

2007-08

ECASB

Members' Guide



**The Workshops, Programs,
Meetings and Events for ECASB!**

*“One’s work may be finished some day,
but one’s education never.”*

- Alexander Dumas

September 2007

ECASB

Executive Office

We are located on the Erie 1
BOCES Education Campus,
in Building C, Room 237 at
355 Harlem Road, West
Seneca, NY 14224

Phone: 821-7297

Fax: 821-7296

URL: www.ecasb.org

Executive Board

President

Mary Busse
(West Seneca)

Vice President

Richard Vogan
(Lake Shore)

Treasurer

Linda Hoffman (Erie 2
BOCES, Springville-GI)

Immediate Past President

Jack Semler (Clarence)

At-Large Members

Myrna Blair
(Grand Island)

Raymond Carr
(Erie 1 BOCES, Cheektowaga)

David Ehrle (Lancaster)

Ramona Popowich
(Williamsville)

Don Sniezak
(Orchard Park)

Buffalo Board Member

Catherine Nugent Panepinto

Superintendent

James Bodizak
(E. Aurora)

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to a new school year and welcome to a new year with ECASB. Our member school districts enjoy a wealth of opportunities for training, networking and information from the Erie County Association of School Boards.

This "Members' Guide" gives calendar and detail information about the meetings, events and activities of ECASB for the '07-08 school year. The programs offered this year are both time-honored favorites as well as some brand new initiatives suggested by our members. You may register for programs through your Superintendent's Office, or call us at 821-7297 or e-mail: snowak@e1b.org.

The ECASB office staff are here to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., so feel free to call if you have questions or need more information. Also, we always welcome ideas on how we can better serve you, so please share your thoughts!

This Members' Guide is a nice "hard copy" to keep tucked by the phone or in a briefcase ... but please also check in www.ecasb.org from time to time for important updates or changes. We also e-mail regular *ECASB Updates* to our members to highlight activities, emergent issues, and member news. In addition, we offer periodic Collaboration E-mails sharing information and opportunities for collaboration activities.

Now let's take a moment to talk about the core of our business: the children who attend our schools everyday. Our youth are our greatest resource ... not just in preparing them for the economic imperatives of daily life but in preparing them to carry out the legacy to be the kind of society we would hope for. It behooves our families, our schools and our communities to teach them well, prepare them as thoroughly as we can - and to love them dearly.

School Board Recognition Week is Oct. 28 to Nov. 1, but let's start this year off with some recognition right now: Thank you for your efforts in public education, on behalf of these children, families and communities. The difference you make in a child's life today in so many ways can resonate throughout the world.

Jane Burzynski
Executive Director

Executive Director
Jane Burzynski, APR

Executive Assistant
Shirley Nowak

Clerical
Sue Summers

**The Erie County
Association of School Boards
and the
Erie-Niagara
School Superintendents Association**

Welcome

Dr. Lynn Fusco, Alden
Robin Zymroz, Akron
Laura Chabe, Amherst
Roger Klatt, Barker
Gordon Salisbury, Cleveland Hill
Kim Mueller, Depew
Ron DeCarli, Frontier
Robert Christmann, Grand Island
Mark Crawford, Hamburg
Ed Myszka, Lancaster
Mark Mondanaro, Ken-Ton
Gary Pogorzelski, Newfane
Vincent Vecchiarella, North Tonawanda

**Whether new to the area,
or just new to their positions
or school district,
we congratulate these superintendents
on their important leadership role
in our WNY school-community!**

Our Member Districts:

Akron
Alden
Amherst
Buffalo
Cheektowaga
Cheektowaga-Sloan
Clarence
Cleveland Hill
Depew
East Aurora
Eden
Erie 1 BOCES
Erie 2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus
BOCES
Frontier
Grand Island
Hamburg
Holland
Hopevale
Iroquois
Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda
Lackawanna
Lake Shore
Lancaster
Maryvale
North Collins
Orchard Park
Springville Griffith Institute
Sweet Home
Tonawanda
West Seneca
Williamsville



