



This Week At ECASB ...

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

January 31, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

Diamond Level Sponsor



BLACK PASSPORT GROUP

GLOBAL INSIGHTS IN A CONNECTED WORLD

BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE ON PANEL DISCUSSION FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP: We have three Board Members that volunteered to serve on the panel. Thank you to Patrick Boyle (Frontier), Maureen Poulin (Williamsville) and Cindy Magera (Clarence). If anyone else would like to volunteer, 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. We could use 2-3 more Board of Education members from different districts.

NIAGARA ORLEANS SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION: Held their annual Legislative Breakfast this past Saturday at Niagara Falls High School. Senator Robert Ortt, Assemblyman Bill Conrad, Assemblyman Paul Bologna and Assemblyman Angelo Morinello were in attendance. Superintendents Mark Laurrie (Niagara Falls), Daniel Ljiljanich (Niagara Wheatfield) and Paul Casseri (Lewiston Porter) spoke about issues that they would like addressed which included Social and Emotional Health of Students, Zero Emission Buses, CVA's, School Safety, Increasing the Capital Outlay, Support for ELL, School Staffing and Civil Service, Support for Career and Technical Education, UPK, Special Education Costs and Foundation Aid.

On March 8th, I head to Chautauqua County School Boards for their Legislative Breakfast.

I VISITED THE SWEET HOME CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON TUESDAY EVENING: Thank you to Board President Amy Battaglia, Vice President Peter Bellanti, and Board Members Danyelle Anthon, Marianne Jasen, Brian Laible, Scott Johnson and Dirk Rabenold. Special thank you to Superintendent Dr. Michael Ginestre and District Clerk Sherry McNamara. The district is contemplating changing start times in all of their buildings primarily due to a problem with transportation schedules. The district had a committee take a look at many different options over the course of the year. The Superintendent and the committee selected in their mind, the best scenario. I was able to listen to concerns of Board Members and community members about the recommendations. The thing I learned while serving on a school board was the major issues are always sports, start times, and re-districting. Those are the topics that bring about the most controversy. I also learned that whatever changes are made or not made, there will always be some people that won't be happy.

REGISTRATION FOR THE RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION SUMMER PROGRAM AT LAKE PLACID IS NOW OPEN.

Platinum Level Sponsors





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
- 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.

CELL PHONE DISCONNECTED CONFERENCE SPONSORED BY NYSUT: Thursday, February 13th at Casey Middle School East Amherst at 6:00 p.m. Call NYSUT to register for the event and obtain additional information.

ALL ECASB MEMBERS SERVING ON A TEAM: (Delegate Assembly/Budget and Finance/Legislative) have been entered into the first No-Cost ECASB Super Bowl pool. The numbers for the pool were drawn by Hamburg School Board Members Mary Odden and Cameron Hall prior to the meeting on January 14th. Prizes will be as follows:

- *1st Quarter winner* - \$50 and an ECASB Padfolio
- *Halftime winner* - \$75 and an ECASB Cheese Board Set
- *3rd Quarter winner* - \$100 and an ECASB Throw
- *Final Game winner* - \$200 and an ECASB Lawn Chair

The program is sponsored by Image Model Management. The pool was provided in last weeks attachments. No need to watch the big game. We will let you know if you are a winner. Good Luck to all ECASB Team Members. The next ECASB Committee meetings are as follows:

- *February 6th - Budget and Finance Team (Will review 2025-2026 Budget), 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., B1.*
- *February 27th - Delegate Assembly Meeting 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m., B1*

THE FOLLOWING ECASB MEMBERS HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE. ECASB will pay for a room for those staying at the Fairfield Inn and Suites by Marriott on Wolf Road. Attending the Capital Conference will be 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). Dan Pacos, Kathleen Chiavetta, and Mike Franey (Lake Shore CSD) will be attending the conference as well. Additionally, Beth Pyskaty (Starpont) will also be joining us for part of the conference. As well as Leslie Tobin, Greg Newman Jr., and Michael Ferraro (Lockport City School District).

FROM THE ECASB LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE - JUST A REMINDER TO DISTRICTS: If you can put together a letter regarding issues that need to be addressed in particular to Zero Emission Busses, Student Mental Health, Foundation Aid, and Teacher and Staffing shortages and the impact on your district, please put the letter on your district letterhead, and send to Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan at ECASB. We will be hand delivering these when we are in Albany to all of the elected officials in the Western New York area. We would need the letter no later than February 5th. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Jane Sullivan directly at jsullivan@e1b.org. So far we have letters submitted from Holland CSD and Maryvale UFSD - Thank you!!! In addition, you may want to meet with your elected officials when they are back in their local offices on Thursdays and Fridays during the legislative session.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd– March 3rd - ECASB Awards Nominations Open
- February 4th - District Clerk Program, B1, 12:00 noon - 3:30 p.m.
- February 6th - Budget and Finance Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m./ B1
- February 27th - Delegate Assembly Meeting, B1, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- February 7th - NYSSBA's Virtual Capital Conference
- February 12th - NYSSBA's Live Capital Conference
- 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:

- Deadline for workshop proposals is February 14th at midnight
- January 31st - Nominations close for Teacher of the Year.

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- 2025 National School Boards Conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia April 4th-6th.
- NSBA's Advocacy and Equity Institute will be held in Washington D.C. February 2nd-4th.

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 Luncheon 2/7/25 at the Columns featuring NYSCOSS / Deputy Director for Advocacy, Research and Communications Bob Lowry.
- 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: During the Board Meeting when there is a Public Comment section, some Boards of Educations read a statement to the public indicating that they will not respond to the concerns raised, but will direct the Superintendent to reach out to the individuals. For Board Members attending every Board Meeting and for the "regulars" this is just understood. For those community mem-

bers who may be new, this little piece of information is extremely helpful. I have watched people leave a meeting an utter under their breath “They didn’t respond”. There are even some Boards of Education that will have the Superintendent respond at the next Board Meeting informing the Board of the answer that was provided to the community members.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

Don’t forget to register for the Capital Conference. There is the Virtual portion on February 7th and the In Person portion in Albany, New York on February 12th.

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:

Boys Basketball Rankings for Large Schools in Buffalo News this week:

#6 Grand Island (A1)

#8 Health Sciences (AA2)

#9 Amherst (A1)

#10 Williamsville South (A1)

Boys Basketball Ranking for Small Schools in Buffalo News this week:

#5 Akron (B1)

#7 Olmsted (B1)

#9 Eden (B2)

#10 MST Prep (B2)

Girls Basketball Ranking for Large Schools in Buffalo News this week:

#3 Lancaster (AAA)

#6 West Seneca West (AA)

#8 Orchard Park (AA)

#9 Iroquois (A)

#10 Amherst (A)