

ALDEN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Transcription of the  
Board of Education Meeting  
May 7, 2020

For the purpose of this transcription, the following people spoke at this meeting:

- Board of Education: Jill Hopcia, President; Michael Bennett; Vice President; Richard Karalus, Michael Karpie, Tanya Lords-Quinn; Ken Stoldt and James Yoerg.
- Adam Stoltman, Superintendent of Schools
- Paul Karpik, School Business Administrator
- Kevin Ryan, High School Principal

At 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Hopcia: Okay, I'd like to call the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag.

Collectively: I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mrs. Hopcia: I need a motion to go into Executive Session.

District Clerk: For what purpose?

Mrs. Hopcia: All in favor?

District Clerk: I need to know the reason.

Mrs. Hopcia: Oh contractual.

Mr. Karalus: So moved.

Mr. Yoerg: Second.

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries.

*Board of Education in Executive Session*

At 7:27 p.m.

Mrs. Hopcia: All right. I need a motion to reopen the regular meeting.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second

Mrs. Hopcia: All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. Alright, I want to have a moment of silence Chris Sharon Ezzo, a retired bus driver in 2016, so if we could just take a moment to think of Sharon.

Mrs. Hopcia: A motion to approve the Board of Education minutes from the regular meeting held on April 21 2020.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second

Mrs. Hopcia: Do we have any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to receive warrants and budget standards reports for the period ending April 15 2020.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Are we recording still?

District Clerk: Yes.

Mrs. Hopcia: Okay. A motion as needed, upon the recommendation of the superintendent to approve a medical leave of absence under the Family Medical Leave Act for Bridget Palys teacher aide, effective March 23, 2020 through June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions. All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed, upon the recommendation of the superintendent to appoint the following coaches for the 20-21 fall athletic season with stipends as per the ATA Contract.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to approve the following resolution, be it resolved that upon the recommendation of the superintendent Board of Education of the Alden Central School District hereby ratifies the collective bargaining agreement and hereby approves the funding of the Agreement

between the Superintendent and the Alden Teachers' Association for the period of July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2024.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. Motion is needed to approve the requests for the following employees to carry over up to five unused vacation days June 2021 school year, upon recommendation of the superintendent as listed.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to approve the following resolution. The Board of Education of the Alden Central School District hereby approves a memorandum of agreement between Alden Central Schools and the Alden Central School Related Personnel Association as presented, and to authorize Adam Stoltman, superintendent of schools, to sign and execute the same.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to approve the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Alden Central School District hereby approves a memorandum of agreement between Alden Central Schools and the Alden Central School Employees Association as presented and to authorize Adam Stoltman, superintendent of schools, to sign and executed the same.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to approve the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Alden Central School District hereby approves a memorandum of agreement between Alden Central Schools and the Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant as presented, and to authorize Adam Stoltman, superintendent of schools, to sign and execute the same.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to approve the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Alden Central School District hereby approves a memorandum of agreement between all Alden Central Schools and the Civil Service Employees Association as presented and to authorize Adam Stoltman, superintendent of schools, to sign and execute the same.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries.

District Clerk: Can I just interrupt for one second please? I'm sorry. Tanya, I think you're volume is up, can you just turn your volume down on your...

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: Sorry.

District Clerk: Okay.

Mrs. Hopcia: All set? A motion is needed to approve the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Alden Central School District hereby approves memorandum of agreements between Alden Central Schools and the following lunch monitors as presented and to authorize Adam Stoltman, superintendent of schools, to sign and execute the same as listed.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, to approve the following resolution as listed.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, to approve the following resolution as listed.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, to approve the New York State's minimum wage as the rate of pay for inspectors of election.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to appoint the following as inspectors of election for the school budget vote and election on Tuesday, June 9 2020, as listed.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is to appoint Jill Hopcia, Board of Education president, as chairperson for the school budget vote and election on June 9, 2020

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to accept the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Alden Central School District has reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Committee on special education from the meetings held on April 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to accept the following resolutions: Be it resolved that the Board of Education of the Alden Central School District has reviewed and accepted the recommendations of the Committee on special, preschool special education from the meeting held on April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.



Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. Motion is needed to approve the following budget transfers: budget 11 and 12.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. A motion is needed to accept the following donation: \$550 from Alden sports boosters club to cover a portion of the cost of thumbs up videos videography services for the 2020 fall season.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: Any questions?

Mr. Yoerg: What would be the situation, let's say we come to the fall and things aren't open, we're not having sports or something like that. Does this money go back to the boosters. I'm assuming we are, but (*unintelligible*) like this or..

Mr. Stoltman: I would say that we treat it just like the field trips, and field trip money gets returned to the students. So, in this case the donation will get returned sports boosters.

Mr. Yoerg: Okay.

Mrs. Hopcia: All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. All right, on to my report. Um, well I don't know if you want to wait until we start talking about the budget, or if we want to have a conversation about the governor's desire to have us vote with this \$30,000 onus that's going to be coming on the town, do you want to talk about it now or do you want to talk about it during budget. All right. Um, so your thoughts on the fact that we are going to be sending these slips to homes or we're not sure that the voters are going to be represented.

Mr. Yoerg: Well I just wanted to say (*unintelligible*) I know there's a lot of things that you've been investigating. We got to find out who we got to send these to, and we go with what role, we go with the Erie County Board of Elections and who's registered, and I know that you had some a little bit insight on that. As far as I know you're still working out quite a bit.

Mr. Stoltman: To be completely honest, Tracy's been working really hard on it. Tracy's been sharing a lot of info.

Mr. Yoerg: I should have addressed this to Tracy.

Mr. Stoltman: I'm glad.. and she can, she can jump in anytime. So you're correct, the list that they suggest we use are for registered voters, voters. As you know, registered voters don't necessarily, not all registered voters in Erie County, might not be I'm sorry, let me back up. To be eligible to vote in a school board election, you don't have to be a registered voter, okay, and what complicates matters for us is Erie County is willing to give us that list of registered voters which won't include people that aren't registered, but we also have to work with Wyoming and Genesee County also, Tracy was able, (*unintelligible*), we worked some things out with BOCES, but just today we found out that BOCES just can't handle the demand and they were, they were good, and they were fearful they won't be able to make some deadlines that are imposed upon us. So Tracy prior to this was working with, with another company that I'm not going to mention, that has told us at least, and are in the process of getting, getting, getting us a list of all eligible voters, for school board election. I don't know how they have that information. I asked Tracy to, once they give her the list, to give it to me and I'll cross reference things. We did have to provide them with our boundaries, so I believe that Deb Hoffman, Tracy? Deb Hoffman gave Tracy the coordinates of our district for them to utilize to try to get that information. Today's Alden Advertiser and in future publications, Tracy has said that if you don't receive a ballot by a certain date, please call the district clerk, and we'll make sure we get one to you. So in the example that, you know, registered voters get their ballot and they

happen to have a college-age student home and is not a registered voter they didn't get one. They simply pick up the phone and call Tracy will get one in the mail to them right away.

Mrs. Hopcia: What's the timeline on it.

*(unintelligible)*

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, it depends on certain things are due on certain days. And, what we do know is June 9 by five o'clock, all absentee ballots have to be returned to the district clerk, and we start putting them through the scan machine, if.. Did we get confirmation we have 100% certainty that the county is going to be able to give us scan machines?

District Clerk: Not 100% certainty, but it does sound, it sounds like they're going to at least supply us with one.

Mr. Stoltman: So that's the other issue. The other issue that we are not yet quite certain whether we're going to have machines because remember I believe that the primary goal is shortly after that, a couple weeks after that, that they expressed a concern of being able to do both.

Mrs. Hopcia: And then, who would be charged with dealing with that one machine? You?

