



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

March 21, 2025

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

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**TWIST ON TECH:** The Twist on Tech programs that will be featured at the Harkness Center on April 10th include; Animal Science, Aviation, Electrical and Electronics and Applied Technologies. Attendees that will be attending will be asked to sign up for three of the programs. If members are already signed up, ECASB will reach back out to you to secure your three choices for the rotation. Watch for additional information next week. The program will take place from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. at 99 Aero Drive. Deadline to register is March 27th

**BOARD MEMBERS SERVING ON PANEL DISCUSSION FOR PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP:** Thank you to Patrick Boyle (Frontier), Maureen Poulin (Williamsville), Cindy Mageira (Clarence), Karen Whitelaw (Ken Ton), and Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan), as well as District Clerk Deb Custodi (Amherst) who volunteered to serve on the Panel Discussion. We currently have 14 participants scheduled to attend the workshop. Ten ECASB districts will be represented. Occasionally, there are a few walk-ins to the workshop. The program begins at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 22nd.

**LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION EVENT:** The NYSSBA Leadership in Education Event is scheduled for August 1st and 2nd at the Crowne Plaza - The Desmond Hotel. The first year there were just a handful of ECASB members in attendance. Last year there were a couple of dozen attendees from ECASB member districts. The event has grown in popularity. The sessions will focus on the following topics: Student Mental Health, Student Digital Literacy, Building Board Unity, Student Ex Officio Board Member, Financial Planning for an Uncertain Future, School Improvement Planning, and BOCES and Future Ready Students. Details and registration will be happening soon. Because the event has increased in popularity over the last three years, I would suggest registering for the event sooner rather than later. For more information, please contact NYSSBA directly.

**NYSSBA GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COMING TO WNY THIS FALL:** The transformative event designed for Superintendents and Board Presidents will be coming to WNY this fall. The program will be held at Erie 1 BOCES and is open to the JMT. The program will explore best practices and strategies to forge a stronger partnership that results in leadership success to support and im-

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prove student outcomes in a district. The program was developed in conjunction with NYSCOSS. The program is sponsored by Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 CC BOCES, Orleans Niagara BOCES, ECASB, CCSBA and NOSBA.

**MAY 22ND LEGISLATIVE WRAP UP DINNER CANCELED:** The May 22nd Legislative Wrap Up Dinner is canceled. Although this was a popular event where we had at least one NYS Senator and one NYS Assemblyman talk about the past legislative session, we scheduled the dinner while the legislators are still in session. In the past we have generally had about 60 ECASB attendees.

**CONTACT FOR REGENT WILEY:** The contact information for Regent Keith Wiley representing the 8th Judicial District is Regent.Wiley@nysed.gov. We hope to have Regent Wiley speak at a future ECASB event as well as attend events during his term as Regent.

**SHOWCASE YOUR STUDENTS AT THE ANNUAL NYSSBA CONVENTION:** Deadline to submit information for performance groups for the NYSSBA Convention in NYC October 23-25, 2025 is April 11th. Deadline for Student Exhibits for the Expo floor is May 9, 2025. Student Photos deadline is Friday, September 12, 2025.

**ECASB AWARDS COMMITTEE:** Meeting is Monday March 24th. Once we know who the recipients of each of the awards are for 2025, we will begin sending out names of the recipients. This year some of the award recipients will be honored at the Annual Dinner in June, while other award categories will be recognized at the Back to School Dinner in August.

**VISIT TO GOWANDA CSD:** I visited Gowanda CSD on Wednesday, March 19th. Thank you to Board President Max Graham, Vice President Barbara Weston, Board Members Susan Bettker, Crista Monat, Mark D. Nephew, Zachary Nobles, and John Waterman. Special Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Robert Anderson, and District Clerk Kathy Ferneza. I heard a comprehensive transportation report from Wendell Engineering. As comprehensive as the report was, there are still many questions that are left unanswered not just for Gowanda CSD, but for many of the School Districts across Western New York

**SAD NEWS:** Ken Ton UFSD Board President Matt Chimera's Father-In-Law, Fred Vincent passed away recently. Condolences can be sent to Matt and Lisa Chimera. Lisa is the Deputy Erie County Executive and provides information for Erie County and ECASB flyer monthly. Condolences can be sent to Matt and Lisa Chimera at Ken Ton USFD, 1500 Colvin Boulevard, Buffalo, New York 14223.

