



# REBEL ALLIANCE

ALTMAR-PARISH-WILLIAMSTOWN CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING/BUDGET 2023

## Budget Dates to Remember

### May 9

MEET THE  
CANDIDATE NIGHT  
AND PUBLIC  
BUDGET HEARING

6 p.m.

APW Junior/Senior  
High School

### May 16

BUDGET VOTE AND  
BOE ELECTION

12 p.m. to 9 p.m.

District Office  
Conference Room

## APW Elementary Paint and Literacy Night

On March 15, APW Elementary School hosted its Paint and Literacy Night! Dozens of local families participated, getting to hear great stories and paint colorful works of everyone's favorite character, Pete the Cat! Thanks for all who came out and to Ms. Bostick and Ms. Fuller for hosting!



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ACADEMICS AT ITS BEST • PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE • WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST.

## A message from the APW Board President

**Happy Spring!** It is the time of the year where new growth happens and the sun begins to shine a little more here over our district. It is also the time where we come to you, the taxpayers of our district, to present our 2023-24 APW school budget. The building of next year's school budget began in November 2022. When our Assistant Superintendent of Finance sits down to build the budget for the next year, she must utilize the trends she has seen and can reasonably predict what will continue to happen for an entire 18 months once the process starts. If she only had a crystal ball, it would be so much easier to accomplish!

This year's budget needed to address several items that are out of the district's control:

### INFLATION

As you are all aware, the price of everything has increased over the last year or two. Everything from gasoline to food at the grocery store (especially eggs!) has gone up. That, unfortunately, does not stop at the front doors of our school. We have seen drastic increases in the price of gasoline, diesel and fuel oil, as well as the food we purchase and the supplies needed to operate the buildings.

### CONTRACTS

As we are a "service industry," our highest costs

are personnel and the cost associated with them. Roughly 80 percent of our entire budget falls under this area. These are not just raises for employees but the cost of insurance, retirement benefits that are mandated by the state, and maintaining enough staff to build safe, positive, healthy climates for learning and working to nurture student and staff well-being.

As stated in our vision and mission statements, our school district is committed to every learner prepared for their individual chosen path, and because we believe in the potential of each student, we provide diverse opportunities and a competitive education for all learners.

### GROWTH

You may not have noticed this, but our district has experienced growth over the last year. Throughout the district we have grown 1.26 percent. That can be from new construction, building improvements, home improvements, etc. To properly tax these properties, the district must add in the growth factor to the tax levy to ensure that we are collecting the proper tax payments from each taxpayer. For example, if we do not include the growth factor in the tax levy, then a property that was assessed at \$100,000 and did \$200,000 worth of improvements

will continue to be taxed on \$100,000 and not \$300,000. That then leaves the tax burden on those who have a home assessed at a lower amount paying the same amount as someone with a home assessed at a higher amount.

Great things are happening here at APW. We have amazing kids who have so much potential to do great things. We have amazing staff that care about our kids from the minute they pick them up in the morning until the minute they drop them off and then throughout the night. We want them to be successful in everything that they do.

This year's budget is a representation of how we can accomplish this and has been reviewed many times to ensure that we are being fiscally responsible while providing the best education we can to our children. I encourage each of you to come out and vote from noon to 9 p.m. May 16 in the District Office Conference Room.



**Thank you,**

Shawn Clark

APW BOE President

## Spring Hallway Art



Check out these amazing -- and colorful! -- works of art by our APW elementary students!



# Propositions on the Ballot

**Voters will be asked to decide upon four propositions and to elect two (2) Board of Education members.**

## Proposition 1 - Budget

To vote upon the adoption of a budget for said school district for the school year commencing July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024. Shall the proposed budget of \$36,958,678.00 (THIRTY SIX MILLION NINE HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY-EIGHT DOLLARS) for the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District as recommended by the Board of Education for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, be adopted and shall the Board of Education be authorized to levy the necessary taxes therefor?

## Proposition 2 - Student Transport Vehicles

Shall the Board of Education of the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District be authorized to purchase four student transport vehicles and three SUVs, including necessary furnishings, fixtures and equipment and all other costs incidental thereto, and expend a total sum not to exceed \$797,701.72 which is estimated to be the total maximum cost thereof, and pay for such vehicles by using \$797,701.72 from the District's Capital Reserve Fund – Buses.

## Proposition 3 - Library

Shall the sum to be raised by annual levy of a tax upon the taxable real property within the Altmar Parish Williamstown Central School District for the purpose of funding the Parish Public Library be increased by \$12,000 to the sum of \$48,000.00 annually?

