



ECASB Budget/Finance
Minutes—February 6,2025 (FINAL)
Erie 1 BOCES—Room B1
6:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Presiding:

Attending: Dawn Synder- Presiding (Clarence), Ryan DiPasquale- Bookkeeper for 4.5 years, Dave Lowrey- Executive Director (Erie 2 CC BOCES), Mary Jo Szucs- (Holland), Phil Kenline- (Akron), Bonnie Vest- (Cleveland Hill), Dawn Fletch- (Williamsville), Stephanie Dombrowski- (Cheektowaga Sloan), Patrick Boyle- (Frontier), Mary Jane Metzen- (Amherst), Yvonne Douglass, and Lisa Sekuterski- (Cheektowaga), Brian Laible-(Sweet Home), Paul Spors-(Ken-Ton), Heather Jacobs- (Iroquois), Jeff Thorp- (Tonawanda), and Jane Sullivan-ECASB

Excused: Dennis Feldmann (Lake Shore), Kristen Bauer (Lake Shore), Joe Cassidy (East Aurora)

Absent: Jill Hopcia (Alden), Paulette Woods (Buffalo), Mary Busse (Erie 1 BOCES), Thomas Flynn (Hamburg), Shokey Albaneh (Lackawanna), Kevin Davenport (Lancaster), Steven Comeau (Orchard Park), Sarah Piwowarczyk (West Seneca)

Virtual Votes: Bart McGloin (Depew), Joe Cassidy (East Aurora), Sue Martson (Grand Island), James McDermott (Maryvale), Mark Nephew (Gowanda), Dennis Fellman/Kristen Bauer (Lake Shore)

- I. **Pledge of Allegiance – Treasurer Dawn Snyder called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge to the flag at 6:31 p.m.**
- II. **Note that a quorum of members **WAS NOT** present for votes. Final vote will be via virtual vote.**
- III. **Introductions –**
- IV. **Approval of Agenda – Motion by Mary Jo Szucs (Holland); Second by Heather Jacobs (Iroquois); 14 approved; 6 virtual votes; MCU**
- V. **Approval of Minutes 9/12/2025 – Previously sent out.**
- VI. **Reports**
 - a. **Consolidated Financial Statement – Dave provided a copy of the Consolidated Financial report to those in attendance. The report was shared with the Financial Oversight Team and the Executive Board. No action is needed.**
- VII. **Review and Approval of Preliminary Budget Vote – (Proposed Budget, Current Budget) Ryan DiPasquale and Dave Lowrey explained any big changes between the current budget and proposed budget. Biggest change is the Director’s salary. The reason is that his salary was frozen for 6 years. Now that he turns 65 years of age this year, his salary is no longer under a waiver. One suggestion was to review current rates on investments. Consider looking at other investment opportunities based on the investment policy adopted a few years ago. Motion to approve the proposed budget**

made by Phil Kenline (Akron) and Second by Heather Jacobs (Iroquois). 14 approved; 6 virtual votes.
MCU

VIII. Program Update – Dave reviewed and provided an update on the following items. No action required.

a. **Marketing and Advertising Update – Increase in levels; increase in sponsors past year**

b. **Program Update—2024-2025**

1. **Prospective School Board-March 22nd**
2. **Speed Boarding - April 10th-**
3. **3rd Annual Road Rally- April 26th**
4. **Legislative Wrap Up Dinner- May 22nd**
5. **Governance Training-June 3rd and June 7th**
6. **Annual Dinner- June 12th**
7. **Fiscal Oversight Training- June 24th and 28th**

IX. Round Table – 1-2 minutes regarding any “financial”

Dawn Snyder – Clarence – Pass

Ryan DiPasquale – ECASB Bookkeeper – Pass

Mary Jo Szucs- Holland – Suggested that if ECASB is looking to offer new programming, perhaps refresher courses on budgeting would be an appropriate topic.

Phillip Kenline – Akron – Pass

Stephanie Dombrowski – Cheektowaga Sloan – Pass

Bonnie Vest – Cleveland Hill – Pass

Patrick Boyle – Frontier- Pass

Dawn Fletch – Williamsville - Pass

Mary Jane Metzen – Amherst – Pass

Yvonne Douglass – Cheektowaga – Mentioned district was concerned with a lot of federal administration changes and uncertainty. Dave shared his comments from the National School Boards Convention. Both parties are in favor of CTE/BOCES. More conservative members expressed that school meals were not a given, however, they did see the value in meals. Questions were raised about the Department of Education serving as a department. Many believe that if the department were to be eliminated, other departments would pick up the work. The governor in New York State is pushing for free meals.

Dave also mentioned that there were many sessions that focused on Student Ex-Officio members.

Brian Laible – Sweet Home- Looking at changing start times throughout district. The change is in large part due to a shortage of Bus Drivers. Mary Jo (Holland) indicated that they have had to have snow days due to a shortage of bus drivers. Many of their sports teams’ carpool to events. Patrick Boyle mentioned that bus shortages have affected students who stay for extra activities. Phillip Kenline spoke about the changes in the Bus Driver requirements.

Heather Jacobs (Iroquois) – Pass

Jeff Thorp- Tonawanda – Capital Project passed last fall. Currently reviewing items on the list.

Jane Sullivan – ECASB – Pass

Dave Lowrey – ECASB – Reviewed recent trip to NSBA

**X. Motion to Adjourn – Motion by Phil Kenline, second by Paul Spors - 14 approved; 6 virtual votes.
MCU**