District Clerk: No, the election inspectors.

Mrs. Hopcia: Okay.

District Clerk: But my only concern with that, with that also is with one machine with that high volume of ballots going through it, that it can't handle it.

Mrs. Hopcia: Of course. Sure.

Mr. Yoerg: Now I know one of the things that you mentioned was estimated costs. You mentioned 30,000 but there's an estimated cost of around \$30,000 correct? Somewhere in that ballpark, that's the...

Mr. Stoltman: That's our best guess right now, we're trying to mitigate some of those costs. So, the way the, the executive order reads is we have to provide the absentee ballots, which requires us to obviously pay for postage when it leaves Alden Central School District. But not only, we have to pay postage for that we've got to pay the postage for to be returned. In a household with a mom and dad that are eligible to vote, they don't get one envelope with two ballots they get two envelopes, one ballot in each envelope. So it's postage, out postage back. We are trying to work with the United States Postal Service to open an

account to see if we can help minimize that cost, where we wouldn't necessarily pay return postage if they don't return their ballot.

Mrs. Hopcia: And the governor is not willing to reimburse us for this money that we are putting out.

Mr. Stoltman: We, we're not certain; we're going to try our best to, to get the FEMA relief. So we've started with some things that if we're eligible for FEMA, during this pandemic, we're going to submit, and see what happens. Some other things that we're going to be submitting, our sanitizing machines that we're purchasing to sanitize our buildings and grounds, and Paul, what was the other thing on the list?

Mr. Karpik: Disposable gloves, masks, any, any PPE type of equipment that we're going to be using (*unintelligible*).

Mr. Yoerg: But this money goes to the taxpayers right now. So right now, this, if we were to pay this \$30,000, this goes out of school budget.

Mr. Stoltman: Yes.

Mr. Yoerg: Which then goes back to the taxpayers. So, Cuomo, who has put this out, basically said, you have to do this, there could be this cost of roughly \$30,000, and our taxpayers in this district, eventually, are, through our process, with we have to spend here, rather than maybe hiring a teacher, or keeping a program open, or running an athletic events, or whatever, we have to spend it on sending these things out. Now yeah, great, we might get FEMA back on this, but where does the Governor come off basically saying that we need to spend taxpayer dollars. We worked so hard on this budget. So, (*unintelligible*) now we have to spend this additional \$30,000. So, you know, it's probably more of a rhetorical point that I'm making here, but this money does come back eventually on the local school district and a local taxpayer to pay this \$30,000, if we can't get it returned.

Mr. Stoltman: It's an expenditure this year.

Mr. Yoerg: Yeah, this year.

Mr. Stoltman: Right, correct.

Mr. Karpik: Based on my webinar I attended this afternoon, I don't believe that, that we'll possibly be eligible, and with FEMA you get, if it's eligible costs, we get maximum, 75% of the cost, so if it cost us 20,000, or something, we would get 75% of that, and would get reimbursed for 75%, so

Mr. Yoerg: If it qualifies.

Mr. Karpik: If it qualifies. I don't think this, based on all the things I heard today. I'm not thinking it's gonna qualify.

Mr. Bennett: This is absolutely ridiculous that this governor comes up with this plan, unachievable, for school districts. We have no list of eligible voters. You don't have to be registered to vote in the school budget but this guy, he knows everything, right? Puts this executive order out that makes no sense. I mean, he passes down the buck to the local district for \$30,000 when he sits there and complains to the federal government. If they put a band aid on them, then, oh you need to pay for it, but he passes it down to us. It's, this vote is ridiculous, that this guy would even come up with this idea. It's going to lead to voter fraud. How are we supposed to know who we mailed the ballot to is the one who actually fills out the ballot and returns it. There's no way to tell who's filling the ballots out. I can't believe they didn't come up with a better plan. Like I've said, there's some things you can do, a drive through voting, like they do with the testing; do it over a couple of days. You don't have to have contact with anyone, they can hand you the ballot you can put it in the slip by yourself. No, you don't have to touch anything. It's ridiculous that this guy comes out with a plan that is unachievable for a school district, and some of these people sit there and they're, oh you can get it, you can get it from the board of elections. The Board of Elections only does registered voters, you can have somebody that moves in the district 30 days ago, that's over 18, they're not going to know about it. And how's he going to make sure he or she can, they get their ballot. It's this guy sits there and makes up these orders and I don't think he thought it through. And I gotta be honest with you, I think that these associations, the school board associations, superintendents associations, this is a time we need them to stand up for these districts; to go to the governor and tell them that this is an unattainable. We can't, there is no way possible that a school district is going to get to every single eligible voter, and you're not going to stop voter fraud, from people filling out someone else's ballot, or stealing them out of the mailbox, or what have you. I just I don't get it. This guy. I don't understand why people, I'm sorry, Tracy, you got to transcribe this, it's gonna take a while. This guy, Cuomo, everybody loves him he's the greatest thing since sliced bread, and then he's coming out with this online school too. This guy is pushing his agenda that he's tried years ago when he had John King as the Commissioner of Education to consolidate school districts do this online education. The kids don't want to learn on line, they want to come back to school, and they want to be taught by their teachers, and they want to be in school with their friends, and this clown sits there and thinks he knows everything. He doesn't have a clue. My daughter said something to one of our college friends about it; they go this is coming probably from a guy that hasn't been in a school in the last 30 years. He has no clue what's going on. Then he wants to bring Bill Gates into it and reimagine New York education. Bill Gates, he can take a hike, because the last time he put his foot into the door. It was a disaster. And I don't understand it, this Governor is using this pandemic to to push his agenda against the schools, he's been against the schools, ever since he got in, and I don't understand why people. I gotta stop myself. It's ridiculous. But I can't, he's putting out this vote. There's no way possible that it's going to not lead to fraud, and that we're going to be able to reach every single voter, and there's other options out there but you know he's, he's the know it all I guess right now because there's no checks and balances with the state right now, so whatever he says goes, but I'm telling you, I can't stand that he came out with that order. I think it's ridiculous, and I don't know why these school

districts, why we should put up with it, we ought to stand up and tell him it's unachievable, and we're not doing it and there's no way we can do it. And we need to make sure people that vote, it's a proper vote and if there is no fraud. I just don't understand it, it drives me crazy. And this guy is using this pandemic to push his agenda and everybody's just gonna sit back and take it, and it's not right. That's what I think. Sorry Tracy for having to transcribe it.

Mr. Karalus: I have a few questions on the verification of votes. So, you know, we're sending out what about right around 10,000 ballots, or how many ballots, do we even have an estimate?

Mr. Stoltman: No.

Mr. Karalus: And are those balances numbered or is that a way to verify that only a ballot is *(unintelligible)*.

Mr. Stoltman: So, each ballot, Tracy can jump in at any point, the way we typically would run an absentee ballot is each vote would go out and require a affidavit on the back for them to sign to attest that they are who they claim to be in addition to that I've asked and I'm not sure how she made out, and I don't mean to put her on the spot, but I asked if there was way that you could do a barcode. she was working with Frank and I'm not, do we have any progress on the barcode?

District Clerk: For the ballots?

Mr. Stoltman: Yes, to be able to scan them when they come in so we know.

District Clerk: When I, when we finalize the budget. I'll send my, well actually it's actually after May 11, when I have all my board candidates. So May 12<sup>th</sup> I'll send my ballot strip information to Erie County Board of Elections *(unintelligible)* information I need to put on there so it's scannable, they'll make a PDF of it and they'll work on, they will work directly with BOCES, and BOCES will print the ballots for us on the proper paper.

Mr. Karalus: I guess what I'm saying is there, is there a way to make sure that the ballots that are coming back are the ones that were sent out, so they don't, say, go to a printer,

District Clerk: They can't. It'll have to have the bar code.

