



This Week At ECASB ...

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

June 14, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

Platinum Level Sponsors



THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BOARD MEMBERS WHO DONATED GIFT BASKETS FOR THE ANNUAL ECASB BASKET RAFFLE. PROCEEDS ARE USED FOR THE LORIE SABO ADVOCACY FUND TO SEND ECASB MEMBERS TO ALBANY/WASHINGTON D.C. Below is the list of baskets donated and the recipient: .

<u>Basket Donated by:</u>	<u>Theme:</u>	<u>Winner/District:</u>
Ken Ton Board Members	\$50 Amazon Gift Card	Sherry Steffan/Grand Island
North Collins Board Members	Grilling Basket	Paul Spors /Ken Ton
Maryvale Board Members	Cooler/Picnic Supplies	Chuck Specht/Iroquois
Dave Lowrey	\$100 Gift Card to Rick's on Main	Sabatino Cimato/Ken Ton
Dave Lowrey	\$100 Gift Card to Roycroft	Marie Zimmer/Maryvale
Iroquois Board Members	4th of July Basket	Kimberly Bukaty/Lackawanna
Cheektowaga Sloan Board Members	Flowering Plant	Bill McCowan
Cheektowaga Sloan Board Members	Flowering Plant	Lee Ann Vogt/Ken Ton
Cleveland Hill Board Members	Cooler/Amazon Gift Card	Zachary Smith/Cheektowaga/ Sloan
Holland Board Members	Smore Fun	Toni Caputo

*ECASB raised \$460 on the Basket Raffle. The split club was won by Kris Spors. Kris won \$125 in the ECASB Split Club. The monies raised are deposited into the Lorie Sabo Advocacy fund.

ECASB OFFICE IS CLOSED FRIDAY, JUNE 14TH: Due to vacation time.

ECASB OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED WEDNESDAY JUNE 19TH: In observance of Juneteenth.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY: To all Fathers, Step Dad's, Grandfathers, Uncles, God Fathers, or anyone that served in the capacity of a 'father figure' and had a significant impact on the life of a child.

LAST CALL - ECASB BLACK T-SHIRTS: Please let us know by Friday June 21st if you would like one of the remaining ECASB black T-Shirts. The T-Shirts have district logos (Not including Holland CSD). Logos are not the updated logos. We have the following sizes available: 17 Small; 2 XL; 2 XXL; and 20 XXXL. We can send the shirts to you via interschool mail.

BOARD AND BREWS INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT OUT: Board N' Brews information has been sent out. Program is July 11th. Deadline to register is July 3rd. The program is open to all ECASB Members. There is no cost to attend the program. All ECASB members will be provided two free drink tickets. Program is from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. A buffet and ice cream bar will be served. Program is open to spouses/significant others/guest. All attendees need to register directly with ECASB NOT THEIR District Clerk. If you have not called us or emailed us yet, please do so sooner rather than later as we will need to contact the Hamburg Brew Pub and determine the menu and the amount of food needed for the event.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES NEW DATES FOR 2025 ANNUAL CON-

VENTION: The event had been scheduled March 29th through March 31st. The new dates will be Friday April 4th - Sunday, April 6th. The convention will be held in Atlanta, Georgia. A call for proposals is now open for sessions. The submission period will close at the end of the day on August 2nd.

ECASB EXECUTIVE BOARD RETREAT MEETING WILL BE HELD THURSDAY JUNE 27TH. The final meeting of the 2023-2024 ECASB Program Year will be an Executive Board retreat. If you have any concerns and issues that you would like to have addressed, please reach out to the 2023-2024 Executive Board Members. Executive Board Members include President Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD); Vice President James McDermott (Maryvale UFSD); Treasurer Patrick Boyle (Frontier CSD); At-Large Members: Erik Polkowski (Akron CSD), Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst CSD), Kimberly Bukaty (Lackawanna City SD), Dwight Eagan (Erie 2 CC BOCES), and Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD); NYSSBA Area 1 Rep: Linda Hoffman/Dave Lowrey; Buffalo Representative: Terrance Heard; and Immediate Past President, Renee Wilson (Cheektowaga-Erie 1 BOCES).

