

**BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
ALBION CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
ALBION, NEW YORK 14411
December 02, 2024 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.

Board Member, Mr. John Kast read the Board Meeting Norms; "The Board Will: Be Respectful and Professional - Be Prepared - Honor Confidentiality - Follow the Chain of Command - Avoid Surprises - Assume Positivity."

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

RECOGNITION

High School Student Awards

Mallory Kozody - Leadership Award
Perris Benjamin - Character Award

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

BOARD APPROVED

2. PUBLIC FORUM

Mr. Geno Allport introduced himself to the Board as a member of the Niagara Orleans Football Association (NOFA). He expressed the Association's gratitude to the Board for allowing them use of the fields. He shared that in 2008 a Roy-Hart Coach and some students were involved in a car accident. The Coach did not survive but the students did. The Jim Ellegate Memorial Award was made to honor this Coach. Mr. Allport presented the memorial award to Superintendent Mickey Edwards honoring the Albion Central School District.

3. BUSINESS ITEMS

- A. Minutes of November 04, 2024 Regular Board Meeting
- B. Treasurer's Report August 2024
Treasurer's Report September 2024
Treasurer's Report October 2024
- C. Extra-Classroom Activity Fund Report for October 2024
- D. CSE & CPSE Recommendations
- E. Building Use Requests
- F. Fundraiser Request

BOARD APPROVED

4. **CORRESPONDENCE** - None

5. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. FFA Students - 2024 National FFA Convention

Albion FFA officers and members shared a presentation with the Board regarding the 2024 National FFA Convention. The students shared highlights of the trip that included a stop at the Lackawanna Coal Mine located 300 feet below the surface with tours led by actual coach miners. At Hershey, the students toured the Chocolate Experience where they were able to choose ingredients and make personalized candy bars. Students highlighted the weights and measures program at the Ohio State Department of Agriculture, a program that measures gas tanks as well as scales in stores. Students enjoyed a trip to Jungle Jim's supermarket, a store that started out as a roadside produce stand but had grown into two stores, with a two-dollar discount offered on any purchases. Students visited Purdue University, a leading agricultural college offering 132 majors in various agriculture programs. A tour of the greenhouse offered students the opportunity to see the plant x-ray machine used to help farmers identify any issues in plants so that they can fix them. At the Convention Center, FFA students attended general sessions with National FFA Officers throughout the United States. The speakers were positive and uplifting which made this an exciting event. Each Convention provides a service project that goes to groups for distribution and donation to the needy. This year's project was making potholders. Representatives from colleges from all over the United States were there; John Deere and various smaller landscaping companies; together with companies that offered free gifts to students such as hats, key chains, etc. The students thanked the Board for their support and for the opportunity to attend such a great experience.

B. Academic Focus - Family Engagement
Mr. Brad Pritchard

Mr. Brad Pritchard, Middle School Principal, shared a presentation with the Board on Enhancing Family Engagement in Education. This had been discussed in previous building reports and he shared that he would elaborate on the purpose behind engaging families.

Family Engagement Overview

1. Survey Results
2. The Importance of Family Engagement
3. How we currently work to engage families
4. Impact of Efforts
5. Moving Forward

Survey Results - Mr. Pritchard shared that the Leader In Me survey results taken in the fall indicated a score of 67% in the area of Family and Community Engagement. It is an area of focus that is prioritized. There is a direct correlation between parent and family engagement with school and overall student performance.

The Importance of Family Engagement

1. Improved Academic Performance
 - Students whose families are involved in their education tend to achieve higher grades and test scores.
 - Family engagement fosters a culture of learning at home.
2. Enhanced Social and Emotional Development
 - Supportive family involvement can boost a child's confidence, motivation and sense of belonging.
 - It helps children develop positive attitudes toward school and reduces behavioral problems.
3. Stronger School-Home Connections
 - When families and schools collaborate, they create a consistent support system for students.
 - Communication between teachers and families ensures everyone is aligned in addressing the child's needs.
4. Increased Attendance and Engagement
 - Family involvement is linked to better attendance rates and higher levels of engagement in learning.
 - Parents who are involved help their children understand the value of education.
5. Empowering Families
 - Engaged families feel more confident in their ability to support their child's learning.
 - Schools that welcome family participation create an inclusive environment that values diverse perspectives.