Mr. Karalus: But it will be an individual bar code for each ballot right, not just one bar code.

District Clerk: It's one bar code. *(Unintelligible)* on a certain amount, there's a certain quality paper.

Mr. Stoltman: So the barcode being able to scan and load into the database that this ballot belongs to so and so. And it got returned. We didn't get any progress on that we didn't hear about yeah that's what I'm kind of asking right I know that a ballot that's going to say my address is the one when it goes and gets scanned it says okay this ballot came from an address that we sent it out to rather than...

Mr. Stoltman: And I'm not, I'm not sure Rich, if she asked the question because, let's keep in mind also, if that, if that technology was available, and if we to implement it, there also could be the discussion that you know how somebody voted.

Mr. Karpik: Right.

*(Unintelligible)*

Mr. Stoltman: It might be part of the reason why it's not advisable.

District Clerk: But the back of the envelope will be an oath. And they have to sign that, so we will be able to tell who, what individual returned the ballot.

Mr. Karalus: Yeah, exactly. So it's gonna be kind of the same. That way, you know what I mean, you're still getting somebody's signature.

Mr. Stoltman: Well, the bar code's not necessarily on the ballot, correct? It's on the...

District Clerk: The bar code is not on the ballot.

*(Unintelligible)*

Mr. Stoltman: The affidavit, yep, sorry, the affidavits on the envelope, correct?

District Clerk: Correct.

Mrs. Hopcia: Causing a lot of problems.

Mr. Yoerg: Like Mr. Bennett said, I think one of the things that concerns me about this entire process is fraud, fraud from the fact that voting on the budget, voting on the other propositions, voting on the board members. You know we cut out a process; how long have we had this process in place with regard to board members, you need to get signatures, you need to file the right paperwork. That's all gone. It's all well whoever wants to run now, you know, as long as you meet these three or four criteria. I've ran for the board three separate times and I had to do all this work, I had to fill out all this paperwork, and I willingly did it, you know, now we're getting rid of that process. If I, I read the executive order that was sent and I

read it doesn't say things that we can't do. Like certify a signature on that card. Where does it say we can't require it to be notarized?

Mr. Stoltman: So my advice to Tracy is that we have it notarized.

Mr. Yoerg: Yeah

Mr. Stoltman: So somebody who's, somebody that's putting into run for the board of education should, should have to go to a notary and prove that they are who they are so that would prevent somebody from putting someone's name on interested in running for the school board, and the person's not aware of it.

District Clerk: I was actually advised by our attorney not to do that because you can't ask them to go up to a notary because...

Mr. Stoltman: We can have that conversation, because at my meeting this afternoon, actually, another attorney suggested we do it.

Mr. Yoerg: Well, I'm not talking about warrants, I'm talking about votes. There's nothing that says that we can't ask the signature that you're gonna put on that envelope to be notarized. and get back to the excellent points we brought up here, how do I know, you know you get two ballots sent to your, in Mike's case, you'll probably get at least four ballots sent to your house and what's to say Mike doesn't fill out those four ballots and send them in. We don't, we don't know that..

Mr. Stoltman: But it's ridiculous.

Mr. Yoerg: If you had to go in, you had to get it notarized, and you had print put on there and talk about the what, what happens with voter fraud and there are arrests, and you can get imprisonment, and you can get fines, it would be great to put that right on there; maybe that's going to scare some people but always that process out there that something could go wrong, and even, even to the copying of them. Yes, there's certainly a stock of paper, there's bar codes and stuff like that, but people are smart. Now, are they going to bother to do that for a vote here, in Alden? I don't know, maybe they will, but there's so much that's out there, working within the limitations, if that's what you're forced to do. I think there's certain ways that we could get around that and certify even if we have to.

Mr. Bennett: He could have come up with better ideas like I said, we can be trusted to go to Tops, socially distance, I mean, people are going to Walmart, Home Depot we can be trusted, but the government doesn't trust us to socially distance for our constitutional right to vote, which is one of the greatest rights we have as Americans, and he's going to take that right away from us, but he doesn't, he doesn't think that we're smart enough to socially distance ourselves to vote. It's absolutely ridiculous. I'm telling you, I don't understand why people, I just don't understand why they, they're not up in arms about it (*unintelligible*).



You can't, he's telling us you can't be trusted to vote basically, we can't trust you. But we can, it's okay if you go to Walmart though, or you go to Home Depot your trusted then, but you can't be trusted to vote. He's treating us like we don't, we're not grown adults and we don't know how to behave ourselves. And I, I'm telling you, it's ridiculous.

Mr. Karalus: (*Unintelligible*) Now when the ballots come into my mailbox, you know, there's three of mine, I know my neighbors got a family of eight or something. You know, what's to say somebody walks to the next mailbox and grabs those ballots. But, I just don't understand the verification process, just doesn't seem to be there.

Mr. Bennett: Right. And that's it. That's what I said, I mean even if you did it over two days, so there's not a rush, and everybody feels like they have to get in there and vote, I mean you know I'm just an average Joe from, you know, Alden, (*unintelligible*) You know this guy, surrounded by all these people they're supposed to know so much, and they can't even come up with an idea, they probably don't even realize I had somebody tell me, "Oh you get it on the, on the board of education, you can get that from the, the Board of Elections, the voter list." Like no, there's, there's no list, and then they're like oh sure there is and I explained it to them they go I didn't know that, I'm a city resident, we don't vote on school board budgets. So people that live in the cities don't, they have no idea. So, people in New York City aren't up in arms about this budget vote because they don't care because they don't vote on a budget

Mrs. Hopcia: And they get all the money anyway.

Mr. Bennett: Yeah, people in Buffalo don't care about school budgets. They have no idea of what's going on. So it's all us rural districts that are stuck with this, and I don't even know, maybe Cuomo doesn't even know what's going on, how it's supposed to be done. I mean, if sure, you had to be a registered voter for a school board election, it would be easy, absolutely, totally great. But that's not the way it done, it's never been like that. And we're just supposed to pull a list out of the air and, and hope that they little Susie I think she's 18, so let's, let's get a little Susie and little Johnny, you know, I think they moved back into their parents, that's where they live, I think, let's mail ballots to them. Meanwhile, they don't live there, they live in some other district. It's ridiculous.

Mr. Yoerg: And then what kind of, what kind of stuff do we face if we did send it to little Suzie.

(*Unintelligible*).

Mr. Bennett: Right.

Mr. Yoerg: "I never got mine." And until I think what we're doing now, and I apologize Mike, and I think we are telling them that if they don't receive, and you mentioned that before, that if you don't receive...

Mr. Stoltman: All of our publications will say, what's the date, Tracy?

District Clerk: I can't remember what...

*(Unintelligible)*

Mrs. Hopcia: It's a ridiculously short amount of time.

Mr. Karpie: Adam?

Mr. Stoltman: Yes, Mike!

Mr. Karpie: I have a quick question. Obviously, you're talking to other school districts. What are other school districts doing?

Mr. Stoltman: The exact same thing they weren't doing and everybody's just as frustrated as Mr. Bennett.

Mr. Karalus: We shouldn't be in the business of trying to figure out whose a voter and who is not. We're a school board. We're not a voter registration system.

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, Tracy, Tracy's in constant contact with the district clerk's, I'm in contact three times a week with the district superintendents, we're all frustrated we're all trying to figure it out, which is why BOCES got involved because they're really trying to collaborate as much as they can to keep the cost down for us, and assist in any way possible. We are unique; we have three counties, which complicates things a little bit for us.