Leaders' Forum: 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, 2007



**You're invited to the
Leaders' Forum for School Board Presidents,
Vice Presidents and Emergent Leaders
Oct. 4, 2007**

5:30-8:30 p.m., 355 Harlem Road (Rooms B2A & B)

Sponsored by Hodgson Russ

**This forum is open to board presidents and vice-presidents,
and those who are serving leadership roles as representatives/alternates
on the ECASB Delegate Assembly or ECASB Teams.**

If there are others on your board who are – or aspire to be – leaders please invite them to come!

Topics to be addressed in facilitated discussion:

- Dealing With An Irate Public
- Getting Community Input
- “Rebel” Board Members
- Expectations of President, Vice President
- Do We Need A Parliamentarian
- What Does the Board Clerk Do?
- Leadership - when you're not the Board President
- Role of the Board in Building the Budget
- Working with the Superintendent

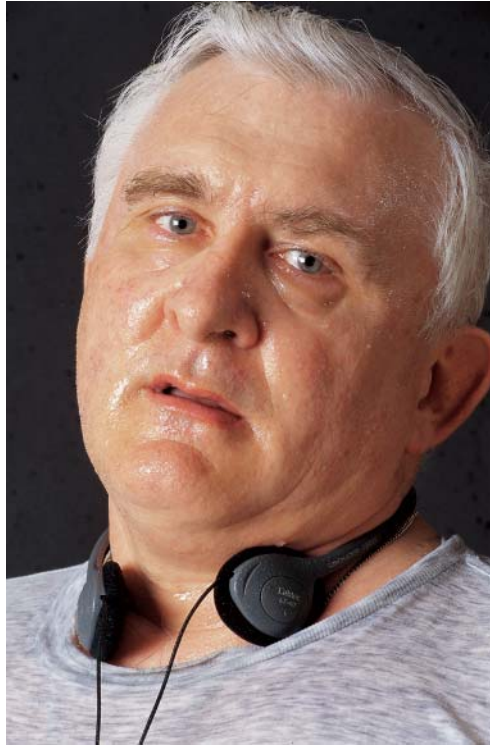
*Don't miss this opportunity
to share ideas and concerns
with your colleagues
in School Board Leadership!*

Light dinner provided.

Casual attire encouraged.

**Please let your Superintendent's office know by
Sept. 29 who will be attending.
PLEASE BRING A SAMPLE COPY OF YOUR
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING AGENDA.**

Leadership & Decision-Making Academy: 8:30-Noon, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007



**Wish You Could Have
Smoother, More Efficient Board Meetings?**

**Give us a morning and we'll give you time-honored tips,
techniques and best practices to make it so!**

Building Collaboration and Shared Decision-Making Within Your Board of Education

**Focus on Governance ... not on the minutiae of micromanagement
Go for the Goals ... you're responsible for the destination, not the entire trip-tik!
Acknowledge Citizen Concerns ... without sacrificing the business of the meeting**

**8:30-Noon, Saturday, Oct. 13, 2007
Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca**

Please let your Superintendent's office know by Oct. 10 who will be attending.



How to Get & KEEP Great Leaders

for Your School District

**Hire a new superintendent lately?
Or lost an administrator to another district?
Wondering how to get – and keep – the best administrative candidates?**

The retirements have begun and so has a five-year wave of bringing new leaders into our area school systems. Right now, it's a sellers' market ... candidates feel bolder about walking away if a district doesn't "feel right." Ever wonder if you rank as a "preferred" district in the eyes of candidates? And what does being a board member have to do with it?

