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**6:30 – 8:30 p.m.**

**September 19, 2024**

**Room B1**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**2024-2025 Chairs: Scott Johnson, Kathleen Chiavetta, & Erik Polkowski**

**Scott Johnson Presiding**

**Present: Kristy Pingitore (Akron), Ryan Allen (Akron), Erik Polkowski (Akron), Gordon Crock (Amherst), Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst), Derrick Warburton (Cheektowaga), James Stachewicz (Cheektowaga-Sloan), Dennis Priore (Clarence), Michael Montoro (Cleveland Hill), Paul Blowers (East Aurora), Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES), Kathleen Chiavetta (Erie 2 CC BOCES & Lakeshore), James Voto (Frontier), Sherry Steffans (Grand Island), David Yoviene (Hamburg), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Jane Sullivan (Iroquois and ECASB), Karen Whitelaw (Ken-Ton), Mike Franey (Lake Shore), Jennifer Pilarski (Maryvale), Ryan Anderson (Orchard Park), Scott Johnson (Sweet Home), Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda), Lorene Barulich (West Seneca), David Lowrey (ECASB & Erie 2 CC BOCES)**

**Excused: Todd Bush (Depew), Jessica Horton & Jennifer Pisa (North Collins), Kimberly Bukaty (Lackawanna), Paul Roll Jr. (Alden)**

**Absent: Paul Roll Jr. (Alden), Cindi McEachon (Buffalo), Jennifer Horschel (Eden), Renee Wilson (Erie 1 BOCES), Zachary Nobles (Gowanda), Jim Michalek (Iroquois), Tim Talbot (Lancaster), Devin Kowalske (Springville Griffith), Mark Manna (Williamsville)**

**There was a pre-meeting for new Legislative Committee Members held at 5:30 p.m. for those individuals that wanted to learn a little more about Bill Track 50. A light dinner was provided. Those in attendance included: Lory Goldhawk, James Stachewicz, Lorene Barulich, Kathleen Chiavetta, Jane Sullivan, Dave Lowrey, Kristy Pingitore, Ryan Allen, Scott Johnson, Kristin Schmutzler, and James Voto**

**Call to Order – Scott Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.**

**Pledge** **to Flag**

Quorum Announcement: **Scott announced a quorum was present.**

**Approval of Agenda Motion by Mike Franey; second by James Voto; MCU**

**Approval of Meeting Minutes**- **Approval by Kisty Pingitore (Akron), second by Derek Warburton (Cheektowaga)**

**Review of Legislative/Advocacy Summer Connections:**

1. **Akron recently held a Legislative Roundtable with state legislators, county legislators, and local politicians alone with their school board. The Program was set up as a panel discussion. Topics included Cell Phones in Schools, Cell Phone Access, Busing, Mental Health, Mixed Sports Competition.**
2. **Kristin Schmutzler took part in NYSSBA’s Federal Advocacy which was a virtual format.**

**Old Business:**

1. **Review of Subcommittee Meeting – Those people that ae interested in presenting at the Legislative Breakfast should contact Jane. The meeting for the sub committee will be October 24th to finalize the program.** 
   1. **ECASB Takes a Stand Updates – Jane reviewed changes to the document and asked for input. The document is updated every other year. We will print enough for the Legislative Committee and each of our legislators. The document is like the NYSSBA document that details ECASB’s position on different issues. Committee members recommended changes throughout the document.**
   2. **Emergent Bills to Watch – Jane reviewed what bills she is watching.**
   3. **NYSSBA Virtual Business Meeting/Resolutions – Scott discussed his committee’s work to streamline the process. Leslie Tobin (Lockport) is this year’s Area 1 Rep for the Legislative Committee. Scoot-Kathleen-Erik and Jane discussed what the Business Meeting is all about and the purpose of the meeting.** 
      1. **Delegates attending – Delegates and their alternates need to register by the due dates sent out by NYSSBA.**