## Proposition 4 - Election of Two Board Members

To elect two members of the Board of Education for the terms of three (3) years, expiring on June 30, 2026.

### CANDIDATES ARE (VOTE FOR TWO):

- Shawn Clark
- Write-In Candidate

# Understanding the Tax Levy

For school districts, the tax levy limit is the maximum allowable tax levy (before exclusions) that a school district can propose as part of its annual budget and need the approval of only a simple majority of voters (50 percent plus 1) to pass the budget. If a district proposes a budget with a tax levy amount (before exclusions) above this limit, it will need the approval of a supermajority of voters (60 percent) to pass the budget. School districts are required to report their calculated tax levy limit to the state comptroller by March 1 each year.

### MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE TAX LEVY

The maximum allowable tax levy is the tax levy limit PLUS certain exclusions. Taxes levied to fund the following expenses are excluded from the tax levy limit:

- Voter-approved local capital expenditures.
- Increases in the state-mandated employer contribution rates for teacher and employee pension systems that exceed two percentage points.
- Court orders/judgments resulting from tort actions of any amount that exceeds 5 percent of a district's current levy.

A school district adds these exclusions to its tax levy limit without triggering the need for 60 percent voter approval.

### PROPOSED TAX LEVY

The third tax levy number is arguably the most important. It's the tax levy called for by a school district's proposed budget. By definition, the tax levy is the total amount of money to be raised locally by a municipality (i.e., school district) after factoring in all other available revenues. If a school district's proposed tax levy minus exclusions is less than or equal to the district's calculated tax levy limit, the district will need the approval of a simple majority of voters to pass its budget. If the proposed tax levy minus exclusions is greater than the district's calculated tax levy limit, 60 percent voter approval is needed.

### WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Please attend future Finance Committee meetings to learn more about our district's finances. The annual meeting to discuss the budget is planned for May 9, 2023, at 6 p.m. at the JSHS.

## Understanding Tax Levy and Tax Rate

### HOW IS THE TAX LEVY DIFFERENT FROM THE TAX RATE?

The tax levy is the total amount that a school district raises each year in taxes from all property owners. The tax rate is the amount of tax paid for each \$1,000 of assessed value of property.

### HOW DOES THE TAX LEVY CAP WORK?

Under New York State tax cap rules, school districts must use a complex formula to calculate their own unique tax levy limit, then apply exclusions set forth by law to determine the maximum allowable tax levy for a simple majority vote.

### IS THE TAX LEVY WITHIN THE TAX CAP?

Yes, in fact, the proposed tax levy is below the district's maximum allowable tax levy limit. This will allow residents who are eligible for STAR rebates to receive them from the state.

APW's Maximum Allowable Levy .....\$6,551,146

APW Proposed Levy .....\$6,551,146

**Voter approval = simple majority vote (50%+1)**

**Maximum  
Allowable Levy:**  
\$6,551,146  
5.02%

**Proposed Levy**  
\$6,551,146  
5.02%

APW's proposed  
2023-2024 levy is equal  
to the maximum allowable  
levy. Voter approval requires  
a simple majority vote  
(50% +1)

## APW 2023-24 Proposed Revenue

Proposed Budget:..... \$36,958,678

Estimated State Aid: ..... \$27,265,732

Other Revenue:.....\$1,367,800

Assigned Fund Balance:.....\$1,774,000

APW Proposed Levy.....\$6,551,146

## APW School Tax Levy

Understanding the tax levy limit as it applies to APWCSD. The NYS formula calculates the maximum allowable tax levy for the 2023-2024 school year.

### NEW YORK STATE TAX LEVY LIMIT FORMULA

Tax Levy (for school year ending 6/30/23) .....	\$6,238,263
	x
Tax Base Growth Factor .....	1.0126
	+
PILOTS (receivable for school year ending 6/30/23).....	\$48,115
	-
Tax Levy to Pay for Court Orders/Judgements .....	\$0
	-
Capital Tax Levy (for school year ending 6/30/23) .....	\$10,301
	x
Allowable Levy Growth Factor.....	1.0200
	-
PILOTS (receivable for school year ending 6/30/24).....	\$50,123