Everything, it seems. High-performing districts have stable, professional boards of education and supportive cultures that set the tone for excellence and attract candidates like butterflies to gardens. Few districts are a bed of roses (... for long!). But good candidates aren't daunted by low test scores or failed budgets ... those are professional challenges. It's the professional quicksand of second-guessing and micro-management that will make candidates leary. Learn more about the assurances, expectations and compensations that work ...

*Join us for tips, advice and strategies on what works
– and what doesn't –
in the search for administrative leadership*

**Thursday, Nov. 8
Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus
355 Harlem Road, West Seneca**

Dinner: 5:15-5:45 p.m. || Program: 6-7:30 p.m.

Please let your Superintendent's office know by Nov. 1 who will be attending.

Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility Training (FORT): 8:45-3:30 p.m., Sat. , Nov. 17 or Sat., June 14



The **\$25 FORT**

for School Boards

*ECASB and Erie 1 BOCES Finance & Legislation Members attend for only \$25!
Non-members can attend at \$100 fee.*

Saturday, Nov. 17, 2007, at Erie 1 BOCES

OR

Saturday, June 14, 2008, at Erie 1 BOCES

Sessions are held at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca
Registration is from 8:45-9 a.m. Program is from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

- ECASB Members or Erie 1 BOCES Finance & Legislation Services members: \$15 per person for each 3-hour session; or **ONLY \$25 if you sign up NOW for BOTH Parts!**
- Non-ECASB members and non-E1B Finance & Legislation members: \$65 per person for each 3-hour session; or **ONLY \$100 if you sign up NOW for BOTH Parts!**

ECASB and Erie 1 BOCES are NYS-approved providers of this jointly developed curriculum.

Nuts and Bolts of Dollars and Cents Academy, 9-Noon, Sat., Jan. 5



Just in time for budget season, ECASB presents

Nuts and Bolts of Dollars and Cents Academy

**on School Finance, Budgeting, Purchasing,
and Related Bargaining/Personnel Matters**

9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 5

This half-day program reveals the factors that impact and influence school district finance, and gives an accountant's perspective on what to look for in budget development. Also addressed are best practices and accountability in purchasing, and budget-related issues in collective bargaining and personnel.

*Please take a moment to mark your calendars and register for this valuable program!
Its insights, tips and techniques are
a great gift to give yourself as you engage in budget discussions in your school district.*

Includes ...

NYS School District Financing: An Overview
Synopsis of a Budget: Impacts and Influences on Revenues & Expenditures
Things to Look for in Budget Development
How to Harness Your School District's Buying Power
Key Bargaining/Personnel Matters Related to Budget

Please let your Superintendent's office know by Dec. 31 who will be attending.

Save-the-Date!
January 26, 2008

ArtScapades!

Coming Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008



**An artful social networking event
to help support the programs and activities
of ECASB. Ticket info will be announced this
Fall at www.ecasb.org or call 821-7297.**

ArtScapades!

'Don't you think it's time for something fun?'

**This is a social networking event for our members and their families and friends,
as well as a fundraiser to help support the programs and activities of ECASB.**

**You'll have the opportunity to purchase quality artwork ...
or just visit and enjoy the wide variety of refreshments that will be provided
by BOCES culinary arts students.**

**Please join us for a fun, casual, artful evening ... and, we promise ... no workshops, no
trainings, no agendas ... just a nice evening with nice people for a nice cause!**

Time, Location and Ticket Information will be announced this Fall!

Location and Ticket Availability will be Announced this Fall!

Legislative Breakfast, 9-11 a.m., Sat., Feb. 9, Millennium Hotel., Cheektowaga



Annual Legislative Breakfast

9-11 a.m., Saturday

Feb. 9, 2008

**Millennium
2040 Walden Ave.
Cheektowaga**

Presented by the
**Erie County Association
of School Boards**

in partnership with
the League of Women Voters, the Western Region PTA,
the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association,
the WNY Association of Secondary School Principals,
WNY School Business Officials, the WNY Association
of School Personnel Administrators, and the
Instructional Development Advisory Board.