Mr. Pritchard highlighted current initiatives to engage families that included:

Family Nights: Literacy Night

Objective: Encourage reading and literacy at home

- Activities:
 - Interactive activities based on literacy
 - Book giveaways
 - Promote fostering reading habits
 - Connect with parents in a relaxed, fun environment

Impact:

- Brings attention to literacy and fosters the importance of reading
- Allows opportunities for a relaxed interaction with parents and students

Celebrating Culture: Day of the Dead

Objective: Celebrate cultural diversity and inclusion

- Activities:
 - Ofrenda
 - Activities related to Mexican Culture
 - Traditional music and food

Impact: Builds cultural awareness and community pride

- Helps all members of the community know they count and are important to us
- Allows all parents to know the school is a safe place to visit

Back to School Night

Objective: To welcome students and parents back to school to help everyone feel comfortable and connected to begin a new year

- Activities:
 - Orientation
 - Meet teachers in a relaxed atmosphere
 - Food Trucks
 - Sign up for clubs

Impact: Positive start to the school year for students and parents being able to meet teachers at the start of the year

- Helps all members of the community know they count and are important to us

Seamless Communication: Parent Square

Parent Square is a user-friendly platform for real-time communication between school and families.

Features:

- Multilingual support
- Event reminders and RSVP's
- Direct messaging with teachers and staff
- Seamless communication

Impact: Bridges the communication gap, keeps families informed and engaged on a daily basis.

Home Visits

- Administrators and counselors often do home visits for a variety of reasons. The benefits of home visits have a substantial impact:
 - Builds trust
 - Gain a better understanding of child's environment
 - Removes barriers for parents
 - Improved attendance
 - Positive message to students
 - Over 30 Home Visits conducted this school year

Impact of Our Efforts

- Stronger sense of community and inclusion
- Parents feel more comfortable to reach out and communicate with the school
- Improved attendance
- Improved academic support
- Stronger Parent-Teacher relationships

Goals for Family Engagement

- Utilize data from Leader In Me survey to steer family engagement efforts
- Continue to build upon current vehicles of family engagement
- Communicate and collaborate with parents to find more ways they would like to become involved
- Grow parent and family engagement in ways that positively impact students

Mr. Pritchard shared that they will continue to explore other avenues and talk about ways to reach parents.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Health and Safety Committee

Board Member, Mr. Kurt Schmitt, shared that the Health and Safety Committee met. He noted that at the meeting, it was shared that the Elementary School phone line 2030 comes up as Spam for many people on their phone. It may be that people have marked it as a spam call or deleted the number which has prompted Verizon to mark the calls as spam. Work is being done to remedy this problem. Drills are going well in all of the buildings. An improvement has been made in that the old system took about three minutes response time and now that is under sixty seconds.

Mr. Schmitt noted he had attended the recent Veteran's Day program at the school and experienced a drill with the new system.

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. 2024-2025 Fall Field Placement and Student Teacher Notifications

Board members were provided with an updated list of the 2024-2025 Fall Field Placement and Student Teacher Notifications.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Education Resignation

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B. Personnel

1. Released from Employment:

- a. Christina Fracchia
Position: Teacher Aide @ ES
Effective: 11/12/24

2. Resignation:

- a. Mariah LaSpina
Position: Assistant Principal @ MS
and Athletic Director
Effective: 12/22/24
- b. David Skrip
Position: Modified Wrestling Coach
Effective: Immediately

3. 2024-2025 Appointments:

- a. Randy Knaak
Position: Interim Athletic Director
Certification: Physical Education, Permanent
Effective: 12/03/24 - TBD
Salary: Per Employment Agreement
- b. Ocie Bennett, Jr.
Position: Teaching Assistant
Certification: Teaching Assistant, Level III
Probationary Period: TBD *Pending Fingerprint
Clearance, Physical, TB
Test and Drug Test
Tenure Area: Teaching Assistant
Salary: \$37,000
- c. Hailey Sturm
Position: Monitor
Start Date: TBD
Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
Probationary Period: TBD *Pending Fingerprint
Clearance, Physical, TB
Test and Drug Test
Salary: \$15.50/hr.
- d. Robyn Williams
Position: Monitor
Start Date: TBD
Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
Probationary Period: TBD *Pending Fingerprint
Clearance, Physical, TB
Test and Drug Test
Salary: \$15.50/hr.

