** Erie County Association of School Boards**

Delegate Assembly Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)  
Thurs., Sept. 12, 2024 7:00-8:30 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES, Rm. B2b  
 Presiding: Patrick Boyle (Frontier), ECASB *President*

Present: Phillip Kenline (Akron), Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst), Renee Wilson (Cheektowaga Central/Erie 1 BOCES), Jennifer Kregg (Cheektowaga-Sloan), Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan); Tricia Andrews (Clarence), Mike Montoro (Cleveland Hill), Teri Ohlweiler (East Aurora), Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES), Patrick Boyle (Frontier), Sherry Steffans arrival at 7:04 (Grand Island), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland), Todd Aichinger (Iroquois), Paul Spors (Ken-Ton), Anita Schiavone (Lancaster), Ronald Morlock (Maryvale), James Sager (North Collins), Ryan Anderson (Orchard Park), Brandon McGuire (Tonawanda City), Marla Greenburg (West Seneca), Maureen Poulin (Williamsville), David Lowrey (ECASB, E2CC, NYSSBA), Jane Sullivan (ECASB/Iroquois),

Excused: Joe Lowry III (Springville). John Waterman (Gowanda), Dennis Feldmann (Lake Shore)

Absent: Richard Karalus (Alden), Jennifer Mecozzi (Buffalo), Nicholas LaMarca (Depew), Jennifer Horschel (Eden), Laura Heeter (Hamburg), Anthony Catuzza (Lackawanna), Amy Battaglia (Sweet Home). Purpose of ECASB:   
To coordinate board development services,  
To serve as a resource to member Boards on educational issues,  
To advance the mutual objectives of organizations dedicated to public education,  
To advocate Association positions to policy-makers.  
  
7:00 Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome  
7:01 Declaration of Quorum Present-Yes

7:02 Approve Agenda. Motion by: Linda Hoffman, Second by: Mary Jo Szucs  
7:03 Approve Minutes annual Meeting previously sent out & also attached. Motion by: Mary Jo Szucs, Second by: Denise McCowan

7:04 – Recap of Annual Dinner; Recap of Governance Training and Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training, Back to School Dinner, and Boards and Brews WNY Law Conference – Annual Dinner we will look at splitting the awards…some will be given out at annual dinner; others at the back to school dinner. Governance Training had about 22, Fiscal Oversight a few less. Back to School Dinner we had 84. Akron was the featured presenter on the Science of Reading.

7:06 – Financial Condition of Organization – Good financial standing. Some auditors recommend three years of expenses in reserves. We have about two years in reserves. We will look at slowing down the rate. We have not had a dues increase in over 10 years.

**7:10** - **2024-2025** **Team and Committee Assignment Recommendations and Discussion. (NOTE: Thursdays are ECASB Days!). Nominating Committee: Chair: Stephanie Dombrowski (Cheek-Sloan), Tricia Andrews (Clarence CSD), Previous year: Davis Podkulski (Frontier CSD), Elizabeth Gates (West Seneca), Tricia Andrews (Clarence) Michele DeCarlo (North Collins) Stephanie Dombrowski (Cheek-Sloan), Advisor Mary Busse (Erie 1 BOCES). Dave explained that a glitch exists in that according to by-laws and constitution, there technically is no nominating committee from July until the first meeting in September. Motion to accept all appointees listed below by: Phillip Kenline, Second by: Lorry Goldhawk**

* + 1. APPOINT: Financial Oversight Team: Ed Schaefer (Cheektowaga) Clarence; Stephanie Dombrowski, (Cheektowaga Sloan)
    2. APPOINT: Legislative Chairs: Scott Johnson, (Sweet Home); Kathleen Chiavetta, (Lake Shore); Erik Polkowski (Akron).
    3. APPOINT Awards Review Team: Lorry Goldhawk, (Amherst); Dawn Snyder, (Clarence); Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda), Renee Wilson (Cheektowaga and Erie 1 BOCES); Sherry Steffan (Grand Island)  
       Advocacy Scholarship $ Approvals fall under Budget/Finance/Program Team.
    4. APPOINT Nominating Team: See Nominating Committee Stephanie Dombrowski (Cheektowaga-Sloan); Tricia Andrews (Clarence); and Karen Whitelaw (Ken-Ton)
    5. ECASB Representative on NFIEC Board: Mary Busse, Erie 1 BOCES
    6. ECASB Representative to WNED: Kristy Pingitore, (Jim Stachewicz (Cheektowaga Sloan)
    7. ECASB Representative to BPO: Kristy Pingitore (Akron), and Mike Montoro (Cleveland Hill)