**Members of the ECASB Legislative Team and our partnering organizations
work throughout the year studying legislative issues that affect our schools
and develop position statements, questions and concerns to share with our legislators.
It all comes together at the Annual Legislative Breakfast.**

**Come on out to hear the suggestions, responses and insights
offered by our area legislators regarding these issues.
Come on out to make your presence known in the legislative arena!**

Please let your Superintendent's office know by Feb. 1 who will be attending.

Celebration of Collaboration Showcase: 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28



Celebration of Collaboration Showcase

A Dessert Forum sponsored by the
Erie County Association of School Boards and
Promoting Partnerships
in Public Education, Inc.

6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28
355 Harlem Road, West Seneca

Celebrating and Showcasing Collaborations in:

Substance Abuse Prevention
Greening of School Buses
Administrative Leadership Training
Special Education Grants

Featuring initiatives from these area school districts:
Akron, Clarence, Frontier, Grand Island, Iroquois, Lackawanna,
Lake Shore, Lancaster,
Ken-Ton, Sweet Home, Williamsville,
as well as the Parent Network of WNY,
WNY United Against Substance Abuse,
and the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning.

Please let your Superintendent's office know by Feb. 21 who will be attending.

ELECTION SEASON SERIES

**'Pre-Prospective'
Candidates
Conversation,
Sat., Mar. 8, 9:30-11
a.m., Location TBA**

**Prospective School
Board Member
Workshop
Sat., April 5, 8:30-
Noon, 355 Harlem,
West Seneca**

**New School Board
Member Workshop
Saturday, June 7,
8:30 a.m. – 12:30
p.m.,
Millennium, 2040
Walden Avenue,
Cheektowaga**

Ever come across somebody you thought would make a great school board member? Tell them! They just might want to talk about that.

“Anybody ever tell you you would make a good board member ...” is an invitation to meet over coffee and learn about school board service from area veteran school board members. This is a casual, *informal* discussion for people who might be interested in running for school board.

So, if you know of someone you think would make a great school board member, encourage them attend!

There is NO CHARGE but registration is required. Call 821-7297.

If you know someone who plans to run for a board of education seat, this workshop is a MUST! Encourage them to come to learn about:

**The Role of
Boardsmanship**

The Election Process

The Role of BOCES

**School Boards
& The Law**

**The Board-
Superintendent
Relationship**

**Perspectives from a
New Board Member**

**Perspectives from a
Veteran Board Member**

There is NO CHARGE but registration is required. Call 821-7297.

Superintendents and board officers are urged to attend this workshop with their new members as a team. It's an opportunity to get acquainted, get on the same page and dispel some myths and acknowledge some challenges right from the start! Topics are:

BOCES & Your Role as a School Board Member

Myths & Truths of School Board Membership

The Board-Superintendent Partnership

The Key to Becoming an Effective Board Member

Communication: The Critical Link

Promoting Partnerships in Public Education

Register through your Superintendent's Office or call 821-7297 for more information.

Do You Know What's In Your Teacher Contract: Thurs. , Mar. 20, 7-9 p.m.



Do you know what's in your teachers' contract - and what's not there that should be?

Thursday, March 20

7-9 p.m., 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca

Join us for an evening's discussion focused solely on this topic with Hodgson Russ attorney Karl Kristoff.

Mr. Kristoff will give insights and be available for questions and discussion from the group.

Please let your Superintendent's office know by Mar. 13 who will be attending.



Annual Meeting and Dinner

5:45-8:30 p.m., Thursday, June 12

Salvatore's Italian Garden, Transit Road, Depew

The ECASB Annual Meeting is where we gather to conduct the final year-end business of the organization, to honor and celebrate the achievements and contributions of our members.

This year, our theme will be "A Night in the Rainforest," with Donna Fernandez, Executive Director of the Buffalo and Erie County Zoo, as keynote speaker. Ms. Fernandez will speak on the new rainforest exhibit underway at the Buffalo Zoo, and its educational possibilities for our students, as well as the zoo's impact as a financial and cultural resource for our region.

