



This Week At ECASB ...

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

June 28, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

Platinum Level Sponsors



WE SAY GOOD BYE TO ECASB OFFICE ASSISTANT SUE BEIER: Sue's last day at ECASB was June 27th. She may still help out with special events. Sue has been with the organization a little over a year and assisted everyone in the office.

ECASB OFFICE IS CLOSED FRIDAY, JUNE 28: Due to vacation time the ECASB office will be closed on Friday, June 28th.

ECASB OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NEXT FRIDAY JULY 4TH AND 5TH FOR THE INDEPENDENCE DAY HOLIDAY. If you are attending Boards N' Brews - YOU MUST REGISTER BY JULY 3RD.!!!

ADDITIONAL SENIORS ENTERING MILITARY SERVICE: We wish the following Holland CSD Seniors well as they enter military service: Jaden Tavernier - Air Force and Jack Brown - Army.

2024-2025 SPONSOR NEWS: The entire mailing will be sent Friday to our past sponsors and any businesses that conduct business with schools. Corporate Screening Investigative Group (CSI) has signed on as a Platinum Level Sponsor.

2024-2025 ECASB DUES: Invoices for ECASB Dues will be sent out starting today. ECASB dues have remained the same for 11 years now. Through our united efforts as an organization, we have been a stronger voice on legislative issues. Through our united efforts, we have been able to provide programs and speakers to educate school board members and administrators on current issues. Through our united efforts, we have been able to provide one of the state's premier law conference that takes place every August. Through our united efforts, we have become a premier networking organization for board members, superintendents, attorneys, school business officials, sponsors, and district level administrators.

THIS WEEK AT ECASB WILL CHANGE OVER THE SUMMER MONTHS TO: ECASB Summer Update.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULES: Please make sure that Board meetings schedules are sent to ECASB so that we can begin scheduling our Board Visits. Boards of Educations will also be designating members to serve on committees including Delegate Assembly, Budget and Finance Committee and the Legislative Committee. Descriptions of each of the committees along with meeting dates have been sent to District Clerks that Board Members can review at their reorganization meeting.

BOARD AND BREWS: 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 spouse/significant other/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.**

WATCH FOR DETAILS OF ECASB'S SUMMER PROMOTIONS: Next week, ECASB will provide information on a few of the ECASB 's summer promotions to keep ECASB members connected during the summer months.

VISIT TO AKRON CSD. Although I have visited each school district in Erie County as the Executive Director of ECASB, I had the opportunity to attend the Akron CSD Board of Education meeting on Wednesday night to present the Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award to Board Member Kristy Pingitore. Kristy in her second year served as the district's Legislative Representative, served on the Education Committee for the BPO, the Education Committee for WNED/PBS, as well as serving on the planning and presentation team for the Legislative Dinner this past year. While attending the meeting, I ran into Mr. Paul Kowalski who I worked with at Lockport where he served as an Assistant Principal. He is currently the Technology Director and will become the next Business Administrator at Akron CSD. I also ran into Mr. John Morello who was appointed as the Assistant Principal and Athletic Director at Akron. I had the pleasure of having John in my art class at Lockport High School years ago....he looks the same, however he has a southern accent having lived in South Carolina for quiet a few years.

RE-ORGANIZATION MEETINGS: The next week and 1/2 School Boards will be holding their reorganization meetings. At the reorganization meeting, school boards will select representatives for the Delegate Assembly, the Legislative Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee. In addition, alternates will also be selected. District Clerks have been provided with job descriptions for each of the committees. Additionally, the dates have been indicated in the forms for the meetings. Almost ALL ECASB events and meetings are held on Thursday evenings. Only two districts within Erie County have Thursday night meetings. When establishing the ECASB calendar of events and meetings, we attempted out best to review Lackawanna City School District and the Alden School Districts meeting schedule to avoid as many conflicts as possible. On occasion, a school board does not select a representative for a committee. ECASB will as they have in the past, list the Board President as the default individual so that information is sent to district.

ECASB CALENDAR OF EVENTS: The Executive Board met last evening to finalize the 2024-2025 calendar. The Desk Card Calendar will now be sent to the printer and will be sent to district clerks to be distributed to all School Board Members and Superintendents.

NEW ECASB EVENT: *A new ECASB event will be on September 26th. Mark your calendars. The event is a dinner designed for ALL NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS WITH less than 2 years of Board Service. We would ask that Superintendents and the Board Presidents also attend the event and accompany their new board members. If the Board President is unable to attend the event, we would ask for another Board Member that is a leadership position or an experienced Board Member attend the event. The event titled "Now that You Are Seated" will help answer many questions that new Board of Education members have to help guide them through Board Service. The dinner is being held in September to allow new School Board members to get a few Board Meetings under their belt. More information will be provided in the future. The program was developed based on feedback from ECASB members about providing more support for New School Board Members to better help prepare them and guide them for Board of Education service.*

BUFFALO BUSINESS FIRST HAS RELEASED THEIR 2024 SCHOOLS GUIDE: The guide shows the entire snapshot of the district at a point in time. Schools will often use the Business First Guide as marketing tool. Often times, Business First will look at NYSED data. This year, they reviewed data from Niche.com The company is a Pittsburgh based company that compiles data from across the United States. Data was purchased on schools from Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Niagara, and Genesee counties for comparison purposes. Watch for more information on the Business First Guide.

NYSSBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR: Thursday, July 11th 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m. The Foundation Aid Study being conducted by the Rockefeller Institute of Government will be presented by President of the Rockefeller Institute of Government Robert Megna and Brian Backstrom the Director of Education Policy Studies of the Rockefeller Institute of Government. The webinar is a free webinar.

