

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALBION, NEW YORK 14411
January 05, 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

RECOGNITION

Elementary School Student Awards
Patrick Westlund - Leadership Award
Lucas Rotthoff - Character Award

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BOARD APPROVED

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

- A. 2025-2026 Revised Albion Central School District-Wide Safety Plan - Public Comment

Superintendent Edwards shared that the revised Albion Central School District-Wide Safety Plan had been posted on the website for thirty days for public comment. There were no public comments made regarding the plan.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Minutes of December 01, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Treasurer's Report November 2025
- C. Extra-Classroom Activity Fund Report for November 2025
- D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations
- E. Building Use Requests
- F. Fundraiser Requests
- G. Budget Transfer Requests

BOARD APPROVED

4. CORRESPONDENCE - None

5. PRESENTATIONS

- A. Academic Focus - Elementary School Student
Leader in Me Lighthouse Team -
Mrs. Cathy Hryhorenko &
Mrs. Cathy Galbreth

Mrs. Conway introduced the Elementary School Student Leader in Me Lighthouse Team and their advisors, Mrs. Cathy Hryhorenko and Mrs. Cathy Galbreth. The SST is comprised of 15 members. Students must apply and obtain a recommendation from a teacher. They develop leadership skills; twice per month they prepare a project; and each member is part of a subcommittee and Action Team. There are 80 students who meet each Wednesday morning during Eagle Time.

Student participants each introduced themselves and described each of the following action teams:

- Birthday Crew - comprised of 2nd - 5th grade students who prepare and deliver cards to students on their birthdays. This promotes leadership and responsibility.
- Event Planning - comprised of 4th and 5th grade students who plan SOAR assemblies, create posters and school-wide signs and they talk at the assemblies.
- Gardening Crew - comprised of 2nd and 3rd grade students. They purchase plants that are placed throughout the Elementary School. The students water and care for them.
- Health and Hygiene - comprised of 4th and 5th grade students. They make bags for boys and girls and posters that promote good health ideas.
- Library Crew - comprised of 4th and 5th grade students. They create bulletin boards, bookmarks and decorate the library.
- Eagle Nest News Crew - comprised of 5th grade students. They report on what happens in school through a newscast. They take photos, videos and write scripts.
- Recycling Crew - comprised of 3rd and 4th grade students. They are assigned spots throughout the building to gather recycling.
- Welcome - comprised of 2nd - 5th grade students. They create bags for new students and adults, greet them in the main office and take them where they need to go and introduce the new students to others.

Board Members thanked the students for presenting.

- B. FFA Students - 2025 National FFA Convention

Albion FFA officers and members shared a presentation with the Board regarding the 2025 National FFA Convention to Indianapolis. The students shared highlights of the trip that included a stop at the Lincoln Electric manufacturing plant to see how they produce more modern technology such as EV chargers. Students visited Amos Hill

Associates: Wood Veneer where they learned about species and size of logs; how the first step is to go to the sawmill where the bark is removed and sent to a local company where it is made into mulch. They described the process for the veneers and shared samples for the Board to see. Students enjoyed a trip to Not Just Popcorn. The company started with eight flavors of popcorn and are now up to 400 different flavors. A special FFA popcorn was made for the event comprised of blue and yellow popcorn flavored lemon and blue raspberry. They have any flavor you can imagine. Students visited the Indianapolis Motor Speedway where the Indianapolis 500 is held. They rode a tour bus on the 2 ½-mile loop around the oval track and stopped at the finish line where they shared a photograph of each member kissing the brick. Students went to the National Convention Center which is set up as an Expo Center. It is a massive trade show environment with booths. Agricultural companies showcased the latest technology and equipment and industries networked with the students to provide tools, ideas and connections.