### Total Tax Levy Limit

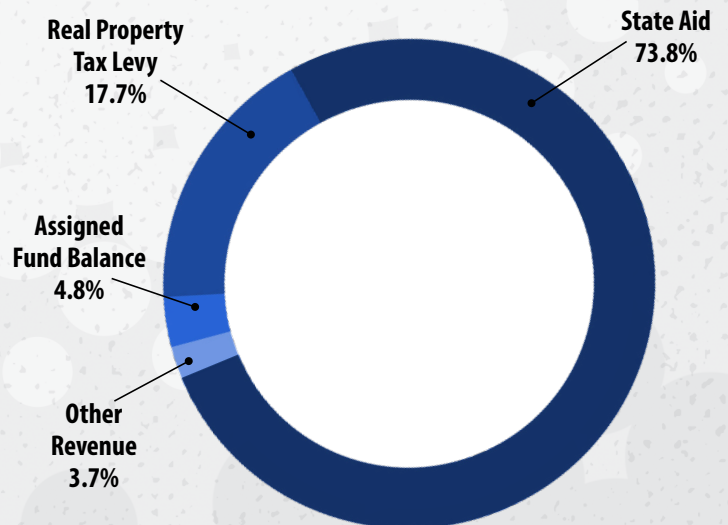
Before Exclusions.....\$6,528,072

Exclusions  
(2023-24 Capital Tax Levy) .....\$23,074

APW's Maximum Allowable Levy  
for the 2023-2024 School Year

**\$6,551,146**

## 2023-2024 Proposed Revenue



## Budget Comparison

	2022-2023 Adopted Budget	2023-2024 Proposed Budget
Central Administration and Board of Education	\$271,358	\$269,030
Business Administration	\$694,008	\$701,646
Personnel	\$224,593	\$298,706
Instructional and Program	\$10,652,403	\$10,871,515
BOCES Administration and Insurance	\$891,732	\$924,214
Supervision and Curriculum Development	\$1,262,458	\$1,102,737
Students with Disabilities	\$5,253,029	\$6,692,381
Athletics	\$408,990	\$473,370
Operation and Maintenance of Plant	\$2,344,419	\$2,368,761
Transportation	\$2,577,085	\$2,466,372
Employee Benefits	\$7,873,443	\$8,474,084
Debt Service	\$2,395,317	\$2,263,200
Interfund Transfers	\$143,000	\$60,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$34,999,473</b>	<b>\$36,958,678</b>

## STAR Resources

The School Tax Relief (STAR) program offers property tax relief to eligible New York State homeowners.

**Learn about STAR:**  
**[tax.ny.gov/STAR](http://tax.ny.gov/STAR)**

Estimated Basic STAR exemption Savings based on a Hypothetical Home Within the School District with a Full Value of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000). Not all of Altmar, Parish and Williamstown municipalities are at full valuation.

	Under the Budget Proposed for the 2023-2024 School Year
Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings <sup>1</sup>	\$352 - \$407 Based on Town
<sup>1</sup> The Basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.	

## Voting Information

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2023-2024 by the qualified voters of the Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District, Oswego County, New York, will be held at the APW Junior-Senior High School in said district on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 between the hours of noon and 9 p.m., prevailing time in the APW Junior-Senior High Athletic entrance, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

## Absentee Ballots

Eligible voters may submit absentee ballots. For information, contact the District Clerk at 315-625-5251. Ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on May 16, 2023.

## Voter Qualifications

**Eighteen (18) years of age or older.**

**A citizen of the United States.**

**A legal resident of the APW Central School District for at least thirty (30) days prior to the vote.**

**Voters may be required to show proof of eligibility before casting their vote. The following forms of proof may be accepted (not limited to): birth certificate, driver's license, non-driver ID card, utility bill, voter registration card or passport. Any person not qualified to register or vote under the provisions of Sections 5-100 and 5-106 of the Election Law shall not have the right to register for or vote in an election.**

## Capital Project Update

### CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS WITH IMPACTS TO BUILDING USAGE AT JSHS

We are embarking on an exciting time here at APW! The first phase of the Capital Project will begin this school year. The work will take place at the Junior Senior High School and the Bus Garage. Renovation began with the IT Suite in the JSHS, April 3. The JSHS Administrators have collaborated with stakeholders to ensure the closing of some spaces has the least impact on students. While most of the work is planned for the summer of 2023, some areas will see an impact before school is out for the year. The work areas that will be affected prior to the end of the school year are the Instructional Technology area and the JSHS kitchen serving and preparation area. The cafeteria will remain online until the District stops serving for the year. During the summer, site work will include masonry restoration, door replacements, cafeteria upgrades, a gymnasium folding partition, classroom, media center and gymnasium lighting upgrades, drinking fountain replacements and District Office heating and ventilation work.

