



This Week At ECASB ...

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

March 14, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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CONGRATULATIONS TO NEWLY ELECTED 8TH JUDICIAL REGENT. Congratulations to Keith B. Wiley from Buffalo who was recently elected to the Regents representing the 8th Judicial District. He has a background in Investment Banking as well as experience working in the Buffalo City Schools as a Math teacher. Additionally he taught Mathematics at the college level having taught at both the University of Buffalo and Medaille. Based on his interview with the Regents Selection Committee, he feels that students need to get excited to learn, students have to be motivated to learn and we should take into account that there are different types of learners within our schools. To view Keith Wiley's interview, you can check out the link. His interview begins at 1:22:43. Additionally, Dr. Fraser interviewed for the position. His interview is on the same link and can be found at 1:48:20. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQ-4qn-uYLk>

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.

NYSSBA GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COMING TO WNY THIS FALL: The transformative event designed for Superintendents and Board Presidents will be coming to WNY this fall. The program will be held at Erie 1 BOCES and is open to the JMT. The program will explore best practices and strategies to forge a stronger partnership that results in leadership success to support and improve student outcomes in a district. The program was developed in conjunction with NYSCOSS. The program is sponsored by Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 CC BOCES, Orleans Niagara BOCES, ECASB, CCSBA and NOSBA.

SHOWCASE YOUR STUDENTS AT THE ANNUAL NYSSBA CONVENTION: Deadline to submit information for performance groups for the NYSSBA Convention in NYC October 23-25, 2025 is April 11th.

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Deadline for Student Exhibits for the Expo floor is May 9, 2025. Student Photos deadline is Friday, September 12, 2025.

ECASB PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARDS WORKSHOP: If you know of an individual that is interested in running for the school board, we would encourage you to urge them to attend a Prospective School Board Member workshop so that they are aware of the requirements and the work that is involved. Over the years, I have seen people run for the Board only to realize after they are elected, it is not what they imagined, or they are unable to make the time commitment or the commitment to advocate with elected officials. Many times when they decide to run for the Board, they are not even aware that they have to complete 6 hours of Governance Training and 6 hours of Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training. ECASB has sent a flyer about the Prospective School Board member workshop to each school district that Boards of Education can share on their website. The information can be shared during the meeting, or post posters in the hallway of the building where they would pick up petitions. We have also sent press releases about the training sessions to local newspapers and radio stations.

ECASB AWARDS COMMITTEE: Has rescheduled their meeting. Once we know who the recipients of each of the awards are for 2025, we will begin sending out names of the recipients. This year some of the award recipients will be honored at the Annual Dinner in June, while other award categories will be recognized at the Back to School Dinner in August.

VISIT TO SPRINGVILLE GRIFFITH INSTITUTE CSD: I visited the Springville Griffith Institute CSD on Tuesday, March 11th. Thank you to Board President Chris Cerrone, Vice President Michele Idzik, Board Members David Brand, Dr. Kimberly Higgins, Devin Kowalske, Joseph Lowry III, and Kelly Tuberdyke. Special Thank you to Superintendent James Bialasik, and District Clerk Kathy Tucker. The Springville Board meetings always start off with a musical performance from one of the many groups within the school. This past meeting the Springville Elementary School Fiddle Club performed the National Anthem.

SCHOOL BOARD VISITS: With the exception of the COVID years, I have attended at least one meeting for each of the School Districts in Erie County. I also visit Associate Members Starpoint CSD and Pioneer CSD. I have yet to visit Gowanda CSD, Orchard Park CSD and Williamsville CSD and hope to complete those visits by mid April. When I became NYSSBA Area 1 Director, I had as one of my goals to attend each of those schools. Last year I was able to make it to 6 schools. This week I started venturing out to the remaining schools. I attended Roy-Harts Board of Education meeting on Wednesday night and Attica CSD on Thursday night. I am able to see many familiar faces as many of the School Board Members from these districts have attended their Governance and Fiscal Oversight Trainings through us. Just a reminder - when you attend the trainings, you need to submit your completed certificates to the District Clerk for verification.

ERIE NIAGARA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION: Offers two scholarship opportunities. One scholarship for \$500 each year for 4 years is awarded to a Senior who pursues and successfully completes a Bachelor's degree in education. The second scholarship is for teachers interested in pursuing a career in public school administration with the intent on securing a Certificate of Advanced Study in Educational Leadership. The scholarship is for \$500 each semester for a total of \$2,000.

ECASB SPRING SPEEDBOARDING: Mark April 10th on your calendar. This year ECASB's Spring Speed Boarding Event "Twist on Tech" will be taking place at the Erie 1 BOCES Career and Technical Center at 99 Aero Drive from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. When registration opens up, attendees will register to attend three hands on programs and experience the tech forward programs that many students in component districts experience. BOCES provides students with unique, real-world, and interactive experiences in state-of-the-art facilities with high quality instruction and a foundation for career pathways. Registration Deadline is March 27th.

ECASB POT OF GOLD: All entries will be in by Friday March 14th at 9:00 p.m. The winners name will be drawn and announced on Monday. The ECASB member who is the winner will also have \$150 donated to the high school of the district they represent.

GOVERNANCE TRAINING: Is scheduled for June 3rd and 7th. June 3rd will be from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. with dinner provided. June 7th will be from 8:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon with a continental breakfast. Program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is May 29th.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT TRAINING: Is scheduled for June 24th and 28th. June 24th will be from 5:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. with dinner provided. June 28th will be from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is June 19th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- March 20th– Legislative Team Meeting, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.
- March 22nd - Prospective School Board Workshop 8:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m.; B1
- April 10th - Speed Boarding "Twist on Tech" at Harkness Center 6:00 p.m.
- April 26th - 3rd Annual ECASB Road Rally 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:
None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Developing and Supporting Effective Superintendents: Friday March 14th or Thursday, August 21st from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. - Live Virtual
- 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
- March 26th - Parliamentary Procedures Webinar 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (Complimentary Webinar)
- Leadership in Education Event - August 1st and 2nd in Albany, New York (more details to follow).

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.

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: Many schools use a consent agenda, while others move through each item as a separate agenda. There is really no correct way to conduct business. The advantage of the consent agenda is that routine action items can be taken care of in a timely manner and allow more time for Board Discussion.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

Every two years, the Area 1 Director must run again. I hope to have school districts nominate me again this year and vote for me for the NYSSBA Area 1 Director for a second term. The new term will run from January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2027. A call for nominations usually goes out in April or early May. Individuals need a minimum of 5 nominations from member districts. Nominations only need to consist of a sentence on district letterhead stating the select school board has made the nomination for the candidate for a two year term for Area 1 effective January 1, 2026. Nominations must be turned in no later than 5:00 p.m. July 31st to Mary Metheny. There are many deadline dates fast approaching for the Annual Convention and Expo regarding student performance groups, presentations and submission of artwork for the student art exhibit.

IN SPORTS:

Boys Basketball Champions:

- AA2 - Health Sciences
- A1 - Williamsville South
- A2 - Lackawanna
- B1- Akron

Girls Basketball Champions:

- Lancaster
- Williamsville South