e. Richard Sia
Position: Computer Specialist
Start Date: TBD
Civil Service Classification: Competitive
Probationary Period: TBD *Pending Fingerprint
Clearance, Physical, TB
Test and Drug Test
Salary: \$34,000

f. Beth Stanley
Position: Teacher Aide
Start Date: TBD
Civil Service Classification: Non-Competitive
Probationary Period: TBD *Pending Fingerprint
Clearance, Physical, TB
Test and Drug Test
Salary: \$15.60/hr.

4. 2024-2025 Organizational Business Appointment:

a. Kevin Hazel
Position: Custodian, per diem
Effective: 12/15/24 - 06/30/25
Rate: \$26.67 per hour for a
maximum of 100 hours
(12.5 days) for emergency
plowing only

5. 2024-2025 Community Schools Program Club/Event and Advisors:

Event: College Trip for Multilingual Learner
Students

Individual(s): Kyra Burgess

Rate: \$25/hour

Timeline: December 3, 2024 - June 30, 2025

6. 2024-2025 Extra-Curricular Athletic Appointments:

b. Bayli Schlierf
Position: Unified Bowling Coach
*pending all coaching
requirements are met

c. Thomas O'Donnell
Volunteer Baseball Coach
*pending all coaching
requirements are met

d. Kyle Syck
Volunteer Baseball Coach
*pending all coaching
requirements are met

7. Substitutes:

Certified Substitute Teachers

- None

Non-Certified Substitute Teachers

- Aiden Hryhorenko

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

- Jessica Estela

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C. Reserve Plan

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D. 2024 School Tax Collection

Mr. Rick Recckio II, Assistant Superintendent for Finance provided Board Members with the 2024 School Tax Collection information. Tax collection began with a combined library and school tax levy of \$9,113,549. The District was responsible for \$8,449,039 and the Hoag Library was responsible for \$664,510. The Hoag Library has been paid in full and the outstanding balance of \$451,274 has been remitted to Orleans and Genesee Counties. The District is anticipated to receive the outstanding payments in full from the counties no later than April 2025.

E. Approval to Add a Sport - Unified Bowling

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F. Adoption of Policy 5840 Artificial Intelligence (AI)

G. Adoption of Policy 7554 Equal Educational Opportunities
(Revised)

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H. Tenure Appointments

**BOARD APPROVED, granting of tenure to (a) Stacey Napierala and
(b) Scott Oldenburg.**

I. 2024 Sunday Activity Request - Purple Eagles
Academy Wrestling Tournament - January 19, 2025

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J. Approval of TIF Participant(s) - Spring 2025

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K. Donations:

- Donation of Camera Racing Drone with Goggles and Controller to Albion Central School from the ACS Technology Club
- Monetary Donation to the Albion Central School District from the Lions Club

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L. 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 November 7th he attended the National Technical Honor Society Induction Ceremony with Mrs. Ashbery and Superintendent Edwards at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES Career & Technical Education Center. Albion had eight students inducted this year which was quite the change from the first year he attended when Albion had no students inducted. At that time, it was discussed, addressed and now we have excellent results.

Mr. Wadhams attended the Senior Tea and additionally, he attended the BOCES Retreat both held on November 14th.

Mr. Wadhams reported that on November 20th, he attended the Genesee Valley BOCES President's meeting by Zoom. Mr. David Little, Executive Director of the Rural Schools Association presented "Portrait of a Graduate." In his presentation, he noted that State Ed becomes secondary to the local district. Each district has a good idea of student needs. He indicated that Mrs. Ashbery, Mrs. Manfreda and Superintendent Edwards have a big job in ensuring that graduates measure up on needs. Mr. Little noted that nationwide, businesses can't find workers with the soft skills that are needed such as interpersonal, showing up on time and good attendance; these things need to be addressed. Mr. Little shared that districts should get legislators into their schools to see what districts are doing and how well they're doing it. He also shared that two-thirds of rural students don't get a certificate from a Community College, much less a two-year or four-year degree.