**SAD NEWS:** Gowanda CSD District Clerk Kathy Ferneza's Father recently passed away. Ralph G. Cervantes, 85 passed away recently after a short illness. Condolences can be sent to Kathy Ferneza at Gowanda CSD, 10674 Prospect Street, Gowanda, New York 14070.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To Gowanda CSD Board Member Mark Nephew who is the Mayor-Elect of the village of Gowanda.

**LETTER SENT:** I sent letters to each School Board President within Area 1. The letter explains that I am running again for the NYSSBA Area 1 Director and asking for the Board of Education to nominate me. The guidelines and the date for the nomination are in the letter. Individuals wishing to

run need to have at least 5 districts within their Area nominate them in order to be on the ballot. I would appreciate districts taking the time to nominate me.

**ECASB MARCH MADNESS:** All ECASB District names are entered into the March Madness Bracket. Winning School Board will receive a free dinner prior to an upcoming Board Meeting. The Runner Up team will receive Desserts prior to an upcoming meeting.

**GOVERNANCE TRAINING:** Is scheduled for June 3rd and 7th. June 3rd will be from 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m. with dinner provided. June 7th will be from 8:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon with a continental breakfast. Program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is May 29th.

**FISCAL OVERSIGHT TRAINING:** Is scheduled for June 24th and 28th. June 24th will be from 5:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. with dinner provided. June 28th will be from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. Program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is June 19th.

### **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SUMMER CAMPS:**

Potter Camp - July 14th to July 18th for students entering grades 6-9. Camp will run from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. with a light breakfast provided daily. Camp fee is \$250. Located at Potter Career and Technical Center, 705 Potters Road, West Seneca, NY 14224

Calspan Camp - July 21st to July 25th for students entering grades 6-9. Camp fee is \$200 and will run from 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. daily with a light breakfast provided. Located at Calspan Career and Technical Center 4411 Genesee Street (across from the airport)

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

- March 22nd - Prospective School Board Workshop 8:00 a.m. –10:30 a.m.; B1
- April 10th - Speed Boarding “Twist on Tech” at Harkness Center 6:00 p.m.
- April 26th - 3rd Annual ECASB Road Rally 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

### **POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:**

None Listed

### **NYSSBA’S PROGRAMS:**

- Developing and Supporting Effective Superintendents: Thursday, August 21st from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. - 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 26th - Parliamentary Procedures Webinar 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. (Complimentary Webinar)
- Leadership in Education Event - August 1st and 2nd in Albany, New York (more details to follow).

### **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.

**BEST PRACTICES:** Last evening, the Gowanda CSD received a brief report on the hiring practices of the district. The report outlined the procedures and practices that the district follows for different

categories of employees within the district. It was a great reminder particularly for newer Board Members to remember that the Board only hires one employee - the Superintendent. All other employees of the district work for the Superintendent. There are different practices that are followed if an employee is a civil service employee, whether they are a certificated or non-certificated employee, and if the employee is an administrator. All positions would require background checks, interviews, etc, however, some positions have additional layers in the hiring process.

### **NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:**

*In Erie County, I have yet to visit Williamsville CSD and Orchard Park CSD. This past week I was able to get to Attica CSD and Roy Hart CSD in Area 1. During the next few months I hope to get to the rest of the ECASB districts as well as a few more Area 1 Districts.*

*Schools should continue to contact their legislators with concerns during the budget negotiations process. Although there are many unknowns at the state and federal level, legislators need to be made aware that this does affect the most local level of government.*

### **IN SPORTS:**

**Chautauqua County School Boards Association** recently held a contest to design a new logo. The contest was open to all students in the Chautauqua County area. The winning design was designed by 8th grade student Ellie Rounds from Southwestern Central School District. The new Chautauqua County School Boards Association logo is pictured below.