Mr. Bennett: Like I said, besides his school budget votes, with his online classes and oh it's time to reimagine school. I'm telling you, this guy has no clue. He's never been a friend of education in New York State Public Education, he's always tried to cut funding, he's trying to consolidate schools. Back when John King was the commissioner, I went to a conference and he spoke about, oh this is a district, this is what we'd like to see and it was a school district of about 150,000 kids, he's using this to push his agenda through, and he has never been a friend of public education, and he's showing his true colors right now. With all this online, it's time to remake, he's pushed online education seven years ago and stuff when we heard about it. And the kids don't want that stuff, they want to be in a classroom, want to be with their friends, they want to be with the teachers. Again, my kids in college that got sent home, and they had to start taking online classes, they said if it was online classes in the fall, they're not even gonna bother to enroll for the fall semester, because they hate it so much. My daughter hates, that's in eighth grade, hates the uh, not that she, she would rather be in school right now, not that she has a choice.

Mr. Hopcia: It is not best practice.

Mr. Bennett: It's not no. What it's ridiculous. For this guy to sit there, he has no clue what he's talking about. Should it happen, as a parent, I'm talking as a parent, that this is not acceptable we shouldn't sit here and listen to this guy and think that he knows everything because he doesn't. And he's 100% wrong on that, and this budget vote. But I'm telling you for him to sit there and then to bring Bill Gates back into it. Tell Bill Gates, go sit on the sidelines and, and collect his money from Microsoft and stay out of the public school system, and he screwed it up before and it's ridiculous. I don't understand it, but I just, people should be more up in arms about that also.

Mrs. Hopcia: Thank you.

Mr. Bennett: Sorry Tracy.

Mrs. Hopcia: Yes, Tracy, we apologize.

*(Unintelligible – several talking at once)*

Mrs. Hopcia: Alright, Board Comments. I do want to say one more thing before, before I hand over, if you have another comment. Today I adopted a senior. I don't know if any of you are aware that that is something that is something in Alden. So I wanted to bring that up for you, that some parents got together and did a thing on Facebook where you can adopt to senior in Alden and just send them a card or something to acknowledge they're, they're here since their year has been curtailed, so if you're interested you can talk to me about it. Mike, anything else to say.

Mr. Bennett: No, I'm all set.

Mrs. Hopcia: Okay, Ken?

Mr. Stoldt: Nope, nothing.

Mrs. Hopcia: Mike Karpie?

Mr. Karpie: I'm all set.

Mrs. Hopcia: Tanya?

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: I, I'm totally with Mike on this. And I know I've talked to a lot of the parents and their kids are not doing well this online stuff, at all. They need the structure, and my daughter, she's, she's doing well, she's keeping up line, but even she's having trouble. And there's some things that would be wonderful that they have a zoom class that they can talk to and stuff like that but it's not the same.

Mrs. Hopcia: Not the same.

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: Just not the same.

Mrs. Hopcia: I know. Rich?

Mr. Karalus: I did go on, I think it was YouTube and see the Alden band, perform which was really impressive area really nicely done with all the individuals that, basically, screenshots of the individuals playing their instruments. And then they put it all together and it sounded like a real concert, it was really impressive. It almost brought a tear to my eye watching all the kids work so hard, (*unintelligible*) on Zoom, seeing everybody doing it at home. So, I'm liking these comments a little better.

Mrs. Hopcia: Thanks! Jim?

Mr. Yoerg: Yeah, just two quick things: Number one - what we did for the seniors, I thought that was awesome. (*Unintelligible*) Yeah, watching, and watching and all the photos and just people so happy that the delivery of those signs, placing them on the lawns, you know, it meant a lot to the seniors. I don't have a senior this year. But, you know, I know a lot of the kids that are graduating and it's hard. It's hard for them heartbreaking because they're. Hopefully in the near future we can still do something for them but I thought was wonderful. I thought it was great that we got out there, I see a lot of school districts doing that. It really means a lot to the students, so kudos for everything else you have on your plate, you know, for our District to step up, step up and do something like that, I thought, I thought it was absolutely amazing. And the only other comment, you know, this certainly goes back to, to what we're doing here and I'd like to applaud the District on everything. I know you guys are working hard, even though we may not agree with things that are happening here and I'm not even sure if there's a way out of it. Who knows, by the time that night comes around, New York State might be completely open and everything that you put into executive orders will be null and void anyway, because he clearly talks to the fact that, you know, we're doing this to protect people, and social distance and stuff like that but yeah, in, what, a week we could be going through phase one. By the time this hits we could be on phase three and opening up and going to the damn sabers games. So, okay, maybe not quite that fast, but, what happens then? Okay, we want to do all this stuff by then, maybe the week before we're opening up everything and to hell with that. I just think it's frustrating that we're being asked to do something so far out because we have to; we have to plan, we have to get all that information out there, but who knows, that night, we might actually...

Mr. Karalus: Do we have (*unintelligible*) to open up to hold a normal vote? You know, is that, is that possible? That might be the best way..

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, I. Is it a possibility? Anything's possible. I don't know how many weeks in advance Tracy needs to reserve the machines. And I don't know how many weeks in advance we need to provide

notice, and how we're doing the election. So, as we've learned anything's possible in an executive order. It happens like that.

Mr. Karalus: Right. Well unfortunately, we can't issue executive orders.

Mr. Stoltman: Right. What if he changes his mind. Yeah.

Mrs. Hopcia: So all we can do is try to change his mind.

Mr. Karalus: Thank you guys, everybody in administration, teachers, this is all uncharted territory. You know what I mean? Tracy, sounds like you're getting a lot of work that you just kind of have to work through without much, you know background on how to do it, so we all appreciate that.

District Clerk: It's been a challenge for all of us clerks so, well for everybody, but, yeah. We've all had our challenges.

Mr. Karalus: I'm sure this wasn't in the job description.

District Clerk: I feel sorry for the first year clerks.

Mr. Yoerg: Or maybe it's easier because they don't know any better.

Mrs. Hopcia: Over to you sir.

Mr. Stoltman: Okay principals reports in the spirit of the time, I know the principals provided updates in their reports if you have any questions they're on the call right now like if I have a question, address them if not we'll move on to the next part of the agenda, I know they're working feverishly with their staff, each and every day. I know the staff is working with their departments and their grade levels to plan lessons and activities and provide feedback, and it goes without saying what our food service people, our aides are doing to feed our folks but I also don't want to miss out on the transportation folks that are delivering those meals. And this week, cleaners. (*Unintelligible*) buildings and grounds. You know, the grass isn't going to stop growing. So we've got to make sure

(*unintelligible*).

Mr. Stoltman: Yep, they're doing a good job.

Mr. Yoerg: I just have one question if you don't mind if you answer, and maybe Kevin can chime in on it, graduations coming. Time is going to come and go, what's the plan as far as recognizing the technical

side and actually handing diplomas out if we're not gonna have a, obviously, a formal process here because I know that Kevin has been working on this along with all the staff but..

Mr. Karalus: I hear a rumor, but I don't want to bring it up.

Mr. Yoerg: You heard a rumor?

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, I'll let Kevin speak. And the answer to that is there's (*unintelligible*) Wyoming health department, okay, to, or Niagara health department, because there's a lot of different things out there in the works, one of which was maybe inappropriately shared at Facebook over this weekend. We have had conversations with drive-ins. Okay, about possibly doing something. We've had conversations internally, about what might it look like here if we did something here on the field with the kids. They've talked about, you know, drive-through graduation, they've got a boat load, I don't know what Kevin talked about, but when Kevin and I talked a couple weeks ago, it was about preparing many different options, because we don't know what the future holds. And you know, we should have several different things that we can do in the event that we're status quo right now, what does the graduation look like. Is there a virtual graduation. In the event that we're in phase one or phase two. What might that look like. I can tell you now I was on a call last week with Gail Bernstein last week, no this week, today's Thursday, so it was Monday, and they're not in favor of any gathering. Right now, she's not optimistic in June that there'd be any large gathering in Erie County. So I said, so then if we're moving things to Wyoming County, I guess we talk to Wyoming County health department, which we would have to do, we would have to do so,

(*Unintelligible*)

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, if that's one of the requirements are no, no large groups beyond 50, okay, well then Kevin's got a plan for that. What does that look like right you know if it's no large gatherings beyond 10, then he's got a plan for that, and Kevin I'm sorry, where are you on the screen?

