



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

May 31, 2024

*Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531*

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**SAD NEWS:** Caleb James Cray (26), the son of Akron CSD Board Member Kristy Pingitore passed away. Funeral Services are today, Friday, May 31st at 10:00 a.m. at Ross Funeral Home in Akron. Condolences can be sent to Kristy Pingitore 4954 S. Newstead Road, Akron, New York 14001.

**ECASB ANNUAL DINNER IS THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH. ALL ATTENDEES SHOULD BE REGISTERED AT THIS POINT.**

5:00 p.m. - Registration, Cash Bar, Purchase Split Club Tickets and Basket Raffle Tickets  
5:40 p.m. - Featured Awards: Diana R. Miller Service to Education, Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children, Hodgson Russ Collaboration Award, Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award, Lorie Sabo Advocacy Award and Friends of ECASB Award  
6:15 p.m. - Dinner  
7:15 p.m. - Remaining Awards (Shining Star/Rising Star/ Years of Service Awards), Recognition of Retiring Board Members, Installation of Officers, Annual Business Meeting  
8:30 p.m. - Good Byes

**THANK YOU TO THE NORTH COLLINS CSD BOARD:** For their gift basket donation for the annual Basket Raffle. The "Grilling Basket" is basket with grilling utensils, heat resistant gloves, Chiavetta's Barbeque Marinade, Sweet Baby Ray's Barbecue Sauce and spices for the perfect back yard barbeque all tied up in basket with North Collins 'green and gold' ribbons.

**THANK YOU TO THE KEN TON UFSD SCHOOL BOARD:** For their donation of a \$50 Amazon Gift Card for the annual Basket Raffle to benefit the Lorie Sabo Advocacy Fund.

**MARYVALE UFSD BOARD IS THINKING SUMMER TOO....**They will donating a Coleman Cooler complete with solo cups, plates, and other picnic accessories for the ECASB Annual Basket Raffle.

**GOVERNANCE TRAINING TOOK PLACE ON TUESDAY MAY 28TH AND FINISHES TRAINING ON SATUDAY JUNE 1ST:** Joining us for the training from ECASB is, Andy Malburg (Alden CSD); Gordon Crock (Amherst CSD); Jennifer Kregg (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD); Lisa Sekuterski (Cheektowaga CSD); Jeffrey Ordon (Depew UFSD); David Ceccarelli and Sharon Heppner (Frontier CSD); Susan Bettker and Crista Monat (Gowanda CSD); Ashley Rapsinski and Mary Odden (Hamburg CSD); Daniel Carl Brenner and Aaron Renaldo (North Collins CSD); Marisa Keleman (Tonawanda City SD); Jeremy Maloney, and Lorene Barulich (West Seneca CSD); and Dawn Fletch (Williamsville CSD). It was a pleasure to meet our neighbors to the south including Dylan Runge (Cassadaga Valley CSD); Jery Kinney (Fredonia CSD); Jim Fleischman (Pioneer CSD); and Raymond Hadley (Pine Valley). Traveling from Niagara County were Corrie Murray and Rachel Maziarz (Newfane CSD), Dr. Bruce Fraser (Niagara Orleans BOCES), and Beth Zaida Hart (Wilson CSD). Dr. Heather Lyon, Depew UFSD District Clerk Jessica Neischel, and Karl Kristoff Esq. were presenters for the program. The group enjoyed dinner catered by Olive Garden and desserts of brownies, cookies and ice cream sundaes.

**FISCAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY TRAINING WILL BE HELD ON JUNE 11TH AND JUNE 15TH.**

Registration information has been sent out. We will resend registration information next week.

**DISTRICTS WITH NEW LOGOS:** There are a few districts that now have new logos. ECASB would request a copy of the logo so that we can update our files and records. Additionally, ECASB will be re-printing ECASB T-Shirts in the fall of the year with new logos. If any Board Members would like to have ECASB T-shirts with old logos, we still have shirts available in both black and blue in sizes ranging from small to xxx-large. We can send you the t-shirt via interschool mail.