The students thanked the Board for their continued support and dedication to the program. The Board's commitment to education and student opportunities plays a vital role in helping FFA members grow academically, personally and as leaders.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Health and Safety Committee Report

Superintendent Edwards reported that the committee met on December 17th, 2026. The emergency drills including lockdown drills and fire drills have been completed for the fall. Ms. Ohar, our BOCES Safety Risk Specialist, reported that the fire inspections would begin in December at the High School and the Desha's Law training continues and will be provided to all students and staff. Uconnect updated the committee on Teen Intervene and programs they are working on in the Middle and Elementary Schools. Mr. Navarra, Technology Coordinator reported on phishing emails and texts that have gone out allegedly from Superintendent Edwards. He cautioned staff not to open any suspicious email received. There was discussion regarding Stop the Bleed training. We will be looking into purchasing additional AED's so that there will be one on each floor, in each building on campus. SRO Ashleigh Stornelli added that the phishing emails discussed have been received across the county and in Wyoming County as well.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 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. Colby Allport
Position: Custodian @ ES
Effective: 12/09/25 (end of work day and upon appointment to a full-time Cleaner position)

- b. Brittani Messmer
Position: Science Teacher @ MS
Effective: 01/12/26

- c. Kevin Bovanizer
Position: Math Teacher @ HS
Effective: 01/23/26

- d. Brennan Meakin
Position: Modified Boys' Basketball Coach
Effective: 12/31/25

- e. Heather Johnston
Position: Substitute Teacher Aide
Effective: 12/16/25

2. Retirements:

- a. Shelly Daggs
Position: Math Teacher @ HS
Effective: 07/01/26

- b. Theresa McClellan
Position: Speech Teacher @ ES
Effective: 01/06/26

- c. Dana Martin
Position: 5th Grade Teacher @ ES
Effective: 06/30/26

- d. Beth Dunn
Position: Teacher Aide @ ES
Effective: 07/31/26

3. 2025-2026 Appointments:

a. Melissa Dibley

Position: Speech Pathologist @ ES
Certification: Speech - Language Pathologist
Probationary Period: 02/09/26 - 02/08/29
Tenure Area: Speech
Salary: Step 8

b. Colby Allport

Position: Cleaner
Start Date: 12/10/25
Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
Probationary Period: 12/10/25 - 12/09/26
Salary: \$33,743

c. Jennifer Frasier

Position: Temporary Treasurer for
training purposes
Start Date: TBD* - 06/30/26
*Pending fingerprint clearance
drug test, TB Test and Physical
Civil Service Classification: Exempt
Probationary Period: TBD - upon permanent
appointment
Salary: \$50,000

d. Kaylee Wilston

Position: Teacher Aide
Start Date: TBD*
*Pending fingerprint clearance
drug test, TB Test and Physical
Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
Probationary Period: TBD
Salary: \$16.00/hr.

4. 2025-2026 Extra-Curricular Appointments:

a. Wynter Dumont

Position: ES Multicultural Club Advisor

5. 2025-2026 Extra-Curricular Athletic Appointments:

a. Evan Steier

Position: Assistant Varsity Track and
Field Coach
*pending all coaching
requirements are met

b. Chase Hall

Position: Modified Boys' Basketball Coach
*pending all coaching
requirements are met

6. Substitutes, I, Mickey Edwards
Superintendent of Albion Central School,
do hereby recommend substitutes for the following
positions:
- Certified Substitute Teachers
 - Miranda Smith
 - Non-Certified Substitute Teachers
 - Devin Griffin
 - Martin Taber
 - Hailey Wilkins
 - Non-Instructional: Clerical, Teacher Aide, Monitor
and Cleaner Substitutes
 - None

BOARD APPROVED

- B. Resolution

MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

- C. 2024-2025 Single Audit Report
- D. Extra Classroom Activities Audit
- E. 2025 School Tax Collection
- F. Tax Collection Agreement - Orleans County
- G. Lease Agreement Renewal - Panek Farms
- H. 2025-2026 Revised District-Wide Safety Plan
- I. Tenure Recommendation
- J. Standard Workday Resolution

BOARD APPROVED, New Business Items 8(C) 2024-2025 Single Audit Report; 8(D) Extra Classroom Activities Audit; 8(E) 2025 School Tax Collection; 8(F) Tax Collection Agreement - Orleans County; 8(G) Lease Agreement Renewal - Panek Farms; 8(H) 2025-2026 Revised District-Wide Safety Plan; 8(I) Tenure Recommendation - granting tenure to Marcella (Del Plato) Quintana; and 8(J) Standard Workday Resolution - the Albion Central School District/Location Code 73403, hereby established the standard work days for elected and appointed officials as reported and will report the days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the timekeeping system records or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these officials to the District Clerk of this body.