District Clerk: I can, Kevin, you turn your volume down before I unmute you? I've got a lot of background noise.

Mr. Stoltman: You there bud?

Mr. Ryan: I'm here.

Mr. Stoltman: Okay. Did you get a question?

Mr. Ryan: Yes. To answer the question. And you know, to add to what Adam's already shared, we have plans A through F in the works. And I've been meeting every week. Twice a week with two different groups we have, and obviously remotely by zoom. I'm meeting with all of the senior class officers, the

senior class advisor, and a number of other people to work with the seniors on different aspects of senior events that typically traditionally take place in the spring. So we are getting their input. And they are part of the decision making process; certainly they have their own thoughts and feelings about what they want to do and what they don't want to do. Ultimately as Adam has shared you know our, our decision will be based on what we're allowed to do by the health department in the location that we're going to do it. So, you know, again I'm working with staff as well in another zoom session during the week to work through many of those senior issues, including graduation. And, again, you know whether it's, you know, a drive in movie theater, which I know has become the, you know, of the rumor talk in different, you know, communities across Western New York. Again, that presents its own challenges or, you know, a large venue where we can spread people out, or a virtual ceremony if that's what we have to do. We are moving ahead with our plans, so we're already in in process of having speeches done and prerecorded so that no matter what we do, we'll be ready to put a program together. If people get to do their speeches in person and in a large group setting great, but what I can tell you is that we will be ready for whatever it is that we can do to give our kids, a fitting graduation and confer their diplomas.

Mr. Yoerg: Thank you, Kevin.

Mr. Karalus: Yes, thank you.

Mr. Yoerg: We're very proud of everything that's going on and the work and effort that you and your staff and everybody here is putting in, it's just amazing. Very proud. (*Unintelligible*) what it's going to look like. But we look forward to it, that's for sure.

Mr. Stoltman: Okay, any other questions for you any of the principal's?

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: What about for the yearbooks? How are, what's going to happen?

Mr. Stoltman: Okay, it's a good question. And I ask for a little bit of trust, because some of the activities we're talking about we kind of want to surprise kids with. So without getting into too many details and some activities that are potentially happening across the district, if you don't mind.

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: Alright.

Mr. Stoltman: Okay. How'd I do guys, alright?

Mr. Karalus: And, I don't know if that's even possible but you know as a board member, in some way, shape or form been involved in the graduation, I like going to the graduations every year that may not be possible this year but you know, even if it's just to, you know, have access to an on-line ceremony and, you know keep us in mind.

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, absolutely.

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: Are they going to do anything for the kindergartner graduations or the moving up for the fifth graders?

Mr. Stoltman: We've, I've asked the principals to take a look at things like that to see what, what makes sense and what's feasible. I know that there are some things in the works (*unintelligible*). We did have a conversation. Once the announcement was made. Keep in mind, it was only less than a week ago, we found out we weren't coming back. So as a part of our admin meeting on Monday or when's Wednesday. Wednesday, sorry. Wednesday we talked about all the end of the year things that we do.

Mrs. Lords-Quinn: Yeah, I know all the kids seem so disappointed. I mean I remember going to the kindergarten graduations and moving-up days and you know the eighth-grade dances, or, you know, the eighth grade ceremonies were always so much fun. So, yeah.

Mr. Karalus: Board members are sad (*unintelligible*).

Mr. Stoltman: Thank you for understanding we don't want to spill the beans just yet.

Mr. Yoerg: Thank you.

Mr. Stoltman: Updates. No, I'm sorry principal, Paul over to you; budget discussions.

Mr. Karpik: Alright, Ken and Mike, you're on the other side of the screen today. If you have any questions, please speak up, I cannot see you on my screen so if you have any questions just chime in and I'll try to answer the best I can. Any questions from the last board meeting. I know we had some directive from the board about where you want the tax cap and the tax levy. So we worked on that, so let's just briefly go over what the preliminary budget's going to look like with the adjustments. And we'll talk about the tax levy, and we'll go from there as to what you want to do with everything. Just as a, before we start the preliminary budget, I know we talked about it a little bit about the board discussion here, about the budget process; so, May 11<sup>th</sup> is really the time that board of ed candidates has to be to the district clerk. May 21<sup>st</sup> is technically last day we can actually adopt the budget. So, you don't really have to do a budget today. But with all the deadlines (*unintelligible*) it makes sense to do that, so the district clerk has to mail out absentee ballots for this vote anywhere between May 11<sup>th</sup> and June 2<sup>nd</sup>. So, I'm not sure how she, how she can possibly mail out ballots (*unintelligible*) May 22<sup>nd</sup>, which would be the day after we adopt the budget, so deadlines and timelines of this whole process are not making a lot of sense, they are really squished, and I'm not sure how much thought was put into this (*unintelligible*). The budget hearing, technically, right now, is set for May 28<sup>th</sup>, it'll be at six o'clock. We'll do that via zoom, nobody in the audience, so it will just basically be Mr. Stoltman and myself presenting the budget to the community. They will be able to, I'm not sure if there will be any questions answered afterward.



Mr. Stoltman: We'll do it like the town hall meeting, via Zoom.

Mr. Karpik: Yes, we will do the best we can to answer any questions. And then June 9<sup>th</sup>, all absentee ballots must be returned to the district clerk by 5pm, which is what we talked about so they have to be here, if put in the mail (*unintelligible*) you may not get your vote counted. It has to be to the district clerk by 5 pm on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

(*Unintelligible*)

Mr. Stoltman: ... get clarification on that.

Mr. Karpik: Okay. So a lot of different things going on and that's basically what Tracy's been working on the last week since Friday. We're all trying to figure out what all this means, and she's doing a really good job with everything. Updated budgets: I know we talked about the, items highlight in yellow are the things we adjusted. So what we ended up doing is we found some cost adjustments at BOCES so we adjusted those costs a little lower, and we reduced that by about \$6,000 from the last meeting. And we're looking to reduce our academic support areas, that's gonna be a reduction of about \$63,000 in costs. So between those two items about \$70,000 in reductions, and the corresponding item when you reduce positions is (*unintelligible*) so I'm adding \$13,000 in unemployment costs to offset that. That was based on 26 weeks when I did it, and my understanding they will get benefits up to 39 weeks. So, some of the numbers may be a little skewed so hopefully things get back to normal and we don't find out it's beyond 26 weeks. So, that additional unemployment cost is going to be covered by the use of our unemployment reserve, so that, that actual cost will not impact of tax, the actual tax levy itself because that will offset that one. So, we reduced by \$70,000 to get down to the number of 35,729,653 so that leaves us with a year to year increase of about 3.15%. I'll talk about what that means for everybody, but this is really the breakdown of where the cost increases are for next year; salaries, reduced staffing. Trying to get to a tax levy that we feel is hopefully appropriate to get a budget passed. Benefits are the big driver there, we have increased cost because of employment. We have increased costs, extra cost for this year, the retirement costs have gone up, and we have health insurance costs going up. So the benefits this year actually larger (*unintelligible*). Contractual costs and BOCES costs, you see a little flip flop there. The actual costs are already going to be going up because of this, the change in placement service. BOCES services for private placement for special ed kids and their services to private placements. That's what that drive is, that's (*unintelligible*). Debt services are our biggest increase in the budget this year. And it's about 40% of our increase. That's all driven by the financing for vision 20/20, I will talk about that in the next slide. So, the impact of that, it looks large on the screen, and the expenditure increase this year looks larger than it should be. But if we take that out of the equation, which is gonna be funded, the increases, is pretty reasonable. Minor changes in equipment, supplies, and transfer to capital is our annual rate (*unintelligible*), provides us reimbursement about 70%. So this year we're gonna be replacing doors at the

Mr. Yoerg: Hopefully.