**NEWLY ELECTED SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS MAY NOT BE RECEIVING COMMUNICATIONS FROM ECASB:** Please note that ECASB communications are not being sent to many of the newly elected School Board Members because many of the newly elected Board Members do not have their district email account established yet. Please feel free to forward any and all appropriate communications to newly elected School Board Members.

**NYSSBA MICROLEARNING CLASSES:** NYSSBA's Micro Learning classes are classes that can be taken whenever and wherever it is convenient. They take 1-2 hours to complete. The newest course is an Onboarding New School Board Members workshop designed to help new Board Members better understand the benefits of an onboarding program, shorten the learning curve to accelerate new member success, optimize onboarding practices beyond the standard orientation and empower new members to effectively participate from the start of their terms. Five other courses are available in the series including:

- Foundations of DEI in Education
- DEI in Education - The Board's Role
- Managing Conflict to Build Board Unity
- Effective School Board Meetings
- Social Media and You

**NEW BILL ALERT:** The Legislature wants students on school boards. If Governor Kathy Hochul signs a newly passed bill, every school district and BOCES Board in the state will be required to have at least one ex-officio student representative. It could become effective as soon as July 1st, but is more likely to take effect for the 2025-2026 school year. Although not opposed to having a student representative, there was already a process in place to allow districts to have a representative. Personally, I have mixed emotions on this bill and the lack of transparency in the process and the procedure. Students would not be empowered to vote or attend executive sessions. They would not be able to attend any meeting or hearing that is not open to the public. My concern is that when a district has a controversial issue and the community is attending school board meetings in large numbers and commenting on social media, how will this affect the social well being of the student, even though they may not have been an integral part of the decision making process. Many of our adult members do not handle the stress well. What process will we have in place to address issues the student member of the board may be facing when they are "attacked"? If the bill becomes law - we once again have another law with very little information or direction.

**BPO SPONSORS A MUSICALE LUNCHEON TO FUND YOUNG MUSICIANS SCHOLARSHIPS:** Friday, June 7th @ 11:00 a.m. at the 20th Century Club. General Admission is \$55; Scholarship Patron is \$80. Performances by students: Marc Vredenburg and Paul Wittmer (Williamsville South); Matt Russell (Lancaster), and Cady Wyles (Amherst). Call 716-885-5000 for tickets or [www.bpo.org](http://www.bpo.org).

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- June 1st - Governance Training
- June 6th - ECASB Annual Awards Dinner/Meeting 5:15 p.m. Registration; Kloc's - Seneca Creek Road
- June 11th/15th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training

**SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:**

- ***Harris Beach PLLC***
  - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
  - June 27th - Workplace Leave Laws webinar 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

## POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

## NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- June 3rd - A NYSSBA Membership Survey will be sent to all NYSSBA members, please take a few moments to fill out and return.
- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event

## RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:

- July 14th-16th - Summer Conference @ Lake Placid, New York

## NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- 2025 National School Boards Conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia March 29th - 31st.

## AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- **ERIE NIAGARA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S ASSOCIATION:** Achieving the Joy and Mastery of Learning podcast listing. [CLICK HERE](#)

**QUESTION OF THE WEEK:** *Inquiring School Board Members want to know... "How does ECASB determine who receives communication from ECASB?" Answer: ECASB includes all Board of Education members, Superintendents, and all District Clerks from the 30 ECASB member districts as well as Associate Members Pioneer CSD and Starpoint CSD. Additionally, select members of the NYSSBA staff, select COLSBA Executive Directors, and District Level Administrators and Building Level Principals who have requested to be on the "ECASB Update List" receive communication. ECASB will use the emails provided by District Clerks. A few individuals request that information be sent to emails other than District emails. Just notify our office if you need to make an adjustment in the email.*

## NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

- Consider signing up for the Leadership in Education to be held in Albany at the Crowne Plaza Albany on July 19th and 20th. Why? Because EVERY district will be put to the test in the coming year. Will your school district be prepared?
- The NYSSBA Board of Directors will be holding a Directors Meeting on June 15th. If you have any items that you would like me to bring to the meeting, please send me an email or call me.

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