kiddos."

Superintendent Edwards shared that in April, before the Board Meeting, Marla Iverson will be conducting the Stakeholders input session via ZOOM with the Board of Education as the kick-off to our District Strategic Plan.

10. BOARD DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday	March 10, 2025 (2 nd Monday)	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday	March 25, 2025	Finance and Audit Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
Monday	April 07, 2025	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday	April 22, 2025	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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