- K. Approval to Create Building Maintenance
Worker Position

BOARD APPROVED

L. 2025-2026 Title III Grant Approval

Event: Title III - ELL/MLL Student Support
Before/After School

Individuals: Wynter Dumont
Josefino Paz
Marcella Quintana

Rate: \$25/hour (the district pays for the hourly
Rate and is reimbursed by Erie 1
BOCES annually)

Timeline: September 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026

BOARD APPROVED

M. 2026 Orleans County Chamber of Commerce Dues

BOARD APPROVED

N. Football Merger

Superintendent Edwards read the following information to the Board regarding the Football Merger.

Over the past several years, beginning under the leadership of the previous Superintendent, the Board of Education has engaged in periodic discussions regarding the long-term sustainability of our football program. These conversations were prompted by declining enrollment and participation trends and the potential impact those trends could have on our ability to maintain a safe, competitive, and developmentally appropriate program for our student-athletes. Many districts throughout New York State have faced similar challenges and have explored or implemented mergers; currently, approximately 91 High Schools in Section V and VI participate in merged football programs. This is not counting the other 9 Athletic Sections in New York State.

As you are aware, these trends have recently forced Albion to eliminate our JV football program and operate with only Varsity and Modified (Mod A) levels. These concerns have continued into the current school year. On several occasions, both our district and Medina were unable to field enough players independently to conduct full football practices. As a result, we worked collaboratively to hold joint practices to ensure that students could train safely and effectively. While these temporary solutions allowed the season to continue, they also underscored the growing challenges both programs are facing.

In response, in November, shortly after the conclusion of the season, I—along with the Medina Superintendent, Athletic Directors, and head varsity football coaches from both districts—began preliminary discussions to explore whether a combined football program could be a viable option that would benefit students in both communities and strengthen our overall athletic offerings. These conversations have been exploratory in nature and were intended to assess feasibility, not to signal any predetermined outcome.

These initial conversations have allowed us to step back and look not only at the immediate challenges facing both programs, but also at what a sustainable path forward could look like for our student-athletes. In doing so, we began to consider whether collaboration could address current limitations while also creating new opportunities for growth and stability.

A potential merger could provide an opportunity to restore full levels of competition at the Varsity, JV, and Modified levels, allowing students to participate at developmentally appropriate stages while prioritizing safety and long-term program sustainability. Additionally, combining teams could help reduce the strain currently placed on student-athletes and coaching staff and may improve program consistency and overall quality.

As part of these early discussions, we have also begun identifying key considerations that would require further review should the Board wish to explore this option in greater depth. These considerations include coaching roles, equipment and uniform needs, and practice and game schedules, including locations, etc. At this time, no final decisions have been made, and any potential proposals remain in the developmental stage.

It is important to acknowledge that certain timing considerations associated with this option are in play. Through no fault of either Albion or Medina, should a decision be made to pursue a merger, Section VI would need to be formally notified by early February, creating a relatively narrow decision-making window. Additionally, Medina has successfully merged other athletic programs and recognizes the needs of their football program and are actively pursuing a merger. Should we choose to delay consideration for another year, there is a possibility that we could miss the opportunity to partner with Medina, which could limit our future options.

Should the Board express interest in exploring this option further, the development of a formal municipal agreement would be required before any action could be taken.

Ultimately, this conversation is about ensuring that we continue to provide our students with safe, meaningful, and sustainable athletic opportunities. My intent in bringing this forward today is to keep the Board informed and to seek your guidance on whether further exploration of this option is warranted and to determine, together as a Board, the most responsible path forward for our students and our district.

O. Donations:

- Monetary Donation to the Albion Central School District for installation of a New York State Roadside Marker for Annis Cemetery
- Monetary Donation to the Albion Central School District for Christmas purchases for students
- Donation of toys to the Albion Central School District for students
- Donation of Gift Cards to the Albion Central School District High School Counseling Office for Holiday Gifts for High School Students
- Monetary donation to the Albion Central School District High School FFA

BOARD APPROVED, the Monetary Donation of \$2,050 from The Pomeroy Foundation to the Albion Central School District Service-Learning Classes; Monetary Donation of \$1,200 to the Albion Central School District from the Albion Lions Club; Donation of toys from the Albion Elks Lodge to the Ronald L. Sodoma Elementary School with an approximate value of \$800; Donation of gift cards to the Albion Central School District High School Counseling Office from the Albion First Baptist Church with an approximate value of \$1,000; Donation of gift cards to the Albion Central School District High School Counseling Office from the Albion Elks Lodge with an approximate value of \$600; and Monetary Donation of \$200 from Haylett Farm to the Albion Central School District High School FFA. Thank you letters for the donations will be sent to the donors on behalf of the Board of Education.

