



This Week At ECASB ...

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

February 21, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB OFFICE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST: The ECASB office will be closed due to the use of vacation time. We will re-open on Monday, February 24th.

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.

THE BUDGET AND FINANCE TEAM APPROVES 2025-2026 BUDGET. A quorum of committee members was not present, so all the documents were sent to the entire team so that the balance of the districts could weigh in on a virtual vote. I am happy to announce that committee members voted and the 2025-2026 budget was passed. **NO FUTURE BUDGET AND FINANCE MEETINGS WILL BE NEEDED THIS YEAR.** The budget will go to the Delegate Assembly Committee for final approval at its next meeting on February 27th. This will be the 12th year that ECASB will not raise annual dues. Thank you to all who attended the meeting or provided the virtual vote.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT APPLICATIONS IS MARCH 3, 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

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- 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.

FREE HAIRCUTS: Erie 1 BOCES Workforce Development School of Barbering. Location is 1526 Walden Avenue, Suite 950. Clinic Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Thursdays 10:30 a.m.—1:30 p.m. Appointments call 716-821-7350; Walk Ins are also welcome.

ECASB SUPERBOWL POOL RESULTS: All committee members serving on the Delegate Assembly/Budget and Finance, and the Legislative teams) were entered into the first No-Cost ECASB Super Bowl pool. Prizes will be sent out interschool mail. Prizes will be as follows:

- 1st Quarter winner - \$50 and an ECASB Padfolio - David Yoviene (Hamburg CSD)
- Halftime winner - \$75 and an ECASB Cheese Board Set—Zachary Nobles

(Gowanda CSD)

- 3rd Quarter winner - \$100 and an ECASB Throw - Ron Morlock (Maryvale UFSD)
- Final Game winner - \$200 and an ECASB Lawn Chair— Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD)

The program was sponsored by Image Model Management. Prizes will be sent out to the winners
- February 27th - Delegate Assembly Meeting 6:30 p.m. –8:30 p.m., B1

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd– March 3rd - ECASB Awards Nominations Open
- February 27th - Delegate Assembly Meeting, B1, 6:30 p.m.-8:30 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
- Policy Workshop May 7th - 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 12th - Executive Directors Complimentary Lunchtime Webinar 12:00 p.m. - Understanding Workers' Compensation: Balancing Costs, Coverage and Risk

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: Understanding the Budget. Understanding the Annual School Budget can be time consuming. Even more difficult is trying to explain the budget to community taxpayers. Your School Business Administrator is an expert. Even though your Board will most likely have additional meetings, most School Business Administrators will take the time to meet with Board Members to review documents and answer questions. If you get a question in the community that you might not be able to answer, please don't hesitate to refer the individual to the Business Administrator. PLEASE though, give the Business Administrator a heads up and let them know that you provided their name in information to community members to contact for additional information.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

I will be attending a Celebration to honor NYSSBA retiree Jay Worona on March 1st. The NYSSBA Area Board of Directors held a 'virtual call in' session this past Wednesday to get us all caught up on information. The next Board of Directors Meeting will be on March 1st and 2nd.

IN SPORTS:

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association will host the state wrestling tournament on February 28th - March 1 at the MVP Arena in Albany, New York. First place athletes competing from ECASB schools include:

Division I

- 108: Sean McDonald, Starpoint
- 116: Aiden Rodriguez, Orchard Park
- 131: Brayden Kellison, Williamsville North
- 138: Quinlan Lyle, Amherst
- 145: AJ Didas, Clarence
- 170: Evan Braunscheidel, Hamburg
- 190: Noah Leavell, Hamburg
- 215: Nathaniel Tirado, West Seneca
- 285: Mike Welsh, Frontier

Division II

- 131: Trevor DellaPenta, Eden
- 215: Chris Howatt, Pioneer

Hockey Play Offs:

Small Schools Quarter Finals:

- Saturday at Northtown Center
- Iroquois/Alden/Clarence winner vs. Hamburg/NW winner
- WE/Amherst winner vs. WSW/Frontier winner
- KE/LP winner vs. GI/WS winner
- WN/WSE winner vs. Starpoint/KE winner
- Semifinals February 26th at LECOM Harborcenter:

**Iroquois/Alden/Clarence - Hamburg/NW winner vs. WN/WSE -Starpoint/KE winner
WE/Amherst - WSW/Frontier winner vs. KE/LP - GI/WS winner**

Finals: February 28th at KeyBank Center: Semifinal Winners at 8:00 p.m.

**Large Schools Semifinals: Tuesday at LECOM Harborcenter
Lockport/Niagara Falls vs. Orchard Park, 6:00 p.m.
Depew/North Tonawanda vs. Lancaster, 8:30 p.m.**

Finals: February 28th at KeyBank Center: Semifinal Winners at 5:30 p.m.

Boys Basketball Polls for week:

Large Schools:

#6 - Grand Island	Class A1
#8 - Health Sciences	Class AA2
# 9 - Williamsville South	Class A1
# 10 - Amherst	Class A1

Small Schools:

#5 - Akron	Class B1
#8 - Eden	Class B2
# 9t - Holland	Class C
#9t - Middle Early College	Class B1

Girls Basketball Polls for week:

Large Schools:

#2 - Lancaster	Class AAA
#4 - Starpoint	Class AA
#7 - Orchard Park	Class AA
#8 - Iroquois	Class A1
#9 - Amherst	Class A1
#10 - Kenmore West	Class AA