We also will have the 2nd annual theme basket auction this year ... proceeds go toward defraying expenses of legislative advocacy activities of our members who participate in state and federal legislative activities.

Kids matter, schools matter, the planet matters - be a part of it!

Please let your Superintendent's office know by June 5th who will be attending.

Team Meetings At-A-Glance

Erie County Association of School Boards 2007-08 Calendar

Thank you for taking an active part in the ECASB organization! Please make every effort to attend your assigned team meetings, or ensure that your alternate can attend - because no action can take place and no business can move forward if a quorum is not in place.

Please note, in recognition of the very, very busy schedules of our members each May, we have moved both the Delegate Assembly and Executive Board meetings earlier in the spring, to make every effort to avoid scheduling conflicts with school springtime activities.

Executive Board

Sept. 27 5-7 p.m.
Dec. 6 5-7 p.m.
Jan. 17 5-7 p.m.
Mar. 13 5-7 p.m.

Delegate Assembly

Sept. 27 7:15-9:15 p.m.
Jan. 24 7-9 p.m.
April 10 7-9 p.m.

Budget and Finance Team

Sept. 13 7-9 p.m.
Nov. 29 7-9 p.m.
Jan. 3 7-9 p.m.
Mar. 6 7-9 p.m. (IF NEEDED)

Legislative Team

Sept. 20 7:15-9:15 p.m.,
Oct. 18 7:15-9:15 p.m.
Nov. 1 7:15-9:15 p.m. (IF NEEDED)
Jan. 17 7:15-9:15 p.m.
Mar. 13 7:15-9:15 p.m. (Location TBD)

Program & PR Team

Sept. 20 6-7 p.m.
Oct. 11 4-6 p.m.
Nov. 1 5:45-7 p.m.
(2008 Meetings to be scheduled with team members)

Bold Face Italics: Office Closed

Bold Face Underline: Saturday Sessions

Updates are posted on www.ecasb.org/calendar

September 2007

3 ***Labor Day (Office Closed)***
8 NYSSBA Academies in Buffalo
13 Budget & Finance Team, 7-9 p.m.
(Orientation Meeting) – (Rm B1)
20 Program/Pr Team, 6-7 p.m. (Rm B2A)
20 Legislative Team (Legislative
Breakfast Planning), 7:15-9:15 p.m. (Rm B1)
27 Executive Board, 5-7 p.m. (Rm A1)
27 Delegate Assembly, 7:15-9:15 p.m. (Rm B1)
30-Oct. 2 NYSCOSS Fall Conference (Saratoga
Springs)

October 2007

4 **ECASB Leaders' Forum** for School
Board Presidents, Vice Presidents and
Emergent Leaders, 5:30-8:30 p.m. (Rooms
B2A & B)
8 ***Columbus Day (Office Closed)***
11 Artscapades Planning/PR Program Team,
4-6 p.m. (ECASB Office, Rm 237, Building C)
13 Leadership & Decision-Making Academy:
Building Collaboration and Shared
Decision-Making Within Your Board,
8:30 a.m.-noon (Rooms B2A & B)
17-19 Technology Leadership Network (National
School Boards Association), Nashville,
Tennessee
18 ECASB Legislative Meeting (Resolutions
Discussion), 7:15-9:15 p.m. (Room B2b)
25-28 NYSSBA Convention (NYC)
28-Nov. 1 School Board Recognition Week

November 2007

1 Artscapades Planning, 5:45-7 p.m.
(Rm B2a)
1 Legislative Team, 7:15-9:15 p.m.
(**TENTATIVE: IF NEEDED**) (Rm B1)
8 How to Get - And Keep - The Best
Leaders in Your School District.
Dinner: 5:15-5:45 Program 6-7:30 p.m.
(Rooms B2A & B2B)
12 ***Veterans' Day (Office Closed)***