While the focus is to make as little impact to the student learning environment as possible, there will be some disruptions. Over the April break timeframe, we saw hazardous material removal signs go up for the abatement work to remove flooring in the Instructional Technology area of the JSHS. The hazardous material removal work was completed over break, allowing for the work to continue in this suite of offices. The goal is to have the work completed by the end of June. Students with Chromebook or other technology- related needs will be able to seek assistance from Room 119.

Effective May 1st, the Food Service staff will relocate to the Family and Consumer Science room to prepare the menu of items that will also change to become fresh food options that will continue to qualify for a reimbursable meal (for example, meat subs and/or sandwiches, salads, vegetable and fruit, and milk offerings). This means that the hot food options will come offline for the months of May and June. The goal is to have the renovation work completed over the summer and open school in the fall with the newly renovated spaces for the kitchen and cafeteria that will allow the students to be more involved with their food choices in both the visibility aspect, as well as new menu options.

There will also be limited access to the JSHS outdoor fields due to site improvements, asphalt replacement, sidewalk replacement, and some roofing work.

We understand that the change will be new for students. Our intent is to have the least interruption to their learning environment as possible. We are hopeful that the plan we have put in place in collaboration with our project manager will lead to the opening in the fall with the goal of having a wonderfully-designed and welcoming space for students to enjoy meals.

### CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS AT THE BUS GARAGE

At the beginning of May, the District expects the work to start for the renovations at the Bus Garage. The area of work that will take place in this location is as follows: the renovation of the fuel station island to include a covered island, fleet fuel management system, new asphalt surface, site-work for an electric charging station for SUVs, and window replacements. This means that bus drivers will be seen at local gas stations fueling buses while this fuel station is out of service. The goal is to have this back up and running in late August.

We will be sharing updates regularly as we move forward with this exciting Capital Project.

*Proud to be a Rebel,*

Naomi Ryfun, Ed.D.

APW Superintendent of Schools

## Multi-Year Capital Project Already Underway

As the snows clear and spring begins, capital projects are ready to commence at APW schools and facilities. Beginning this year, several key upgrades and renovations are about to unfold.

The current capital project is divided into three main phases, set to take place between now and 2025. Phase One began in earnest this past month, with major modifications already being made to the district's IT area in the JSHS. Similar projects in the building include roof replacement, kitchen renovation and cafeteria finishes. The folding partition in the gymnasium is set to be replaced and drinking fountains throughout the building will also be updated. Masonry repointing, HVAC replacement, lighting control replacement and paving and concrete site work are also scheduled to take place.

Phase One brings major updates for the district's bus garage, including roof, overhead door and window replacement and fuel station improvements. Work is scheduled for both the oil tank and lift station as well as full replacement of the oil and water separator. Masonry sealing and repointing, storm system repair, fencing modifications and general paving are also planned.

Phase Two is still under review at NYSED Facilities Planning. This phase continues improvement and maintenance to JSHS facilities and includes the creation of an exterior concrete pad and pole barn for trades alongside renovations of the auditorium, music classrooms, second floor classrooms, and special education and guidance offices. Major structural and equipment upgrades to the wastewater treatment building should also occur. Final approval should take place by the end of April, with bids to go out thereafter.

The final Phase Three — intended to bring major renovations and improvements to the elementary building — is still being planned. Once refined, it will pass to NYSED for approval.

## APW Students Learn Life Lessons from Guest Speaker



Speaker Brandon McCall speaks to students at APW JSHS about rising above adversity through positive choices in a school-wide assembly.

APW Junior-Senior High School was recently visited by Brandon McCall from TEEN TRUTH, a national program that works to empower student voices and enhance school culture. In a series of motivational talks, McCall worked with APW students to address key issues and promote positivity and inspiration in the face of adversity.

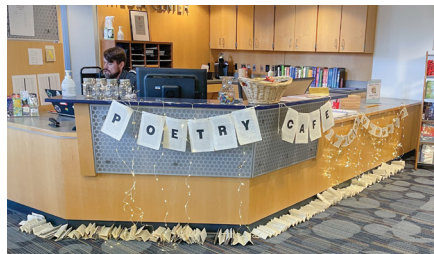
McCall's talk began by sharing his own story, detailing a world whose conditions were stacked harshly against him. Despite family poverty, lack of education and a history of gang violence, he was able to overcome his circumstances and now leads a successful life assisting teens in

their own struggles. McCall emphasized the importance of making positive choices and encouraged students to do the same.