Mr. Karpik: Hopefully, yes, we ever know Yes.

*(Unintelligible)*

Mr. Karpik: But yes, that's to replace the doors and the Intermediate School to complete the um, as part of the Vision 20/20 replacing, redoing all the hallways in that building. We're gonna replace the doors in each classrooms *(unintelligible)*. Now the debt service costs make up 40% of the increase reduction. That's a large number. All debt service costs we have are offset by either state building aid, and the use of debt service reserves. So there is absolutely no additional cost right now to the tax levy for vision 20/20, for this, the 2020-2021 school year, or the school year 19-20 as well. So I want to be very clear that this capital project that we're doing, that you see construction for the new track, the new science rooms for next year, the new roofs, the new pool complex, right now for next year, there is no tax impact, no debt service cost going up this year. There will be a little, there could be a little bit going forward for the next several years, but it's very minor and based on our bid results, that cost, we got closer to zero *(unintelligible)*.

Mr. Stoltman: And that's a result, and that's a result of the pool.

Mr. Karpik: Correct.

Mr. Stoltman: That we received the okay and the permission.

Mr. Karpik: Correct. So yes, that cost may shrink a little bit. So we, I think, originally had said it would be \$4 per one hundred thousand. Bank costs right now looks like is going to be less.

Mrs. Hopcia: Nice.

Mr. Karpik: It is good news, but I just want people to know that our budget this, the budget expense is not being driven so much by our costs that we're spending, it's being driven by improvements that were, that have already been paid for. Or are going to be financed through the state. So that represents a 3.15% increase year to year in the expenditure margins. If you take into account the, the debt service costs, and the increase in the unemployment costs we have, then we take those out of the equation, because you're going to need your finance through, increase in state building aid, or use of reserve funds. Our year-to-year operating costs increases really, roughly 1.7% right now. What I want folks to know, that, each year-to-year expense increases 3.15 but our actual operating increase for the programs next year, right now, is at 1.7%. So we've done pretty well just trying to control the costs here in the district. Have done that for several years now trying to maintain costs. I just wanted to make that clear so everyone understands what's driving the increase in the budget next year, it's more an increase that we knew was coming and next year we'll even see a larger increase in the debt service, and that will drive the expenditure budget, make it look

a little bit higher in 2021-22, but it's been planned. (*Unintelligible*) on the tax levy will be minimal, if anything, moving forward on the project.

Mr. Stoltman: Because there's corresponding state aid coming in

Mr. Karpik: Correct.

Mr. Stoltman: To offset.

Mr. Karpik: Yes. So for next year, if the concerns right now are still (*unintelligible*) it's going to be our state aid. We're waiting for information from the State. Every time I turn around, the deadline for when he's gonna tell us what the reduction is for next year has been pushed back a little bit, so. Originally, we were supposed to know by early May; right now it's May 15<sup>th</sup>. And now it says it might be pushed back even further. So, we may not know what that impact in that reduction in state aid will be. So we're holding tight on that right now, we're leaving that alone. Erie County sales tax, (*unintelligible*) the sooner the County gets back in operation. And we can move back to hopefully normal lives. We're dealing with this COVID-19 pandemic. (*Unintelligible*). The county sales tax may be overstated right now as well. The biggest driver right now is the tax levy, (*unintelligible*) it's gonna be down to 2.82%. So state revenue concerns for next year; every budget in New York State is based on improving your state budget allocation problem. So, that's based on what we received on the governor and the legislators out through the April budgets. The government camera you see important basis. The first one was supposed to be in April 30 so every quarter after this. He said multiple times that he may reduce us as much as 20%. And what does that mean a 20% reduction in state aid mean, it means to \$2.5 million decrease or extra. So if that were to occur. And we adopt a budget tonight for instance, if he decides to cut us that amount of money, we will probably look at what our year looks like at the end of this fiscal year, and we will probably be forced to make reductions to the programs, to be able to help close that budget gap, so it's probably gonna end up being a combination of seeing what money we can save from this fiscal year and stop all of our spending for this year that we can basically tell the principals and all of the administrators (*unintelligible*) unless it's absolutely necessary. And then we'll figure out what we have left and we'll try to figure out what we can preserve program wise with some of our savings, and (*unintelligible*).

Mr. Karalus: A question on this year's budget, considering that we don't have people in the school are we saving any money are we (*unintelligible*) or what is it looking like for the end of the year. I'm not gonna ask for any (*unintelligible*), any ideas?

Mr. Stoltman: Our staff is still working.

Mr. Karalus: Right I understand that.

Mr. Stoltman: So we're not getting any employees (*unintelligible*). Maybe a little bit of money on fuel for buses, because we're not going through our bus runs however, remember that that then is going to have a negative impact on next year's budget because we're not going to get transportation aid on that money we didn't spend.

Mr. Karpik: And the other things Adam's not mentioning that we are saving money at some salary such as a spring sports season. We would be transporting those students, we'd be taking the students on field trips, that's creating, that is an expense for us typically in the current school year. Any expense that's in the current school year generates our revenue for the next year in transportation aid and other things so if we don't spend the money this year that's also another hit to the budget and the stateside even if the governor doesn't reduce us by the 20% he's talking about, there may be some reduction in the transportation aid and some of those aids that are expense driven. We're just not spending money. And that's gonna, so that savings we have this year, that we are saving for that, will actually have to be applied next year to reduce, to not, to offset that saving so some of that cost that we are truly saving this year, it's just a rollover into next year, so (*unintelligible*).

Mr. Bennett: Are we heating the buildings at the same temperatures?

Mr. Karalus: Well, yeah that's kind of things I'm asking.

Mr. Bennett: You know, like electric bills probably are down, right? do we get, we don't get aid on that right?

Mr. Karpik: We don't know we are probably using less electricity in the buildings because most of the lights are pretty much shut off unless they're in the room, heating and natural sunlight during the daytime. It's probably not even needing lights so we are saving energy cost that way. It's. This is the springtime so our energy costs for use of natural fuel goes down, this time of year, but we don't have 1600 kids in the buildings, using, flushing bathroom toilets constantly. We don't have 1600 kids with computers and charging and having charged up so we are, there is some savings to that, it's minor, but we are saving money on it, and that's the with all the improvements we've been doing with the vision 20/20 with the energy performance project, we've already tricked out some great savings, and have become a lot more efficient with our energy uses that are (*unintelligible*).

Mr. Stoltman: Obviously not being in session, we don't have substitute costs, we're not calling in substitute cleaners or teachers or anybody else because we're not in session so there's, there are some costs to that every year. So that would be savings from March 16 or 15<sup>th</sup>, or close to that.

Mr. Karpik: The biggest concern for this year I think for us right now is hopefully the state does not cut us in any state aid for the current fiscal year we're in, and we don't know that for a fact yet. The other issue is, we know we will expect a reduction in Erie County sales tax so, all the saving said we have right

now may now just get sucked up by the loss of Erie County sales tax that it was projecting to have about 5 or \$600,000 of additional revenue in the last quarter of the year so, all that money dries away and if we go down, if sales tax drops by 50%, we lose \$300,000 revenue. So all that savings we're working right now to save, may just be just offsetting the lost revenue we will have going into next year.

