



This Week At ECASB ...

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

February 14, 2025

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ECASB WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH: The office will be closed on Friday February 14th due to vacation time being used and on Monday, February 17th due to President's Day.

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.

THE BUDGET AND FINANCE TEAM MET LAST THURSDAY TO REVIEW THE 2025-20256 BUDGET. A quorum of committee members was not present, so all the documents were sent to the entire team so that the balance of the districts could weigh in on a virtual vote. I am happy to announce that committee members voted and the 2025-2026 budget was passed. **NO FUTURE BUDGET AND FINANCE MEETINGS WILL BE NEEDED THIS YEAR.** The budget will go to the Delegate Assembly Committee for final approval at its next meeting on February 27th. This will be the 12th year that ECASB will not raise annual dues. Thank you to all who attended the meeting or provided the virtual vote.

ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS OPENED 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.

- 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

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- 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.

NAMM: Application period is open through February 28th for Best Communities for Music Education.

SAD NEWS: The husband of Judith Katz, Dr. Leonard Katz recently passed away. Judith served on the Williamsville School Board as a Board Member and President. Judith served as on the Erie 1 BOCES Board and served as their President as well for several terms. She also served as the NYSSBA Area 1 Director and as the NYSSBA President. Judith was the recipient of the Diana R. Miller Leadership award. Dr. Leonard Katz often traveled with Judith to many of the local, statewide and federal programs for School Boards. Condolences can be sent to Judith Katz, 186 Forestview Drive, Williamsville, New York 14221-1416.

ECASB SUPERBOWL POOL RESULTS: All committee members serving on the Delegate Assembly/Budget and Finance, and the Legislative teams) were entered into the first No-Cost ECASB Super Bowl pool. Prizes will be as follows:

- 1st Quarter winner - \$50 and an ECASB Padfolio - David Yoviene (Hamburg CSD)
- Halftime winner - \$75 and an ECASB Cheese Board Set—Zachary Nobles

(Gowanda CSD)

- 3rd Quarter winner - \$100 and an ECASB Throw - Ron Morlock (Maryvale UFSD)
- Final Game winner - \$200 and an ECASB Lawn Chair— Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD)

The program was sponsored by Image Model Management. Prizes will be sent out to the winners - February 27th - Delegate Assembly Meeting 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m., B1

THE FOLLOWING ECASB MEMBERS ATTENDED THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE Jane Sullivan and Heather Becker (Iroquois), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Ed Schaefer (Cheektowaga), Lorene Barulich (West Seneca), Sabatino Cimato, Matthew Chimera, Paul Spors, Lee Ann Vogt, Karen Whitelaw, and Fred Floss (Ken Ton UFSD), Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda), and Kristy Pingitore and Erik Polkowski (Akron) attended the program. Dan Pacos, Kathleen Chiavetta, and Mike Franey (Lake Shore CSD) attended the conference as well, but were at a different hotel. Additionally, Beth Pyskaty (Starpoint) joined us for part of the conference as well as Leslie Tobin, Greg Newman Jr., and Michael Ferraro (Lockport City School District).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd– March 3rd - ECASB Awards Nominations Open
- February 27th - Delegate Assembly Meeting, B1, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- 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

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.
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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: Just a reminder, when new School Board Members attend either their Governance Training or their Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training, it is the Board Members responsibility to make sure that they secure a certificate and provide the District Clerk with a copy of the certificate. Organizations completing the training may not necessarily keep the records over time.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

Interviews were held for the 8th Judicial District for the Regent. The interviews were held in Albany on Monday, February 10, 11th, and 12th. You can view Dr. Fraser's testimony as well as the comments made from other individuals running for Regent either for the 8th Judicial District, one of the other Judicial Districts or for the at large members. The new regent will be selected in March at a joint meeting of the New York State Assembly and the New York State Senate. You can always reach out to your elected official and voice support for candidates.

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:

Nothing to report this week.



Last week, NSBA held their annual Advocacy Program. Meeting with representatives of Senator Schumers' office are members of the New York State Delegation. At the head of the table is Gunner Haberel is one of the top Legislative Aides in the Senator's office. Gunnar is a former Iroquois CSD Board Member. To the right of Gunner is Lake Shore Board Members Dennis Feldmann, Mike Franey and Kathleen Chiavetta.



ECASB Members and Board Members from Starpoint and Lockport City School District joined us for a “pre-advocacy dinner” in Albany prior to the Capital Conference. The dinner was held at “The Barnsider”. A total of 23 Western New York School Board Members were in attendance. Assemblyman Bill Conrad joined us for conversation before dinner, but was unable to join us for dinner.