Another TEEN TRUTH speaker had visited the district at the beginning of the school year, allowing McCall to continue the discussion. He spoke to APW senior and junior high students in two separate presentations, receiving positive feedback from both groups. Many students eagerly stayed after both meetings to speak with him about their own personal struggles.

"We're really hoping that this inspires our kids to start making better choices and understand that there is more to life than what they experience in middle and high school," said Hillary O'Hagan, the district's SEL specialist who helped to organize the event. "McCall spoke to the idea that even when we struggle at school and at home, we can make better decisions and rise above any circumstance."

## APW Transforms Library into Poetry Café



Things may be looking a little different in the library of the Junior-Senior High School at APW. Recently, the space was transformed into a poetry café, complete with decorated tables, refreshments and a performance microphone. For many, this project has been a unique opportunity to share their story and connect with peers.

The poetry café has been a collaboration between the school's ELA teachers and district social-emotional learning specialist Hillary O'Hagan. Students have worked to write different types of poetry in class with the eventual goal of either reciting their work before their peers in the café or hanging it in an elaborate "gallery walk" which weaves through the library.

As SEL specialist, O'Hagan assists teachers in incorporating social-emotional learning standards into their academic curriculum. By writing poems about events in their lives, students are better able to explore their own experiences alongside their growth as writers. While performing one's poetry has not been mandatory, many students have taken the opportunity to share from the heart.

For the school community, the project has been overwhelmingly positive. "The girl who thought poetry was stupid now cannot stop writing!" one teacher joyfully reported.

"We've had both teachers and kids cry while others were reading their poem because it touched them so much," said O'Hagan. "I think it's been a real eye-opener to kids seeing what their peers experience and feel and realize that a lot of them aren't so different." By sharing their stories of both joy and pain, students have been able to connect like never before.

Both staff and students eagerly look forward to the return of the project next year.

## APW Aspiring Artists

APW JSHS is proud to recognize our "Aspiring Artists," where each month we feature an exceptional young artist within our school. All students are chosen by the art faculty of APW JSHS.

View these amazing young creators each month on Facebook or find the archive on the district website at [apwschools.org/aspiringartists](http://apwschools.org/aspiringartists).



# REBEL ALLIANCE



Altmar-Parish-Williamstown

Central School District

District Office

Post Office Box 97

Parish, NY 13131

315-625-5251

[www.apwschools.org](http://www.apwschools.org)

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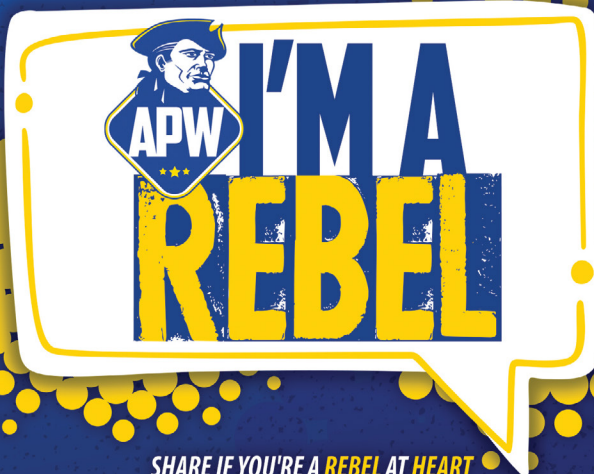
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For Important Announcements, Annual Notifications, Events, Contact Information and other information,  
visit the APW District website at [www.APWSchools.org](http://www.APWSchools.org)



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APW CSD

WHERE THE  
GOLDEN SUNSET  
MELLOW  
TINTS THE  
WESTERN SKY,  
PROUDLY STANDS  
OUR ALMA MATER  
A.P.W. HIGH.  
SING THE CHORUS.  
LIFT IT UPWARD  
IN HER PRAISES VIE.  
HAIL TO THEE,  
OUR ALMA MATER,  
A.P.W. HIGH

The APW Central School District in accordance with the Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 and section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and does not discriminate on the basis of sex or handicap in the educational programs or activities it operates. This includes recruitment and employment of employees; pay and benefits; counseling services for students; access by students to educational programs, courses and activities. The District's Title IX Compliance Coordinators are Bethany Centrone, Esq. of Capital Region BOCES (900 Watervliet Shaker Rd, Albany, NY 12205; 518-862-5228) and Patrick Vrooman, Director of Personnel and Instruction, (639 Co. Rt. 22, Parish, NY 13131; 315-625-5274)