Mr. Schmitt addressed the government students in attendance at the meeting. He explained 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.

B. Building Principal Reports

Building Principal Reports were submitted for Board Members' review.

Mrs. Ashbery, High School Principal, gave a shout out to the FFA noting it is an incredible program. She shared that the students created the presentation that had been given earlier in the meeting. She indicated some of the students are close to farms and agriculture while others are part of the group. She offered kudos to them for their work on the presentation and in the community noting the FFA Food Drive scheduled on Saturday. She shared that the students make the calls to the farmers for their donations and pick up the food. It is a student-led service and she thanked the Board for supporting their efforts.

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 at the November New York State Board of Regents meeting, proposed graduation measures were presented by the Blue Ribbon Commission. At this time nothing has been approved by the Board of Regents. She shared the proposal, entitled "NY Inspired: A Plan to Transform Education in New York State," which includes four key elements:

- Implementation of Four Transformations: A strategy designed to responsibly and effectively implement the four key transformations: adopting the New York State Portrait of a Graduate, redefining credits to focus on proficiency, sunseting diploma assessment requirements, and moving to one diploma.
- Phased Approach: The plan features a structured timeline consisting of a planning year followed by three distinct phases for implementation.
- Enhanced Stakeholder Engagement: The New York State Education Department stated their commitment to incorporating additional opportunities for stakeholder feedback throughout the process.
- Focus on Planning and Professional Development: The plan allocates time for thorough planning, professional learning opportunities and clear communication among all participants.

At this time, nothing has been voted on and approved by the Board of Regents. As developments and samples are shared, they will be reported to the Board with updates.

Superintendent Edwards added that if the proposal is adopted, the district would not be able to add graduation requirements such as community service.

E. Athletic Director's Report

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

F. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Edwards shared a quick summary with the Board regarding the Regionalization Planning Framework. The BOCES District Superintendent's role and responsibilities in Regionalization are to convene regional educational leaders; facilitate the use of the Strengths and Needs Tool/Survey to help districts analyze data, strengths, areas of need and vision; work with component districts to identify areas where collaboration could be beneficial; and work with component districts to write the final Regionalization Plan and submit it to the New York State Education Department. The Regionalization process is intended to help ensure that all students in a region have access to high-quality educational opportunities.

Superintendent Edwards further shared the NYSED Regionalization Timelines and Deadlines which include Initial Convening after January 1, 2025 to focus on logistics and collaboration foundations; Interim Progress Report April 1, 2025 which the BOCES District Superintendent, in collaboration with regional Superintendents, submits the report to NYSED; and the Final Regionalization Plan October 1, 2025 submitted by the BOCES District Superintendent in collaboration with regional Superintendents.

Superintendent Edwards also shared some Facts from Fiction with the Board about Regionalization. A great deal of work has been done on the forty-page survey that needed to be completed. It has been completed and submitted to the New York State Education Department.

Superintendent Edwards shared the Capital Project Update #19 with the Board. It is anticipated that the locker rooms will be completed by December 20th. The update includes pictures of the completed High School Gym together with the new High School Heating Boilers and High School Boiler Room. There is a punch list of items to be completed. The track won't be completed until after July 1st once the track season is complete and Graduation has been held. This was caused by a product malfunction.

10. BOARD DATES

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME
Monday	January 13, 2025 (2 nd Monday)	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 pm

(BOARD DATES - continued)

Tuesday	January 28, 2025	Finance and Audit Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
Monday	February 03, 2025	Regular Board of Education Meeting	7:00 pm
Tuesday	February 25, 2025	Finance and Audit Committee Meeting	6:00 pm
Tuesday	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

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11. EXECUTIVE SESSION WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

BOARD APPROVED

12. OPEN SESSION

BOARD APPROVED

Board President, Mr. Wadhams invited the Board to consider attending the Genesee Valley School Boards Association Legislative Breakfast on January 18th. He will be attending this event.

13. ADJOURNMENT

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