17 FORT Training. REGISTRATION: 8:45-9 a.m. //

PROGRAM: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.: Erie 1
BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca,
(Rm B2A)

- 22, 23 Thanksgiving Recess (Office Closed)**
29 Budget & Finance Team, 7-9 p.m. (Rm B1)

December 2007

- 6 Executive Board, 5-7 p.m. (Rm A-1)**
24, 25 Winter Recess (Office Closed)
24-Jan. 1 Winter Recess, E1B & E2CCB

January 2008

- 1 New Year's (Office Closed)**
3 Budget & Finance Team, 7-9 p.m. (Rm B1)
5 3rd in Board Member Academy Series:
Nuts & Bolts of Dollars & Cents, 9 a.m.-
noon (Rm B1)
13-15 NYSCOSS Mid-Winter Conference, The
Desmond
17 Executive Board Meeting, 5-7 p.m. (Rm A1)
17 Legislative Team, 7:15-9:15 p.m. (Rm B1)
21 Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
(Office Closed)
22-25 Regents Exams
24 Delegate Assembly, 7-9 p.m. (Rm B1)
26 ECASB ArtScapades (location TBD)

February 2008

- 3-5 Federal Relations Network (FRN) –**
Washington, D.C.
9 Legislative Breakfast @ Millennium Hotel
18-22 Mid-Winter Recess, E1B & E2CCB
18 Presidents' Day (Office Closed)
28 Dessert Forum: Celebration of
Collaboration Showcase, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
(Rm A2)

March 2008

- 2-4 State Legislative Network (SLN) – Albany**
6 Budget & Finance Team, 7-9 p.m.
(TENTATIVE: IF NEEDED)
8 Pre-Prospective Board Candidates
Conversation (location TBD)
13 Executive Board, 5-7 p.m. (Rm A-5)
13 Legislative Team, 7:15-9:15 p.m.
(location TBD)
20 Dessert Forum: Do You Know What's In
Your Teacher Contract – and What's Not
There That Should Be!... 7-9 p.m. (Rm B1)
21 Good Friday (Office Closed)
29-April 1 NSBA in Orlando

April 2008

- 5 ECASB So You Want to be A School Board**
Member Workshop, 8:30-noon (Room B1)
10 Delegate Assembly, 7-9 p.m. (Room B1)
14-18 Spring Recess, E1B & E2CCB
25 Friday DayTime Forum Currently in
Planning – More INFO TBA*

May 2008

- 15 Scholastic Achievement Recognition**
Dinner (SARD), Marriott
20 Budget Votes/Elections in School Districts
23, 26 Memorial Day (Office Closed)

June 2008

- 7 ECASB New School Board Member**
Academy 1, 8:30-12:30, @ Millennium
12 ECASB Annual Dinner @ Salvatore's
14 FORT, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. – Room B1
17-26 Regents Exams

Check for updates at
[www.ecasb.org!](http://www.ecasb.org)

***(Psst ... Something Big Might**
Be Happening on April 25th)

There is one event we haven't profiled in this packet, and that is because we won't know until mid-year whether we'll have sufficient grant funding to make it happen.

The initiative is called **MY Story, MY Song** ... it is a local effort modeled on the Freedom Writers in Los Angeles. These were troubled youth facing very difficult challenges. Working with teacher Erin Gruwell, they channeled these issues into creative writing and journal records. The Freedom Writers' success was such that ECASB, with its charitable arm Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, along with the YWCA of WNY, Erie 1 BOCES Arts in Education, the Arts in Education Institute of WNY, and Dr. Greg Dimitriadis of SUNY Buffalo and Phyllis McCameron of Erie Community College, have been working for several months to develop a WNY pilot model. So, keep your fingers crossed - if grant funding is acquired by January, we will announce this opportunity to our districts immediately!