



This Week At ECASB ...

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

January 10, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB ELF ON A SHELF UPDATE: Did you know that there were 531 entries in the contest. That is on average 53 participants on a daily basis over the course of the 10 day promotion.

SAD NEWS: Williamsville CSD's Executive Assistant Laurie Coccionitti passed away on December 31st. Please keep the Williamsville Board of Education and entire Williamsville community in your thoughts and prayers.

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.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ECASB EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND INFORMATION SPECIALIST SUE SUMMERS- On January 9th, Sue completed her 19th year at ECASB.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. KATHY EVANS BROWN WHO WAS ELECTED TO PRESIDENT OF THE BUFFALO BOARD OF EDUCATION: The Buffalo Board of Education is in their second year of having Board Elections during November. The Re-Organization of the Buffalo Board of Education takes place January 1st as opposed to July 1st as it does for all other schools in Erie County and Western New York. Cindi McEachon was elected as Vice President of Student Achievement and Larry Scott was elected as Vice President of Executive Affairs.

VISIT TO CSD: I had the opportunity to attend the West Seneca CSD Board of Education meeting on January 7th. Thank you to President Ed Bedient, Vice President Laura Sokol-Scott, Board Members Lorene Barulich, Marla Greenberg, Jeremy Maloney, Sara Piwowarczyk and Vincent Vanderlip. Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Lisa Krueger and District Clerk Nicole Latza. I was able to listen to a report from the Western New York Educational Service Council on redistricting as the district looks at available space within each of the buildings. There is still a great deal of research to conduct and many questions left unanswered as the Board will eventually have to make a decision that may not always be popular in the community. In this scenario, it is best to be transparent and share as much information with the community through the process.

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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 and will be sent out in January.

- 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.

RURAL SCHOOLS 2025 SUMMER CONFERENCE IN LAKE PLACID IS ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS: Deadline is February 14th at midnight. Contact Rural Schools Association of New York.

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 Cimato, 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.

SPORTS RECAP: Buffalo News recap of the Large School and Small School ranking for Boys Basketball for the week:

- Large Schools:
- #6 - Health Sciences
 - #8 - Williamsville South
 - #10 - Williamsville East
- Small Schools:
- # 5 - Akron
 - 9t - Olmsted

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:

Senator Patrick Gallivan - Thursday Jan. 16, 2025 at Russell's Steaks, Chops and More 6675 Transit Road; 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. , \$99 per person, Also \$150, \$250 and \$500 Sponsorship Levels available. Deadline to register is January 9th....so if you are planning on attending, please register ASAP. RSVP: Eileen@senatorgallivan.com or 716-432-7003.

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- February 7th - NYSSBA's Virtual Capital Conference
- February 12th - NYSSBA's Live Capital Conference

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.

BEST PRACTICES: A few Boards of Education when having student presentations, awards handed out, or community members being recognized schedule into the agenda a 5 minute break to allow the Board Members and Administrators to meet with and talk with any honorees at the meeting.

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.