7:05 Review of 2024-2025 - First Semester Events (Red events are new or repackaged events)

* 9/26 – New Board Member Workshop – BOCES Focus
* 10/17 – Rick Timbs Program – Columns
* 11/16 – Legislative Breakfast – Resurgence Brewing Company
* 11/21 – Fall Speedboarding – Topics are being finalized: Lake Shore Electric Bus; Cheektowaga-Sloan Restorative Justice Practices; Lackawanna cell phone policy are confirmed. May have one additional topic.
* Thursday’s are generally ECASB nights. Alden CSD and Lackawanna City SD are the only two districts that have meetings on Thursday nights. For future programming we will look at the weeks in which we are scheduling the programs to be able to better avoid conflicts of programs.

7:15 - Discussion of proposed NYSSBA Resolutions (IF NEEDED)- next year a future event- a dinner for resolution discussions. Other COLSBA’s have a resolutions dinner where voting delegates discuss the resolutions.

7:20 – Students on School Board Legislation- Must have a student by July 2025. Discussion on regulations will be forthcoming. District may need to alter the process that they are currently selecting student representatives and the number of student representatives that they have. ECASB is working on a possible program that would assist with training and guidelines. Additionally, we would develop a recognition program.

7:25 New Award Proposal (Linda Hoffman – Community Service Award). There are many School Board Members that in addition to serving on their local school board or BOCES Board, volunteer through other organizations. Linda Hoffman served as Area NYSSBA Area 1 Director, Began her board service in 1981 (43 years), served on Springville Griffith BOE, BOCES BOE, Served on Board for Springville Center of the Arts, volunteered for Springville Public Library, Partner for Children’s Hospital, Healthy Community Alliance, and Temple Beth Shalom in Elma. She was the recipient of the ECASB Diana Miller Award, the ECASB Laura Burns Award, the recipient of the Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the NYSBA Board Mastery Award, Several Rising Star, Medallion, and Shining Star Awards. Additionally, she served as President, Vice President, and Treasurer of ECASB

Vote to develop new award: Motion by Lorry Goldhawk, Second by Maureen Poulin. MCU. Next step is to send the information to the awards committee for development and guidelines. Award would be awarded in 2025-2026.

7:30 By Laws Changes/Update The rationale for changes was discussed briefly by Lorry Goldhawk who served on the committee to review the By-Laws and Constitution and policies. We will discuss at next meeting which will be in February. In the meantime, Delegate Assembly members can share the documents with their board. After the February meeting, the membership will vote following the appropriate number of days. Dave will send copies of the red-lined copies to all ECASB members.

Policy Changes/ Updates Lorry Goldhawk discussed the same issues as discussed above with the By-Laws Changes. We will follow the same process.

7:40 ECASB Survey Small committee created a survey to gather information from members. Executive board reviewed and made some changes. Ready to roll out to members to be sure we are providing relevant programing.

Dave also commented on another document that was shared - a prototype- ECASB Today & Tomorrow- a quarterly newsletter to connect the student board members and serve as a resource for student members.

Dave mentioned that the District Clerks don’t currently have a statewide organization like all other groups have (ie: School Boards, Superintendents, Teachers, Administrators). ECASB has adopted the group and held a Fall and Spring workshop. The goal is to eventually spin off this group and have them form their own Western New York Group. ECASB would always be welcome to them attending any of our programs and events.

7:43 ECASB President Report – Patrick reports 1. look at by-laws please. 2. He serves on the Erie County Industrial Development Agency in his role as ECASB President. He will reach out to districts if he hears about a project that may impact a specific district. 3. Thanks for being here…great place to network and meet people.

7:46 Committee Chair Reports: NA

7:48 NYSSBA Area 1 Director Report: Dave reports that there is a NYSSBA board meeting this weekend, and he will be traveling to it and follow up with ECASB with any relevant information. NYSSBA will be able to provide him with a list of people attending the convention. This year there will be a virtual component for members who cannot attend the convention in person. Member benefits are reaching out to new board members for a 30-minute phone call. Request made to go back to in-person business meeting… Dave reports that is not likely to happen, but he will come back with more information about reasonings.

