



# This Week At ECASB ...

*Important news from this past week and news for the upcoming week.*

***December 6, 2024***

***Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531***

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**ECASB OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 6TH:** The ECASB office will be closed on Friday, December 6th due to vacation time being used.

**PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE IN ALBANY IN FEBRUARY?** ECASB will be securing a block of rooms for those planning on attending. Please let us know if you are planning on attending.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO EAST AURORA UFSD DISTRICT CLERK ELIZABETH CASEY:** She was the winner of the “name a famous elf” trivia contest drawing. Elizabeth will receive a \$15 gift card to Tim Hortons. Her answer of Hermey the elf from Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer who wanted to become a dentist provided her the chance to enter the drawing.

**NEW BOOK IN THE ECASB LIBRARY:** A new book is now available in the ECASB library. The AI Assist - Strategies for Integrating AI into The Very Human Act of Teaching by Nathan Lang-Raad.

**ECASB ELF ON A SHELF UPDATE:** ECASB Elf on a Shelf returned December 1st. Edward C. Asby, the notorious elf travels to ECASB member districts and leaves a clue as to which district he visited. All ECASB members are eligible to play. Each correct guess gets your name entered into the final drawing. New this year....the winner of the drawing will have \$300 donated to the High School Student Government of the district they serve on as a donation.

**FORMER BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER:** After the Rural Schools Conference in Saratoga Springs on my way down route 87, I decided to get off in Clifton Park. I went into a grocery store. The person in front of me when asked by the cashier for her phone number so that she could get any deals proceeded with (716).... I knew at that moment the person was from the Western New York area. It then occurred to me it was Carla Thompson who had served on the Lake Shore CSD Board of Education. Apparently she lives in the Clifton Park area. Additionally, I found out that Carla is now serving on the Shenendehowa Board of Education.

**WE WELCOME NEW LANCASTER SUPERINTENDENT:** We welcome Dr. Andrew Kufel as the new Superintendent at Lancaster CSD.

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**RECAP OF NYS RURAL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE:** The conference kicked off with the awarding of Commissioner Dr. Betty Rosa the Leader of the Year Award. She then stayed and participated in a panel discussion to discuss Pathways to Graduation, the Rockefeller Institute Report and Regionalization. She specifically thanked all the District Superintendents for their role in gathering of information for the Regionalization initiative. Following the panel discussion with the Commissioner, Rockefeller Institute President and former State Budget Director Robert Megna along with Rockefeller Institute Education Policy Director, Dr. Brian Backstrom provided an informative and entertaining presentation on their findings. They urged the audience to read the Executive Report if they did not have time to read the full 300 page report. Day 1 concluded with an expert round table that included NYSASBO Executive Director Brian Chechnicki, NYSCOSS Deputy Director Robert Lowry and NYSSBA's Governmental Relations Director Brian Fessler, who spoke about the Rockefeller Institute Report, Pathways to Graduation, and Regionalization. Day two featured a presentation by Ferrara Fiorenza on the FIN (Facilitative Intensive Negotiations process to collective bargaining, a presentation by Battelle for Kids which is a not for profit organization focusing on pathways to graduation, and an afternoon conversation with several District Superintendents on Regionalization.

**CW FIT - More Time to Teach, More Time to Learn.** Michaela Parisi from CW Fit was at the Rural Schools Conference. The schools that are participating are collecting Baseline Data. Teachers have uploaded videos, completed surveys, and administered the Fast Bridge Reading Assessment. Teachers at intervention schools have received CW Fit materials including posters, markers and timers and have completed online micro-credential training. Coaches in the schools have been trained and are helping teachers. The next step of the program is that teachers will implement CW-Fit in their classrooms 3-5 times a week until the end of the semester. In 2024-2025 Bouquet Valley, Otselic Valley and Morrisville-Eaton districts have participated in the study. The following schools will be joining the study - Livingston Manor, Northern Adirondack, Salem and Randolph Academy. CW-Fit is looking for additional Rural Schools to participate in the training. CW-Fit is an evidence based behavior support.

**Why CW-Fit:**

- Teacher praise and attention to appropriate behavior increases
- Overall general classroom climate improves
- Percent on task increases which translates to increased instructional time
- Program is easily integrated into daily lessons.

**School Responsibilities:**

- School recruits 2-6 general education teachers in grades k-8
- Identify a Rural CW-Fit Coach
- Identify 1 School Coordinator (optional)
- Free Professional Development and CS-Fit Certification for participating schools
- Free Online video sharing platform
- School receives \$20,000 (\$10,000 Fall 2025 and \$10,000 Fall of 2026)

**Teacher and Coach Responsibilities:**

- Teacher and Rural Coach complete online CW-Fit Training (1 1/2 hours)
- Rural Coach completes a 30 minute zoom conference coaching
- Teachers implement CS-Fit for 6-8 weeks in 1 class period
- Rural Coach provides feedback of CW-Fit implementation
- Teachers receive \$1000 stipend plus additional \$250 if they are a peer coach.

- Coaches receive \$250 per video reviewed up to a possible \$3000
- Optional School Coordinator \$500 Stipend

#### Additional Information

- Michaela Parisi mparisi@ku.edu
- Jackie Millin jmillin@ku.edu
- hpwills@ku.edu

\* The study is being conducted through the University of Kansas

**ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS OPEN ON JANUARY 3RD, 2025:** The awards are listed below. Award nominations come usually from Boards of Education, but they can be made by individual Board Members, Superintendents and District Clerks as well. ECASB does not allow for self-nominations. The full descriptions are on the ECASB website and will be sent out in January.

- Diana Miller Leadership in Education Award
- Laura Burns Advocacy for Children Award
- Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award
- Hodgson Russ Collaboration Award
- Webster Szanyi District Clerk Award
- Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award
- Lori Sabo Advocacy Award

We also have the ECASB Rising Star and Shinning Star Awards which are given based on participation at meetings, events and program. In 2026, we will have a new award, "The Linda Hoffman Do More Award" that will be awarded to a Board Member that goes above and beyond Board Member service and volunteers and makes significant contributions to organizations beyond their Local School Board.

#### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- December 2nd - December 13th - Elf on a Shelf Promotion
- December 12th - ECASB Executive Board Meeting 7:00 pm. - 8:30 p.m., B1
- January 1st - ECASB Award Nominations Open

#### **POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:**

None Listed

#### **NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:**

- Become an Advocacy Liaison - NYSSBA encourages each district to appoint an Advocacy Liaison.

#### **RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:**

#### **NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:**

- 2025 National School Boards Conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia April 4th-6th.
- NSBA's Advocacy and Equity Institute will be held in Washington D.C. February 2nd-4th.

#### **AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:**

Erie Niagara School Superintendents has a list of all of their podcasts over the last three years. If you are interested in subscribing or following the E-NSSA podcast you can search for "Achieving Joy and Mastery in Public Schools" within your favorite podcast platform.

**BEST PRACTICES:** In one district, the Board Member serving on the Policy Review Committee outlines all the policies that were reviewed and the reason behind the review and/o changes. They provide an overview of what is different with the policies. Since one of the primary roles of the Board is to approve policy, this is a great way to keep all Board Members informed.

#### **NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:**

*I am currently attending the December NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting.*



*The picture to the left is not Edward C. Asby, but Jim the Elf. It was sent into to us from Jim Stachewicz from the Cheektowaga Sloan UFSD Board of Education. Jim the Elf is paying tribute to Josh Allen and making snow angels after the Buffalo Bills win last Sunday evening.*