



This Week At ECASB ...

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

February 28, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEETING WAS HELD LAST EVENING. Unfortunately, we were 1 vote short of a quorum to conduct any official business. I will be sending out the minutes in the next few days and would be looking for additional virtual votes from any member districts that were either absent or excused so that the business that was conducted can be officially recorded.

BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE ON PANEL DISCUSSION FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP: We have several Board Members that volunteered to serve on the panel. Thank you to Patrick Boyle (Frontier), Maureen Poulin (Williamsville) and Cindy Magera (Clarence) Karen Whitelaw (Ken Ton), Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan), and District Clerk Deb Custodi (Amherst). The workshop is scheduled for Saturday, March 22nd. The program begins at 8:00 a.m. The panel discussion will be from 9:40 a.m. - 10:15 a.m. I will provide all panelists with a set of questions to start us off, however, there will be questions that attendees may ask.

ECASB PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARDS WORKSHOP: If you know of an individual that is interested in running for the school board, we would encourage you to urge them to attend a Prospective School Board Member workshop so that they are aware of the requirements and the work that is involved. Over the years, I have seen people run for the Board only to realize after they are elected, it is not what they imagined, or they are unable to make the time commitment or the commitment to advocate with elected officials. Many times when they decide to run for the Board, they are not even aware that they have to complete 6 hours of Governance Training and 6 hours of Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training. ECASB has sent a flyer about the Prospective School Board member workshop to each school district that Boards of Education can share on their website. The information can be shared during the meeting, or post posters in the hallway of the building where they would pick up petitions. We have also sent press releases about the training sessions to local newspapers and radio stations.

MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION: Will host a Prospective School Board Candidate Seminar on Saturday, March 29th from 8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Registration deadline is March 25th. Questions please contact Monroe County School Boards Program Director Nan-

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR NYSSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EDUCATION EXPO. The NYSSBA Convention and Expo will be in New York City October 23rd-25th. Deadline for session proposals is Monday March 24th. Proposals can be sent to Mark Snyder at mark.snyder@nyssba.org. Proposals should focus on Best Practices and Innovative Ideas, or Student Voice. Additionally proposals are being reviewed for the Pre Convention Board Officer's Academy. Contact NYSSBA for additional information.

VISIT TO STARPOINT CSD. I had the pleasure of attending Associate ECASB member Starpoint CSD on Monday, February 24th. Thank you to Board President Jeffrey Duncan, Vice President Kelly Swann, Board Members Lisa Kankolenski, Jonathan Kinmartin, Jason Madden, Beth Pyskaty, Dr. Shawn Reister, Dr. Chad Shepherd, Michael Zimmerman and Student Ex Officio Board Member Ms. Berube. Special Thank you to Superintendent Dr Sean Croft, Assistant Superintendent Maureen Braunscheidel, Director of Administrative Services Jonathan Andrews, and District Clerk Dorothy Szpaicher. One of the first order of Business was the recognition of School Counselor Dr. Andrea-Nicolia-Bove who recently became a NYS Master Counselor. The district currently has 6 Master Teachers on the staff. The teachers are recognized via a plaque in the Board of Education room and on the Starpoint school district website.

ECASB SPRING SPEEDBOARDING: Mark April 10th on your calendar. This year ECASB's Spring Speed Boarding Event "Twist on Tech" will be taking place at the Erie 1 BOCES Career and Technical Center at 99 Aero Drive from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. When registration opens up, attendees will register to attend three hands on programs and experience the tech forward programs that many students in component districts experience. BOCES provides students with unique, real-world, and interactive experiences in state-of-the-art facilities with high quality instruction and a foundation for career pathways. Registration will begin in March for the program.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 3, 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.

- 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
- Lorie Sabo Advocacy Award

We also have the ECASB Rising Star and Shinning Star Awards which are given based on participation at meetings, events and programs. 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.

ECASB POT OF GOLD: Coming March 10th....the first ECASB Pot of Gold Promotion. Starting March 10th, a 2024-2025 Approved Budget amount will be highlighted. All correct entries on that

date will go into a drawing for a daily cash prize of \$25.00. All the daily entries will be entered into a final drawing on St. Patrick's Day, March 17th. The winner of that drawing will receive a \$100 cash prize for themselves and a \$100 prize for their high school student government club. All ECASB members are eligible to play. Not sure where to go to the answers....try your 2024-2025 ECASB Facts and Figures Book. Daily entries should be submitted by 9:00 p.m. each evening. Prizes are courtesy of Image Model Management.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd– March 3rd - ECASB Awards Nominations Open
- March 5th - Awards Nominations Committee meeting B1; 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- March 6th - Executive Board Meeting; 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- March 20th– Legislative Team Meeting, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- March 22nd - Prospective School Board Workshop 8:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m.; B1
- April 10th - Speed Boarding “Twist on Tech” at Harkness Center 6:00 p.m.
- April 26th - 3rd Annual ECASB Road Rally 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS: None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Developing and Supporting Effective Superintendents: Friday March 14th or Thursday, August 21st from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. - Live Virtual
- Policy Workshop May 7th - Live Virtual
- Look for the following resources on the NYSSBA website:
 - Timeline 2025 - Annual Budget Vote and School Board Election
 - 2025 Running for the School Board: What all Prospective School Board Members Should Know
 - NYSSBA'S School Board Member Experience
- March 12th - Executive Directors Complimentary Lunchtime Webinar 12:00 p.m. - Understanding Workers' Compensation: Balancing Costs, Coverage and Risk
- March 26th - Parliamentary Procedures Webinar 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (Complimentary Webinar)
- Leadership in Education Event - August 1st and 2nd in Albany, New York (more details to follow).

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.

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.
- ENSSA and WNYESC facilitate a leadership forum Friday March 21st at the Atrium at 500 Seneca Street. Registration is at 9:30 a.m.

Schedule is as follows:

- 10:00 Greetings/Introduction
- 10:20 Session One: Dave Egner, President/CEO Ralph Wilson Jr. Foundation
- 11:00 Session Two: Trina Burruss, President/CEO United Way of Buffalo
- 11:45 Lunch
- 1:00 Session Three: Dr. Satish Tripathi, President of the University at Buffalo
- 1:40 Closing Remarks

BEST PRACTICES: I attended the Starpoint CSD Board of Education meeting. The Board livestreams their meetings. Community members attending virtually can comment during the Public Expression by raising their hand and being recognized by the Board President.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

I will be attending a Celebration to honor NYSSBA retiree Jay Worona on March 1st. The NYSSBA Area Board of Directors held a 'virtual call in' session this past Wednesday to get us all caught up on information. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on March 1st and 2nd.

IN SPORTS:

This Week's High School Boys Basketball Rankings:

Large Schools

#6 Grand Island

#8 Health Sciences

#9 Williamsville South

#10 Amherst

Small Schools

#4 Akron

#8 Eden

#9 Middle Early College

Division II

131: Trevor DellaPenta, Eden

215: Chris Howatt, Pioneer