Mr. Bennett: And that's revenue, or the money that comes in is showing up every county taxpayers tax bill right? Doesn't the, the Erie County sales tax doesn't benefit Genesee County or Wyoming County residents.

Mr. Stoltman: Correct, correct.

Mr. Bennett: (*Unintelligible*). Due to that cost is not from the school budget as much as, you apply it to Erie County residents to lower their payment, right?

Mr. Karpik: (*Unintelligible*) We haven't reduced the sales tax projected revenues yet for next year.

Mr. Bennett: Right, but I'm saying any affect of Erie county sales tax money we get will affect..

(*Unintelligible*)

Mr. Stoltman: You're not talking this year, you're talking in the next month or two.

Mr. Bennett: Right, right, but I'm saying it affects Erie county residents, as opposed to Genesee County or Wyoming County.

Mr. Karpik: Correct. Our budget is based on having, I think it was \$4,850,000 on Erie County sales tax so when August comes in, I get the tax levy, I take the tax levy, and I subtract out the \$185 million, and that's the number that we have to come to from tax levy, and then the Erie County towns benefit with some of that savings from sales tax for the other two towns that are in Wyoming and Genesee County don't get so in theory, and thinking that the two counties, two towns outside of Erie County in our district won't see it, they may see less of a increase. I think in 2021 and 22. (*Unintelligible*). We're gonna see mor of an impact to that the following year. But I think there will be an impact to everybody in Erie County a little bit because of that reduction. If that makes sense. And then the other item is, we're hoping that, they keep talking about having more of a stimulus bill to provide additional funding for federal funding to offset if the state were going to reduce our state aid. So, I haven't seen that bill yet, it's like they're trying to figure out what that might be and what that might look like. So maybe we'll see something by the end of the month. And that may be the reason why Governor Cuomo is holding off on giving us a reduction until (*unintelligible*). Once that bill gets passed. At the federal level. Erie County sales tax, we beat this up a little bit. You know, 25% reduction in sales tax actually look like by \$463,000, that would be the impact of the budget. So, it would be very substantial that's what it is. For the whole entire year, so when we

created this budget back in January early February, the timing was (*unintelligible*) in a different place right now. If businesses don't open up soon, and we get to July 1 and we're still somewhat shut down, we are gonna see reductions in sales tax, hopefully not 25%, maybe 10%, 15% but hopefully it's not 25. So the (*unintelligible*) we get, when we get back to working, hopefully that will start improving, for all of us. And things will get better. So the preliminary budget maintains a solid education program for our students. You can see that form, on the expenditure form we do have reductions in the budget for next year. So, there will be reduced reductions in staffing for next year. Some of that's just due to reductions in enrollments, student electives that kind of thing but there also are other reductions to get us down to a tax levy that we can afford. The tax levy right now has been revised it's currently 2.82% and so I think that's what we have to come to figure out where we want everything. And the third bullet is just around the board's responsibilities really to approve and adopt a expenditure budget dollar amount. The tax levy is just a part of that piece. So once you tell me what you want the expenditure budgets to be, that kind of drives what the tax levy will be; so you tell me that you want the tax levy 1.99, 2% 3.3%. If you tell me that then, then the expenses budget will probably have to be changed to be able to get to that point in time. So then, that number kind of will fluctuate based on where you tell us, you want to see the expense budgets. So we don't know about school next year if really, when we reopen. It could look different than (*unintelligible*) The state is developing guidelines for reopening, I think BOCES shared something with the superintendents and Business Officials about what school could look like when it opens. The CDC's got recommendations about what schools could look like in September, when we open. Both of them are a little bit different; I've read both of them. So it could look different, it could just be, I've heard different states doing different things that somebody open fully for September, hopefully we can. I just read something about Ohio opening up. And they talked about having two days on for kids. And so we'd have kids on Monday and Tuesday, Wednesday would be clean days for the districts and basically cleaning everything and learning on-line. When Thursday Friday would be more classes, either be online or not. So, obviously, kids have half and half of those, those four days in the right instruction on the other day. I've heard different things here by having half days, and splitting up the classes to have maybe 10 or 15 kids in a classroom at a time versus the 20-30 kids we have in a classroom now. Just to prevent spread and keep everybody protected. So there's different options people are looking at so that's one thing we have to look at, what that's going to look like for next year. Until we direction from the State, we don't know what we're doing yet for next year. So what we're talking about right now for budget regardless of what we adopt, could look different, regardless of what we do today. And we'll have to have that discussion with everyone when we figure out what's best, and we'll share it with you guys but it could look very different than it did at the end when we all closed up in March. Other things, we may have additional (*unintelligible*) we talked about buying some new equipment to sanitize everything, you see some electromagnetic sprayers that we can use, that we can use to go in classrooms, spray things and it puts a charge on the disinfectant so it actually adheres to the tops of desks and the bottoms of desks, in different places where when we spray my hand we wouldn't be able to get to, so we're thinking that's going to be a good thing to do. (*unintelligible*) that's thousands of additional costs, and then there could be impacts in the transportation program for if we have to go half days with the kids, we pick up one group of kids at half a day, we do the second half the other day, that impacts quite a bit of the costs. That could be



substantial costs if we do half days, or trying to do half day in the morning and half day in the afternoon. Because that would impact benefits that we pay, because most our drivers now mainly working 20 to 25 hours a week that could go to full time status and that would require a jump in benefits, which could be more expensive than the actual cost, if that makes sense.

Mr. Yoerg: Okay, so are bus drivers considered full-time?

Mr. Karpik: Technically anybody over 20 hours is considered full time but, in negotiated contracts it steps up as you work like 20 hours it's an extra percentage. You work 20 to 30 hours it's this. Each contract is a little bit different, but as you work more hours, you're benefit, health insurance, these driver of our costs, some of the support staff positions, is what will impact us the most.

Mr. Bennett: The state would add that would be another unfunded mandate anyway so

Mr. Karpik: What do we gain, we gain in transportation aid (*unintelligible*). What I said earlier, savings from the 1920 year can be applied to offset any revenue deficits for 2020-21 year. I won't probably know that until I close the books and it won't be until the end of July. So when that happens, we will look at everything and say if we got a reduction in state aid, we look to see what we saved and hopefully we'll be able to save some positions and probably select to reduce in others things to be able to make that. So we're gonna struggle with that all the way up until September, and then we could be doing that in July we could make additional reductions, or in July and August, as that information as it comes available. It's not something we want to be doing, and I know it impacts people's lives, but it's something that we may have to consider doing. So we develop reductions as we have to, and the pandemic will have long term implications to the district, so we have to figure out a way to be able to finance it until the state gets back on its feet. The state's in a big deficit right now. Some reports had them that Governor Cuomo will tell you before the pandemic he was at \$69 billion loss in the deficit, other reports I'm starting to read now are saying that this pandemic is a way for him to hide some of the things he's done his, his projected deficit is more like 12 to \$16 billion, from what I've been reading.

Mr. Stoltman: Billion?

Mr. Karpik: Billion. billion. Sorry. Billion. Did I say million? So, and he's raided a lot of the other funds so you know you would think, he's telling you the unemployment fund is broke and can't afford it. How do you not have any money in your unemployment fund when a lot of it is driven by salaries from companies, they have to pay a portion of your salary gets paid to payroll for the unemployment costs, how do you not have any money when you've been in record historical low unemployment rates. That fund should be fully, there should be a lot of money in that fund. And now he doesn't have it because he drained it to be able to offset and to pay for other things.

Mr. Bennett: Right. It's a \$50 million white building that sits in Buffalo that hasn't produced any jobs, you know, that was supposed to produce like thousands of jobs, it just sits there and they're supposed to make like solar roofs and all that stuff and they actually laid off a couple hundred people that worked there, but decisions like that.