7:50 - Program Services Manager Update – Handbook updates with new printing in late January, Takes a Stand new printing with Leg. Breakfast; Leg Breakfast on Nov. 16; Michael Norris relinquishing his seat to become a judge; Winter sessions locally in Dec., Capital conference in Feb.; Wrap up dinner May 22. ECASB will be looking at getting a block of hotel rooms possibly on Wolf Road area for those attending the Capital Conference.

8:05 “Round Robin Minute Updates” … Please introduce yourself and

give a brief “ONE Minute Update” on a news or issue item from your district *THAT MAY BE UNIQUE*. *IT IS OKAY TO PASS*.

Marla Greenberg – (West Seneca) - New on board. District has expanded their finance advisory committee to prevent problems and issues that they have recently experienced.

Trisha Andrews – (Clarence)- Transportation software glitch created problems for transportation department. Getting ready for capital project vote in December.

Jennifer Kregg- (Cheektowaga-Sloan)- New member and alternate here to get acclimated to committee.

Denise McCowan – (Cheektowaga-Sloan) - pass

Linda Hoffman- (Erie 2 CC BOCES) – Although she no longer is NYSSBA Area 1 Director, she has picked up a new role through Rural Schools Association and serves on their board now. She will be bringing Rual Schools news to the Association.

Renee Wilson – (Cheektowaga)- new mascot- turf field renovation is underway; E1B- just rolling along

Maureen Poulin- (Williamsville)- school start times study is taking place. Maureen will be attending a national conference in Baltimore before NYSSBA conference to attend a program on school start times. Bids for air conditioning project are coming in. Project is focused on elementary buildings first.

Anita Schiavone- (Lancaster) 1st year on the board and keeping up and learning her role as a School Board member.

Terri Ohlweiler – (East Aurora)- Parents in district have formed a Special Ed PTA and currently has 80 members. Education Foundation will be honoring Dan Brunson – he has been part of the district for over 50 years serving as a teacher, administrator and a board member. Their high school farm at HS is doing well…now has an orphan cat.

Paul Spors- (Ken-Ton) - Hosting JR/SR HS- big picture program and crossroads academy- getting aid on repairing 100-year-old building. Celebrating 100-year history with a dinner (conflicts with ECASB event). The over-costs of cap projects have affected projects but getting a lot of renovations done in the various buildings. Adding classrooms, they are finding, is more cost effective than reopening closed buildings. Voters passed a reserve budget to help with costs and long-term planning.

Sherry Steffans – (Grand Island) - Losses over summer including a recent suicide and an instance where a child was hit by a car. Support systems in place.

Mike Montoro – (Cleveland Hill) - Opening was magnificent, finished a cap project that included the addition air conditioning.

Ryan Anderson – (Orchard Park)- Smooth opening, new athletic field house will be ready in time for homecoming. Shifting to Science of Reading in the district.

Todd Aichinger- (Iroquois) – New school board member. Iroquois has had an update with mascot and it has been well received by students.

Phillip Kenline- (Akron)- good opening- meeting and expanding with community involvement- tour of Seneca Nation- large part of district. The Seneca Nation would like more involvement, but they don’t follow our election process. The district is in the process of exploring options.

Jim Sager – (North Collins)- student loss via accident 15 years ago resulted in a tree being planted. The current capital project requires the tree to be removed. The Tech class is going to try to make something from the wood.

Lorry Goldhawk- (Amherst)- Go Bills

Ron Morlock- (Maryvale)- Switched bus service to Western New York service and they have experienced virtually no issues. .

Brandon McGuire- (Tonawanda) – Starting in his 3rd year- now seving his district as the Vice President; Had a mascot change. They are now known as the Timberwolves. District had a massive safety drill. Brandon is recommending that all district try to have a drill! Most likely a large scale crisis will happen at a school because schools are the heart of many communities. Filling in two building principal positions. This is the first time he can remember serving on the School Board that they have not had any school bus issues.

Mary Jo Szucs – (Holland) - District has been optimization processes. A lot of turn over in the district has resulted in a lot of interviews. Moving forward.

Patrick Boyle – (Frontier) – Has been serving for 13 years- Start of school has gone well. Advises 24 hour rule before responding to emails that have accusations and have an angry tone. Board service used to be about education sports and clubs, now its less civil and focused on Social-Emotional-Learning. Thank you all for your service.

8:29 Drawing for Back-to-School Committee Meeting Door Prize

***8:30 Motion to Adjourn Denise/Brandon MC***

*Future Meetings: Thursday, February 27, 2025 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
 Thursday, May 1, 2025, 6:30-8:30 p.m.*