

Alton School District

SAU #72

The Alton School District will create a nurturing learning environment in which everyone is empowered to:

- Develop character and compassion
- Show perseverance as a self-aware learner
- Seek and master the skills necessary to become a contributing global citizen.

This is a **PRE-DELIBERATIVE SESSION** information newsletter. The newsletter will be mailed to all Alton residents after the Deliberative Session (Saturday, February 2, 1:00, PMHS) with any changes that may be made at the meeting.

**Vol. 11, No. 1
March, 2019**

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING DATES

The Alton School Board generally meets the second Monday of each month, year round, in the Middle School Library at Alton Central School, 41 School Street, Alton. Check the website calendar for dates and times.

The agenda is posted at the SAU 72 Office, the Alton Post Office, Alton Central School, Prospect Mountain High School and on line at www.myacs.org.

SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS

Karen Kharitonov, Chair
Everett Clark, Vice-Chair
Peter Leavitt, Member
Pamela McLeod, Member
Kristi Hikel, Member

SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Pamela A. Stiles, Superintendent of Schools
pstiles@sau72.org
Laurie Verville, Business Administrator
lverville@sau72.org
John MacArthur, Jr., Principal
mmacarthur@sau72.org
James LaFreniere, Assistant Principal
jlafreniere@sau72.org
Jennifer Katz-Borin,
Director of Special Education
jkatz-borin@sau72.org
Shaleen Cassily, Director of Curriculum
scassily@sau72.org

ALTON SCHOOL DISTRICT, SAU #72
252 Suncook Valley Road
Alton, NH 03809
(603)875-7890
www.myacs.org

FY19 Warrant Articles Remember to Vote on March 12th

Please take the time to exercise your right to vote. Voting on warrant articles and for District Officers will take place on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at St. Katharine Drexel Parish, 40 Hidden Springs Road, Alton. Polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. and remain open until 7:00 P.M.

District Officers

School Board: For 3 years – Vote for Two (2)

Moderator: Vote for One (1)

School District Clerk: Vote for One (1)

ARTICLE 2:

Shall the Alton School District raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling FIFTEEN MILLION, FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED THIRTY TWO DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15,458,832.00) (Fiscal Note: The amount of \$4,271,831.45 is the net appropriation for the

Prospect Mountain High School operating budget which is included in the gross budget amount listed above and recommended by the Joint Maintenance Agreement (JMA) Budget Committee.) Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be FIFTEEN MILLION, THREE HUNDRED NINETY TWO THOUSAND, SIX HUNDRED SEVEN DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15,392,607.00) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Alton School District or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. (This warrant article does not include appropriations in ANY other warrant articles.) **(The Alton School Board recommends \$15,458,832.00 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$15,458,832.00 by a vote of 6-0).**

Notes Regarding Article 2

The 2019-2020 proposed budget was designed to address student needs, build on existing initiatives, maintain the curriculum cycle of revision, and to complete facilities projects. The overall budget is less than one percent (.69%) higher than the current year. Specifically, the budget includes: a new K-8 literacy program, extended STEM opportunities for all grades, funding to complete a door replacement project, allocations for increased NH Retirement contributions and health premiums, the elimination of a bookkeeper and speech assistant, special education requirements, maintenance of the technology replacement cycle, and increases to fuel and electricity. Wherever possible, grant funding was used to off-set costs. The default budget is \$66,225 (.4%) less than the proposed budget. Passage of the default budget will impact the advancement of curriculum initiatives and diminish some student services.

ARTICLE 3:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$85,000) to be

added to the existing Buildings and Grounds Expendable Trust created 3-11-08 under RSA 198:20-c for the purpose of building, repairing, and maintaining school facilities. **(The Alton School Board recommends \$85,000 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$85,000 by a vote of 6-1.)**

Notes Regarding Article 3

To complete the replacement of windows at the Alton Central School, \$85,000 will be used in the ERC classrooms and technology lab. The 45 windows will be energy efficient and will make temperature regulation easier and more consistent. This will complete the final phase of the window replacement cycle.



ARTICLE 4:

To see if the School District will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of FIFTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$15,000.00) to be added to the Prospect Mountain High School Athletic Field Capital Reserve Fund previously established, said sum representing Fifty percent (50%) of the total appropriation of THIRTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$30,000.00). And further that this appropriation shall be contingent upon both Alton (50%) and Barnstead (50%) School Districts adopting the article and appropriating and transferring their respective sum of money. **(JMA Board recommends by a vote of 8-0. The Alton School Board recommends \$15,000 by a vote of 5-0. The Alton Budget Committee recommends \$15,000.00 by a vote of 6-0).**



Preparing Students For Their Future

SAU 72
Alton, New Hampshire

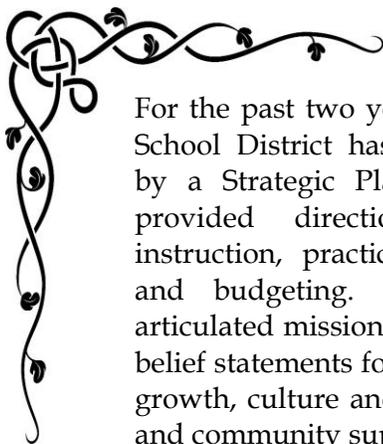
Notes Regarding Article 4

This article adds to a non-lapsing capital reserve fund for maintenance and repairs of the athletic fields at Prospect Mountain High School. Due to a request to draw from this fund for resurfacing the track, it is suggested that this fund be replenished by \$30,000.00 to insure that needed money will be available when the tennis court resurfacing and other necessary fieldwork is needed. (Total to be raised, \$30,000, which will be split 50/50 as a Capital Expense. Currently this fund has a balance of \$37,785.00.)



ARTICLE 5:

To hear reports of any committees, boards, trustees, commissions, officials, agents or concerned voters and vote to accept the same. Furthermore, to conduct any other business that may legally come before said meeting.



For the past two years, the Alton School District has been guided by a Strategic Plan which has provided direction regarding instruction, practices, initiatives, and budgeting. The clearly articulated mission statement and belief statements focus on student growth, culture and relationships and community support.

Each month, the School Board receives an update of the progress of the Strategic Plan as work is done to attain year end goals. Highlights of some of the progress made to date include:

Student Growth:

- Student data teams, facilitated by an administrator, meet regularly to review student advancement and assign interventions as needed.
- STEM education is enjoyed by students in grades K-8.
- A standards-based report card focuses on end-of-year skill mastery, with an individual student goal for each child.
- Personalized Learning Opportunities and electives are selected by students in grades 5-8 for daily participation.

Culture and Relationships:

- PreK-8 "Showcase of Excellence" assemblies are held each trimester to celebrate student successes and accomplishments.
- Student forums in grades 3-8 give students an opportunity to share their insights about daily life at ACS.
- Social media, myacs.org, the ACS mobile app, and the Baysider are all used to communicate the events and daily happenings at the school.

Community Support:

- Student work is showcased at the Gilman Library.
- An increased number of business leaders work with students on STEM, marketing and individualized projects.
- All School Board materials are available online to promote transparency and open communication.