Mr. Karpik: He's raiding those kinds of funds though, and he's done that for several years now, and something that his father did when he was governor in years dating back, he's learned a lot from him. I see the same exact thing happening with this governor, and he's pulling all the same tricks that his father did. And he's gonna set us all up. I think he was starting to crash (*unintelligible*). So I think those funds have been raided, there's not a lot of funds to raid anymore and we're going broke, at least some of the comments the conversation you guys said earlier as a board, we're in a spot because he's, he's done what trick. It makes up revenue to help us. And he probably should have been more conservative last seven years. (*unintelligible*). So as we look. I'm going to ask, and hopefully we can come up with some kind of resolution as to where you want to see the tax levy so we can start working on trying to get all this information put together in a very short time span. So that Tracy can get going on the ballots, we can get going on the all the information needed to get out to the public, to communicate and educate them on what the budget looks like what's included. And what's driving and changing, and impacting us all going forward next year. So I put the list on there, I have in from our tax levy can go up as high as 3.3%. We were somewhere around 3.13% last meeting. Now we're at 2.8%. Is that a comfortable spot, you want to be at. Do you want to be higher, do you want to be lower. I need, I guess we need some advice.

Mr. Stoltman: Some direction.

Mr. Karpik: And this is a thing that shows you what the impact would be. Next slide Tracy. Thank you. It talks about in the blue column, will tell you if you want to get something lower, you'll see what the impact would be to get down to something lower, if you want to get something higher I would go the opposite direction, they tell you that each quarter percent is equal to, I got a little yellow thing down at the bottom that will actually tell you what a quarter percent equals so, if you want to go higher, you can go higher as well. And when we go to like \$100,000 home, or 150 or \$200,000 house, you guys can maybe have a discussion and figure out where everybody feels comfortable. (*Unintelligible*) going with the budget.

(*Unintelligible*)

Mr. Yoerg: (*Unintelligible*) to 2.82. I believe the statement was made, it might have been last meeting or some, some wise person told me this, when we didn't need the money we didn't go for the money. For three years in a row, we thought it wouldn't be prudent to go after the tax payers out there and put anything on it, and we went to zero for three years in a row. We had great times, we don't have great time right now, and I think it's our job, our duty, our responsibility for the long term growth of our district, to main, maintain viability, and certainly to get to 2.82 if you guys are comfortable with that number I'm



comfortable with it. Everything that we take out of this budget not only affects us this year but next year and the year after that and the year after that. If we have to cut, I'm not sure if my math is right about \$65,000 you get down to 2.82. (*Unintelligible*) \$70,000 get down, that's \$70,000 we're not collecting this year, we're not collecting next year, the year after that we're not collecting the year after that, because you can't do, it does compound year after year. So with all the cuts that we have facing to go any lower than 2.82 at this point, that's going to be 50,000 or \$70,000 we're not going to get, again this year. (*Unintelligible*) you've done a great job. I'm happy with the 2.82 if you're happy with the 2.82.

Mrs. Hopcia: And you're saying currently and real, of course, capital money is different from budgetary money. You're saying, at this time, that \$4 pool money is no longer, it's less than \$4, we're not getting..

Mr. Stoltman: Right now, preliminary estimates, the way the bids came in, now they just knocked the first wall down, today. If all goes according to plan and they don't find a surprise when they start digging that they've got to bring in, you know, fill and other things that they weren't anticipating, I'm very confident that \$4 number will be less. How, how much less? I'm not going to throw a number out there.

Mrs. Hopcia: Of course.

Mr. Stoltman: Okay? But I'm very confident it will be less. Our goal would be for it to get as close to zero as possible.

Mr. Karpik: And we're gonna try.

Mr. Stoltman: So I mean, you've got an incredible facility that's being built. And we appreciate

Mrs. Hopcia: And it looks like it's coming in under budget.

Mr. Stoltman: We appreciate the community support and especially when we went out (*unintelligible*) ask for more money from our reserves, and I was very happy with the way the bids came in, and they came in a little bit lower. So we're hoping to give that money, that \$4 from a few years ago, we're hoping we can give that back to our community.

Mrs. Hopcia: Mike Karpie, how do you feel about the 2.82,

Mr. Karpie: That's fine with me.

Mrs. Hopcia: Ken?

Mr. Stoldt: Yep, I can live with 282.

Mrs. Hopcia: Jim, you would like to go higher than 2.82.

Mr. Yoerg: I'm happy with it, we charged you guys to get to this point, you're comfortable and happy with that, I'll support that as well. I know that there was there was a comment that was thrown out last Board meeting, (*unintelligible*) at 1% or a little over 1%. That's kind of what got me going and thinking well we, there's no way there, we'd go broke. So the fact that we're settling on 2.82 I think is a good number.

Mr. Stoltman: Gotta have a motion,

Mrs. Hopcia: Alright, a motion is needed, upon the recommendation of the superintendent of schools to approve the proposed 2020 budget in the amount of \$35,729,653 to be presented to district voters via absentee ballots to be counted on Tuesday June 9, 2020. (*Unintelligible*) Any questions? All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries.

Mr. Stoltman: Okay.

Mrs. Hopcia: We have our budget.

Mr. Stoltman: Thank you. Thank you to the administrators, our program directors for working through this process with us. I know, I know the last conversation we talked about trimming 70,000 to get to the 2.82, but remember we started this process, 800 something thousand dollars ago. So you know to get to this number really started months ago; long before we were living what we're living right now with the (*unintelligible*) work to trim it to a little over \$800,000. So, I appreciate all of their efforts. Pool construction, for those of you have not, or don't subscribe to Twitter, we're posting pictures. The north wall came down today, the ceiling came down earlier in the week. So at this point, the excavators inside the pool, and they're actually going to be dragging things into the pool, we need the base to do that work. It was quite an impressive project, and actually an Alden graduate called me, he actually was in charge. It was nice to see him out there early this morning. The only other update I have, and this really goes out, we talked a lot about the seniors and our heart breaks for the seniors and I'm hoping and praying that we're able to do anything that we can for them based upon the guidance from Erie County, and others, but I don't want to be, I don't want to miss some of our folks here culminating their careers with us. We've got three teachers who announced their retirement just a short time ago, and I know when they submitted that paperwork and when I sat down and had those conversations with those people, nobody would have dreamed they would have ended their incredible careers this way. So, I have spoke to each of them, Mrs.

Ludwig and Mrs. Riggi and Mrs. Pletscher letting them know, you know, this doesn't define you or your career here at Alden or other schools they worked at, and my thoughts are with them as they navigate that. You got some communication from us; you got the special ed student data performance report to take a look at and, I'll turn it back over to you. Upcoming Events. Unfortunately, not a whole lot.

Mrs. Hopcia: Okay. Alright. With that, can I have a motion to adjourn the regular meeting?

Mr. Stoltman: And go, I'm sorry. Can we go into Executive Session.

Mrs. Hopcia: Sure.

Mr. Stoltman: Yeah, I'm sorry, I forgot.

Mrs. Hopcia: Oh, I need a motion to go into Executive Session for contractual matters.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries.

Mrs. Hopcia: A motion to come out of executive session?

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries.

Mrs. Hopcia: And, a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Yoerg: So moved.

Mr. Karalus: Second.

Mrs. Hopcia: All in favor?

The District Clerk asked for a roll call:

Mr. Karpie: aye; Mrs. Lords-Quinn: aye; Mrs. Hopcia: aye; Mr. Bennett: aye; Mr. Stoldt: aye; Mr. Yoerg: aye; Mr. Karalus: aye.

Mrs. Hopcia: Motion carries. Thank you everyone! Good job on the budget Paul!