**New Business**

1. **Legislative Breakfast: Nov. 16 8:30 a.m. to Noon at Resurgence Brewing Company, 55 Chicago St. in Buffalo – It is recommended that as many people as possible from a district attend the Legislative Breakfast. The number of people indicates to legislators in attendance that ECASB has many districts that agree on the issues. Districts are encouraged to register their Legislative Committee Reps, their alternates, Board officers, Board members, Superintendents, Business Officials, Union Leadership, PTA and Community leaders.** 
   1. **Preliminary issues**
      1. **Student Mental Health**
      2. **Cell Phone Ban Bill (S09810) – Districts are not looking for another unfunded mandate. Districts are all over the board on this, so we should not identify this issue yet.**
      3. **Sports eligibility bill – Scott explained this proposed bill that was pulled by the Regents at the last meeting. Because of the pulling of the bill, we should not address this issue at this time.**
      4. **ZEB**
         1. **New tactic- eliminate grants and State fund it**
      5. **Teacher Shortages**
      6. **Foundation Aid**
         1. **Updates on Rockefeller Institute Hearings- Dave Lowrey spoke at the Buffalo hearing site. He mentioned that the Rockefeller Institute will be presenting at the Rural Schools Winter Conference.**
      7. **Legislator requested** 
         1. **Wallace Bill A04136 (Social Media Education) – We were asked why we do not support this bill. We asked several questions that the legislators’ aide was not able to answer from: Is the bill fully funded? Who would teach the course? Where does the course fit during the day? Is this a credit course? What grades would have to take the course? Who is certified to teach the course? Too many questions to jump on any bandwagon.**
   2. **Additional issues to include**
2. **Building New Quick Response Team for 2024-2025: The Quick Response Team will include: David Lowrey (ECASB and Erie 2 CC BOCES), Jane Sullivan (Iroquois), Scott Johnson (Sweet Home & Chair), Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore, Erie 2 CC BOCES, & Chair), Erik Polkowski (Akron & Chair), Ryan Anderson (Orchard Park), Ed Schaefer (Cheektowaga), Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda) Michael Montoro, (Cleveland Hill) and Kristy Pingitore (Akron). The quick response team will provide feed back to legislators who may have a question at the last minute on a bill. Districts represented by the QRT include rural, small, large, BOCES, Small City, first ring suburban and Native American populations districts.**
3. **Bill Track 50 – This was covered in the report above.** 
   1. **Bills watching**
   2. **Actions Taken**
   3. **Call for additional actions**
4. **Superintendent Representative Comments: Currently there is not a Superintendent Representative that has been designated.**
5. **Leader Comments**

* **Chairman Scott**
* **Chairman Kathleen – mentioned that new members should not shy away from getting involved. There are usually plenty of people that attend meetings with legislators that you can sit back and watch. When you feel comfortable, then respond. Legislators are basically looking for the stories as to how an issue affects a district.**
* **Chairman Erik**
* **Executive Director Comments – Around December, we will want a rough idea as to how many and who will be attending the Capital Conference. This year, ECASB will get a block of rooms for those wishing to attend (possibly up on Wolf Road).**
* **Program Services Manager Comments – Jane mentioned that we have postcards that say, ‘Vote No’, ‘Vote Yes’, and ‘Thank You’ with ECASB logos that can be sent to legislators regarding bills that they will vote on/have voted on. They are quick and easy and not as time-consuming as a letter/email. Also, we have ECASB Advocacy shirts…. ECASB logo on the back…on the front ‘Remain Calm and Advocate’ along with a symbol of crown.**

1. **questions and comments**

**Member Roundtable Reports:**

**Amherst – Pass**

**Akron – Have a special presentation coming in October on School Safety. Kristy Pingitore said she would send Dave a flyer to send out.**

**Cheektowaga – pass**

**Cheektowaga-Sloan – pass**

**Clarence – Williamsville East will be bringing a dynamic speaker Bob Hess on October 1st for a 9:30 and 12:30 program. Dennis Priore urged those that can see the speaker should inquire about attending.**

**Cleveland Hill – pass**

**East Aurora – pass**

**Frontier – District is now using zero eyes for school safety.**

**Hamburg - pass**

**Holland – Mary Jo was looking to go to David DiPietro’s Open House Fundraiser in Wales. She wants to know why he was a no vote on the save harmless bill.**

**Iroquois – pass**

**Ken Ton –. They currently do not have Zero Emission buses. They would have to purchase at least 70 buses. The infrastructure for the buses would be more than $10 million.**

**Lake Shore – pass**

**Maryvale – Has received ½ of the money for asylum students even though they were promised the full amount. Board and community members are not happy. Legislators are giving them the run around.**

**Orchard Park – pass**

**Sweet Home – Looked at a Capital Project to open a closed school. Is much cheaper to add classrooms to existing buildings. Had to convince SED of the most cost-effective route to go.**

**Tonawanda – met with NYSSBA staff members this summer when conducting Federal Advocacy. Kristin got additional advocacy time in recently this summer when Assembly Conrad joined her mom’s walking group.**

**Adjournmen. Motion by Denis Priore, second by Mary Jo Szucs.**