DISTRICTS WITH NEW LOGOS: There are a few districts that now have new logos. ECASB would request a copy of the logo so that we can update our files and records. Additionally, ECASB will be reprinting ECASB T-Shirts in the fall of the year with new logos. If any Board Members would like to have ECASB T-shirts with old logos, we still have shirts available in both black and blue in sizes ranging from small to xxx-large. We can send you the t-shirt via interschool mail.

NYSSBA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY: June 3rd, NYSSBA sent out a survey to all ECASB members. Please take the time to fill out the survey and provide NYSSBA with valuable information on how best to serve NYSSBA members.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE NYSSBA EVERETT R. DYER AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL BOARD SERVICE AWARD: Is due by June 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Check out the NYSSBA website for details.

BPO 2023-2024 REPORT: You will find a BPO Education and Community Final Report attached. Highlights include: 13,963 Buffalo Public School students being served; 7,659 Erie County School students being served; 2024 Student programs and workshop; 1,466 Disability Workshops; multiple engagements of 200 students between the Orchard Park Ellicott Elementary and the BPS International School #45; 400 students being serviced in Lancaster CSD through residencies; 269 High School students participating from 44 different high schools in the Symphony Hall Pass; and 316 teachers from 221 schools across WNY utilized Digital Resources. The complete report is also attached.

BUFFALO TORONTO PUBLIC MEDIA (WNED): Board Members Kristy Pingitore (Akron CSD), Maureen Poulin (Williamsville CSD) and Vincent Vanderlip (West Seneca CSD) served on the Education Committee for the 2023-2024 school year. BPTM is working with the authors of a new book - Creating Reading Rainbow: The Untold Story of a Beloved Children's Series - on a book launch celebration. The exclusive panel discussion and book signing will be on July 9th from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. The event is free. Attendees should contact <https://creating-reading-rainbow.eventbrite.com> to reserve a complimentary ticket if they would like to attend the event.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ERIE 1 BOCES FOR THEIR NYSSBA'S RECOGNITION WITH THE CHAMPOINS OF CHANGE: For the Erie 1 BOCES Early Childhood Education Program.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WILLIAMSVILLE CSD FOR RECOGNITION OF TWO STUDENTS BY NYSSBA IN THEIR TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY AWARD: Sunya Afrasiabi is recognized for her leadership in her #My Story storytelling project, sharing immigrant and refugee experiences and cultural heritage via media; and Grant Wang for his leadership in initiating and developing a tool to detect offensive content in social media and confronting cyberbullying.

NYSSBA'S BOARD EXCELLENCE REGONTION PROGRAM: Recognizes School Board Members who have attended and participated in training opportunities, the Annual Convention, taking on the role of Board President or Advocacy Liaison. Board Members earn points for attending programs. Level 2 is 150 points; Level 3 is 250 points and Level 4 is 500 points. Congratulations to the following individuals from ECASB who have achieved the various levels:

Level 2 - Excellence Award

- Joe Cassidy (East Aurora UFSD)
- Elizabeth Gates (West Seneca CSD)
- Cameron Hall (Hamburg CSD)
- Jill Hopcia (Alden CSD)
- Heather Jacobs (Iroquois CSD)
- Crystal Kaczmarek-Bogner (Williamsville CSD)
- Richard Karalus (Alden)
- Paula Leach (Holland)
- Mark Mecca (Erie 1 BOCES)
- Terri Ohlweiler (East Aurora UFSD)
- Kristy Pingitore (Akron CSD)
- Erik Polkowski (Akron CSD)
- Lawrence Scott (Buffalo PS)

Level 3 - Board Mastery Award:

- Todd Bush (Depew UFSD)
- Chris Cerrone (Springville Griffith Institute UFSD)
- Kathy Evans Brown (Buffalo PS)
- Michael Franey (Lake Shore CSD)
- Charles Specht (Iroquois CSD)

Level 4 - Board Lifetime Achievement Award:

- Edward Cavan (Erie 1 BOCES)
- Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore CSD)
- Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga Sloan UFSD)
- Julie McNeil (Cleveland Hill UFSD)
- Robert Polino (Cleveland Hill UFSD)
- Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD)
- Gerald Vella (Holland CSD)

ECASB SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION: Has been revised and is will be sent out over the next two weeks. ECASB if you know of a business that may be interested in becoming a sponsor of ECASB, there are several levels available. This year we will have a Diamond Level that is available to one business or entity. The Platinum Level will be expanded from 3 sponsors to 5 sponsors. Gold Level and Silver Level Sponsors are not limited as to the businesses that can sign up. Please let us know the name of the business and a contact person that we can send Sponsorship Information to. The increase in the sponsorship revenue has allowed ECASB to maintain dues at the same level for the last 10 years.