ROCKEFELLER INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES FOUNDATION AID HEARINGS: The Rockefeller Institute of Government will hold a series of public hearings as part of the Foundation Aid Study.

- July 16th - New York City
- July 25th - Buffalo
- July 30th - Farmingdale (Long Island)
- August 8th - Laurens (Otesaga County)
- August 14th - Guilderland (Albany County)

Comment sessions are open to the public. People can submit written comments or apply to speak ahead of time.

SOCIAL MEDIA BILL: Governor Kathy Hochul signed the “Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids and The New York Child Data Protection Acts”. The bill will:

- Limit the access that social media companies algorithmic or ‘addictive’ feeds have to minors.
- Require parental consent for minors to access algorithmic feeds on social media platforms.
- Require parental consent for minors to access social media platforms between 12:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. and get notifications during that time.
- Authorize the Office of the Attorney General to seek damages for civil penalties for violations up to \$5,000 per violation.
- Allow parents/guardians of covered minors to sue for damages up to \$500 per incident, or actual damages.
- Prohibits online platforms for collecting, using, sharing, or selling personal data of anyone under the age of 18 for advertising, unless they received informed consent.
- For users under the age of 13, this informed consent must come from a parent or guardian.

PRIVATE AND CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS NOT ENTITLED TO TRANSPORTATION ON DAYS SCHOOL DISTRICTS NOT IN SESSION: On June 20, 2024, New York’s highest court confirmed that school districts (outside of New York City) are not required to provide transportation on days their schools are not in session. Complete questions should be directed to your legal counsel.

A PACKET HAS BEEN SENT TO ALL NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO GATHER INFORMATION FOR THE BOARD CONNECTION: The Board Connection features information on all new school Board Members that we share with our membership. The Board Connection typically will start mid July. Please encourage all new Board Members to return their information in the self addressed postage paid envelope. If we do not feature a New Board Member, it is because the Board member failed to return the information sheets.

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION EVENT SPONSORED BY NYSSBA JULY 19TH & 20TH: Public Education leader Bill Dagget will kick off the two day event. Sponsor Showcases include Apptegy, The College Board, Western Governors University, and On the Bus. Room block at the Desmond will be held until June 26th. The Hotel Tilogy Albany Airport will have an overflow block that will be held until July 4th.

ECASB SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION: Has been revised and will be sent out over the next two weeks. 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 as well as not charge for programs (ie... Speed Boarding programs) where a meal is not served.

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.

NYSED AND NYSCFSS OFFER FREE TRAININGS FOR NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL LEADERS AND STAFF: To assist in emergency planning and developing a comprehensive District-Wide School Safety Plan and Building-Level Emergency Response Plan. Details of the various offerings can be found

at SafetyPlans@nysed.org.

NYSSBA MEMBERSHIP SURVEY DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO JULY 12TH: Please take the time to complete the survey so that NYSSBA can better meet the needs of the members.

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. Please note that the key note speaker will be NYSSBA Sr. Staff Counsel Jeffrey Mongelli, Esq.. Following his Year in Review address, Jeffrey will take part in a conversation with SED Counsel Daniel Morton Bentley on several New York State Education Department initiatives.

INQUIRY: As we finalize our plans for the 2024-2025 at ECASB, we are looking for different venues to hold our dinner meetings. If there is any ECASB member that is a member of the Park Country Club on Sheridan Drive in Williamsville that would be willing to work with ECASB, please let Dave or Jane know.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- July 11th - ECASB Boards and Brews

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event
- NYSSBA Summer Law Conference
 - (In Person)
 - July 18th - Albany at the Crown Plaza / Desmond Hotel
 - July 23rd - Long Island at the Hilton Long Island-Huntington
 - (Live Virtual)
 - July 25th and July 26th

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... "How can school board members advocate with their elected officials during the summer?" Answer: Although elected officials may have a lighter schedule during the summer months most legislators and their staff would be available to meet with constituents in their local office. If you have a family with young children, and*

your legislator is going to be in Albany, you could set up a meeting with them in Albany and arrange to tour historic Albany. One of the advantages of advocating during the summer months is that there may be less people vying for the legislators attention. When meeting with them, always leave with an 'ask'. If you need to provide any facts and figures on your district, reach out to your Superintendent and or Business Administrator.

BEST PRACTICES: *Starting in September, we will feature a weekly "Best Practices" feature in This Week at ECASB that will share a 'best practice' that various ECASB School Boards practice that make for better functioning Board and a better organized Board Meeting. If you have any suggestions for this new addition, please feel free to email ECASB.*

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?*
- *NYSSBA Board of Directors nominated for election, the following directors to serve as officers for a one year term beginning January 1, 2025: President-Sandra Ruffo; 1st Vice President-Chris Schnars, 2nd Vice President-Rodney George; and Treasurer-Tom Nespeca.*
- *The Board of Directors adopted the following official recommendations by the Business Meeting Task Force. The task force was led by NYSSBA's Director of Governmental Services Brian Fessler and Sweet Home CSD Board of Education Member and ECASB's Legislative Co-Chair Scott Johnson.*
 - 1. Shorten the debate/speaker time when a large number of resolutions (35+) are received.*
 - 2. Hold a pre-business meeting session to allow delegates to ask questions and clarify the intent of the resolutions.*
 - 3. Eliminate late resolutions, except when such resolutions are submitted based upon exigent circumstances.*

**THIS WEEK AT ECASB IS
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