P. Volunteers

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

9. PUBLIC FORUM

Board President, Mrs. Linda Weller shared the following Public Forum Guidelines.

Any individual wishing to speak to the Board must sign up beforehand and state their concern or agenda item they wish to address. Each speaker will have up to three minutes to address the Board. We ask that speakers identify themselves, residency status, and any group they may represent. Public comments may not address individual personnel or student matters, which should instead be directed to the Superintendent. The Board will not engage in dialogue during the forum, though follow-up may occur later. The Board reserves the right and may end public comment at its discretion.

The first speaker was welcomed to address the Board.

Mrs. Molly Preston introduced herself to the Board as a resident of Albion, the parent of a student athlete, member of the Sports Boosters and community member. She encouraged explanation of the possible football merger and all options that are available. She is not against the merger but it should be the last resort after a review of the numbers, safety issues and evaluation of other solutions. This decision will affect the school culture and student engagement. She asked that the Board consider the student impact; and possible longer travel times. Football is sometimes the reason students feel connected to school. Districts have found other ways to adapt based on logistics, fiscally and what is best for athletes. It should be a careful decision and while parents have no say, the process should be slowed down and the Board should be as transparent as possible with short and long-term solutions. She thanked the Board for their consideration.

Mr. Geno Allport introduced himself as a member of the Class of 92; that for the past twenty-five years, he has worked with the Albion Youth Football/Cheer program. With combined practices, schools are forced to move up freshmen who are not ready to play at the higher levels. A football merger will allow for players to be more competitive on the field; it keeps students engaged. We don't want to lose the program. More coaches will allow for position coaches. In the current district he works in, there are eleven coaches which makes it easier to run practices. The merger should build community, not cause division; improve student attendance, academics and morale. Mr. Allport noted that Oakfield and Elba Schools have merged athletic programs as well as Cal-Mum and LeRoy Schools where numbers went down but with their merger, it's different today. There may be a lot of pushback from the community, but it's about building the program up. He thanked the Board for their consideration.

10. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

A. BOE President Report

Board President, Mrs. Weller shared that she attended the Rural Schools Association Winter Conference in Saratoga. Unlike the New York State School Boards Association events, this is tailored to smaller schools. It was an interesting two-day program.

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 December had been a fun month of exciting activities before Winter Break.

Miss Allen thanked the Albion Lions Club and the Albion First Baptist Church for the gift cards they donated to the High School.

Miss Allen shared that the High School had themed days. Student Council posted information around the school about them and it offered a lot of fun to everyone. The Leader in Me participants provided cocoa and cookies which was a treat that students enjoyed at lunch.

E. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Report

Mrs. Manfreda shared that Board Members were provided with 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 NYS Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics results at their places for review. She noted that the District's percentages were shown in yellow and the NYS percentages in blue. The 4th grade ELA percentage increased significantly from the previous year's overall percentage. Last year every district was required to take exams on the computer. The Math scores have also shown great results with 8th grade up from 49% last year. She is very proud of the progress students are making.

F. Athletic Director's Report

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

G. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Edwards shared a reminder that the Legislative Breakfast is scheduled on January 24th at Letchworth Central School. Formal invitations will be coming out to the Board. Registration is at 8:30 am and breakfast will be from 9:00 - 9:30 am. Break-out sessions will be held with the Legislators. He asked that once the invitations are out, any Board Member interested in attending can contact Cindy Ishmael and she will RSVP for them.

11. BOARD DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Tuesday	February 03, 2026	Finance and Audit Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
Monday	February 09, 2026 (2 nd Monday)	Regular Board of Education Meeting	6:00 pm
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

BOARD APPROVED

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT
BOARD APPROVED

13. OPEN SESSION
BOARD APPROVED

8. NEW BUSINESS

B. Resolution
BOARD APPROVED

14. ADJOURNMENT
BOARD APPROVED