NYSSBA RESOLUTIONS AND PROPOSED BY-LAW AMENDMENTS ARE DUE JULY 12, 2024 BY 5:00 P.M. Resolutions Committee will meet in August. The local representative serving is Leslie Tobin, President of the Lockport City School District.

NEWLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS MAY NOT BE RECEIVING COMMUNICATIONS FROM ECASB: Please note that ECASB communications are not being sent to many of the newly elected School Board Members because many of the newly elected Board Members do not have their district email account established yet. Please feel free to forward any and all appropriate communications to newly elected School Board Members.

THE WESTERN NEW YORK LAW CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM HAS BEEN SENT OUT: The program will be held on Wednesday, August 7th. The event will take place at Salvatore's on Transit Road. Deadline to register for the workshop will be July 30th. The information flyer will be sent out shortly. We are confirming a few minor details regarding speakers for individual sessions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- June 27th - ECASB Executive Board Retreat
- July 11th - ECASB Boards and Brews

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
 - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
 - June 27th - Workplace Leave Laws webinar 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:

- July 14th-16th - Summer Conference @ Lake Placid, New York

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 SUPERINTENDENT'S ASSOCIATION:** Achieving the Joy and Mastery of Learning podcast listing. [CLICK HERE](#)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: *Inquiring School Board Members want to know... "What can I expect at the Board Re-Organization meeting in July?" Answer: The Re-Organization meeting happens fairly quickly. A president and vice president are elected, new board members are sworn in, and several people will take an oath of office. Following those procedures, there will be the approval of many businesses, policies, entities and people to different positions. Often a Board will hold their Re-organization meeting prior to their regular Board of Education meeting. Since many Boards of Education record their meetings and archive the meetings, a Board Member could always review the previous years Re-Organization meeting. Board Members will most likely be receiving the agenda for the Re-Organization meeting several days in advance, so they can review in detail the agenda and contact the Superintendent with any questions or concerns they may have.*

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

- **Consider signing up for the Leadership in Education to be held in Albany at the Crowne Plaza Albany on July 19th and 20th. Why? Because EVERY district will be put to the test in the coming year. Will your school district be prepared?**
- **The NYSSBA Board of Directors will be holding a Directors Meeting on June 15th. If you have any items that you would like me to bring to the meeting, please send me an email or call me.**

**THIS WEEK AT ECASB" IS
SPONSORED THIS WEEK
BY ECASB PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSOR:**

School Boards around the area are saying good bye to Board Members who will not be returning. I had the pleasure of attending Chuck Specht's (Iroquois CSD) Board Retirement Dinner with members of the Iroquois Board, Superintendent Douglas Scofield, District Clerk Nora Specht, and Former District Clerk Cindy Sadowski. I got to know Chuck when he started showing up at a few school board meetings just over 15 years ago. Chuck then became a fixture in the audience and attended every School Board meeting. Chuck began taping our Board of Education meetings and writing Letters to the Editor of the local newspaper before deciding to run for the School Board. After attending his mandated Governance Training and Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training, Chuck hit the ground running and making an impact in the district. He immediately got involved in ECASB committees and attended many events to learn as much as he could about Board of Education Service. I served as President for several years with Chuck serving as Vice President, before he took over as President. I also was able to work closely with Chuck Specht when he served as President of ECASB and Immediate Past President of the organization. Chuck has served on the ECASB Delegate Assembly Team, the ECASB Legislative Team, the ECASB Budget and Finance Team as well as on several committees. Chuck has been the recipient of several ECASB Rising Star and Shining Star Awards over the years as well as receiving the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award. Chuck has indicated that he will continue to stay active in our Advocacy efforts at ECASB as we continue to work with our New York State Assembly and Senate on issues affecting education, so you may still see Chuck around. We wish Chuck well in his retirement from Board of Education service.



HARRIS BEACH PLLC
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