



This Week At ECASB ...

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

January 24, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING: Will be held on Thursday, January 30th from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. in Room B1 at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. This meeting was rescheduled from the December date.

SAD NEWS: Please keep Erie 2 CC Board Member Sylvester Cleary in your thoughts and prayers at the recent passing of his wife Teresa Cleary. Teresa passed away on February 17th at the age of 57. Sylvester is also President of the Chautauqua County School Boards Association. Condolences can be sent to Sylvester Cleary 10109 Bradigan Road, Forestville, New York 14062. A service will be held 1/24/25 at 11:00 a.m. at True Bethel Baptist Church 907 East Ferry Street, Buffalo at 11:00 a.m. and a Memorial will be held 1/25/25 at 1:00 p.m. at Forestville Wesleyan Church 9495 Prospect Road, Forestville, NY.

SAD NEWS: Please keep Sweet Home CSD Board Member Scott Johnson and his wife Bonnie and their family in your prayers as they mourn the death of Bonnies Mom - Janet Bible. Condolences can be sent to Scott and Bonnie at 123 Patricia Drive, Tonawanda, New York 14150. A church service will be held Saturday, January 25th at 11:00 a.m. at Kenmore United Methodist Church. at 32 Landers Road.

LOOKING FOR 4-5 BOARD MEMBERS TO SERVE ON PANEL DISCUSSION FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP: 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. If you are able to serve, please contact Dave Lowrey or Sue Summers at ECASB.

SENATOR GALLIVAN: Senator Gallivan has secured the following appointments for the 2025 year. We will provide other appointment for legislators in the future as well.

- Re-appointed ranking member of the Senate Standing Committee on Health
- Ranking member of the Joint Task Force on Opioids, Addiction and Overdose Prevention
- Return to Standing Committee on Finance
- Return to Standing Committee on Transportation
- Return to Standing Committee on Codes and Rules
- Will serve as the Senate Majority Whip within the Senate Minority Conference

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CONGRATULATIONS TO CHEEKTOWAGA CSD BOARD MEMBER LISA SEKUTERSKI: Lisa was the recipient of a free 2025 NYSSBA Convention pass. Names in the drawing were from members who completed either a convention attendee evaluation survey or a non-attendee convention survey.

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.

ERIE COUNTY FAIR SEEKS TEAMS TO DESIGN MINI GOLF: The Erie County Fair is looking for teams to design and build miniature-golf holes for its second rendition of the Erie County Fairway exhibit that had thousands of visitors. Team can be comprised of classrooms, 4-H/FFA Clubs, Sports Teams, businesses or groups of people looking to get creative and support the fair. The holes should be family friendly and center on agriculture or the fair. Teams are responsible for the concept, construction, props, obstacles and décor. Basic materials include plywood, boards, turf and a hole cup. Each team will receive complimentary tickets to the 2025 fair. Applications are due February 14th. Space is limited. Designs will be reviewed by the Erie County Staff. Materials will be picked up as early as March.

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:

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| - 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 is in an attached document. Good Luck to all ECASB Team Members. ECASB team meetings will be starting in late January and Febru-

ary. Please check the ECASB website, This Week at ECASB or your ECASB Calendar Card of Events you received earlier in the year. The dates of all meetings or events are also listed in the ECASB Member Directory.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD: Nominations open through January 31, 2025.

Rural Schools Association also announces its "Capturing Our Rural Stories" Photo contest. The contest is open to teachers, staff and students. Contest deadline is January 31, 2025. Winners will be announced in Spring 2025. Theme should reflect either Agriculture and Farming, Community Connections, or Student Life. Winning photos will be based on creativity, originality, technical quality, story telling, and inclusivity. Please see the New York State Rural Schools Association website for additional details.

THE FOLLOWING ECASB MEMBERS HAVE CONFIRMED THEIR ATTENDANCE AT THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE. ECASB will pay for a room for the following individuals: Jane Sullivan and Heather Becker (Iroquois), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Ed Schaefer (Cheektowaga), Lorene Barulich (West Seneca), Dan Pacos, Kathleen Chiavetta, and Mike Franey (Lake Shore CSD), and Sabatino Cimoto, Matthew Chimera, Paul Spors, Lee Ann Vogt, Karen Whitelaw, and Fred Floss (Ken Ton UFSD) and Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda). Also attending the event will be Erik Polkowski (Akron) and Beth Pyskaty (Starpoint).

NIAGARA ORLEANS SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: I will be attending the Niagara County School Boards Association Legislative Breakfast on Saturday January 25th at Niagara Falls High School as the NYSSBA Area 1 Director. Looking forward to the Breakfast and once again meeting with local legislators. I will share reflections in next week's This Week at ECASB.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd– March 3rd - ECASB Awards Nominations Open
- January 30th - ECASB Executive Board Meeting, B1, 6:00 p.m.
- 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 NYSCOS/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 Tipathi, President of the University at Buffalo**
- **1:40 Closing Remarks**

BEST PRACTICES: There are several Superintendents in the area that have a power point slide show with pictures, large font, and graphics that help to illustrate their Superintendent reports during the Board meetings. As they say a picture is worth a thousand words.

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.

IN SPORTS:

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

#6 - Amherst

#7 - Williamsville South

#8 - Health Sciences

#9 - Grand Island

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

#5 - Akron

#10 - Eden

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