



This Week At ECASB ...

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

January 17, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB OFFICE IS CLOSED: Will be closed on Friday January 17th due to vacation time. ECASB office will be closed Monday, January 20th in observance of Martin Luther King Day and Wednesday, January 29th in observance of the Chinese New Year holiday.

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.

CORRECTION: Larry Scott was elected as Vice President of Student Achievement and Cindi McEachon was elected as Vice President of Executive Affairs. In last weeks TWAECASB I had the positions reversed. - My apologies.

VISIT TO HAMBURG CSD: I had the opportunity to attend the Hamburg Board of Education meeting on January 14th. Thank you to President Thomas Flynn III, Vice President Cameron Hall, Board Members Laura Heeter, Mary Odden, Ashley Rapsinski, Richard Schneider, and David Yoviene. Thank you to Superintendent Thomas Adams, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent Brandi Sutherland and District Clerk Christine Ljungberg. This was Superintendent Thomas Adams first Board of Education meeting as Superintendent. The meeting was held at neighborhood school Charlotte Avenue Elementary school. I heard a great report on the wonderful things happening at Charlotte Avenue Elementary including their Zones of Regulations program, the Lets's Grow Project and the CAS Buddy Program.

VISIT TO AKRON CSD: Due to continued snow in the southern half of Erie County, I ventured North East on Wednesday, January 15th I attended the Akron CSD Board of Education Meeting. Thank you to President Erik Polkowski, Vice President Phillip Keline, and Board Members Ryan Allen, Heather Cayea, Joseph Cena, Stephanie Coffta, and Kristy Pingitore. Special Thank you to Superintendent Andrea Kersten and newly appointed District Clerk Bonnie Lee James. The district is starting the Sandy Hook Promise Say Something Program. I have heard of the program, but knew nothing about the program so I was able to hear all about the program and how it works. It sounds like it will be a great resource for the district complete with staff training, student training and community support.

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I ATTENDED THE BPO EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING ON THURSDAY JANUARY 16TH: The BPO Education Division is having an outstanding year. They will have serviced over 10,000 students this year through a variety of concerts. The January concert is sold out - Buffalo Elementary students will be attending. The March concert is sold out - Ken Ton Elementary students will be attending. They increased the concert for students and their families with disabilities by adding a second concert. The BPO hall holds just 2000 attendees. The Erie County Music Educators Association Music Conference will be held at the Buffalo Convention Center on January 22, 2025. There are many opportunities for people to volunteer. If anyone is interested -they should contact the BPO Education Committee.

CIDEL MET ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15TH VIRTUALLY: To continue planning their Call To Leadership which will be held at Erie 1 BOCES on March 8th. The program is designed for school personnel that are either already in school administration and leadership roles or those wishing to pursue a leadership role in a education. The program will have 3 different break out sessions and the opportunity for emerging leaders to network with current School Administrators. Topics that will be discussed in the break out sessions will include: Interview Prep, Work-Life Balance, Family and Community Politics, Culturally Responsive Leadership, Shared Mission and Vision, Building Your Emotional Intelligence, and Human Resources.

FROM WNED: WNED/PBS will have a free screening Saturday February 1st from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Chautauqua at 150: Wynton Marsalis' All Rise. The one hour documentary celebrates the 150th anniversary of Chautauqua Institution. After the screening there will be a panel discussion. Spots are limited. Please contact WNED/PBS to register.

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.

STATE OF THE STATE: Governor Hochul has proposed Free Breakfast and Free Lunch to more than 2.7 million students in New York state as part of the 2025 State of the State.

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:

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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 February. 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.

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). Anyone else planning on attending whose name does not appear on the list should notify Dave Lowrey ASAP.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd– March 3rd - ECASB Awards Nominations Open
- January 23rd - Legislative Team Meeting 6:30 p.m., B1, 6:30 p.m.— 8:30 p.m.
- 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: When a community member attends their first Board of Education meeting, they will often see many people sitting around a head table. There are some districts that in addition to having name plates of the individuals sitting around the table, they will also have a name plate with the title of the people (ie. Board Member, Board President, District Clerk, Assistant Superintendent, etc.).

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.