

# ECASB Update

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

## **FALL Edition Fall Vol. 5, Issue 2**

"We already know enough to begin to cope with all the major problems that are now threatening human life and much of the rest of life on earth. Our crisis is not a crisis of information; it is a crisis of decision, of policy and action." — George Wald



*Sen. Suzi Oppenheimer (center), chair of the Senate Standing Committee on Education, poses with ECASB President Rick Vogan (Lake Shore) and ECASB Treasurer and NYSSBA Area 1 Director Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES), both of whom gave testimony on the merits of an expanded role for BOCES to help achieve taxpayer savings.*

## **Senate Education Committee Hearing Focuses on BOCES for Savings...**

A Public Hearing held at Erie 1 BOCES on expansion of BOCES services to help achieve taxpayer savings was one of three held across the state. The written testimony from all of them is available at <http://www.nysenate.gov/senator/suzi-oppenheimer>

Scroll toward the bottom of the page and find it listed under "Senator Reports." Or, find it on the Education Committee page by scrolling to the bottom of the Senator's page and clicking on "Education" under "My Committees."



**A Community Schools Summit** was presented by the United Way in collaboration with ECASB, Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association, and Erie 1 and Erie 2 BOCES. Nearly 200 school district and community agency representatives attended this day-long summit featuring multiple speakers with advice on how to initiate, structure, fund, staff, and sustain family support centers in our schools.

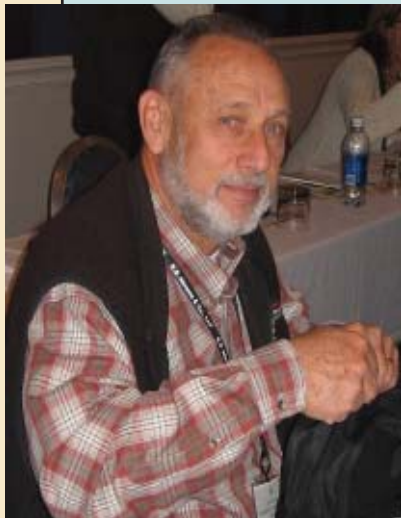


## **Community Schools Summit Discusses Resources, Funding**

# ECASB in NYC ...



Voting Reps at this year's NYSSBA Business Meeting in NYC included Anita Ray and Nancy Renckens from the Erie 2 Chatauqua Cattaraugus BOCES Board of Education and Roberta Coniglio, Vice President of the Fredonia Board of Education. Others representing ECASB member districts at the Business Meeting were:



Al McClymonds,  
Orchard Park.



Dave Lowrey, Iroquois.



Dan Caprio, Akron.

**One more year in NYC! Then, it's here in Buffalo!  
Convention Conference Schedule:**

- 2010 NYC
- 2011 Buffalo
- 2012 Rochester
- 2013 Rochester Again.



Dennis Feldman,  
Lake Shore.



Charlie Wuest, Ken Ton.



Ray Carr,  
Cheektowaga  
and Erie 1 BOCES.



Mary Busse, West Seneca, and Jean Ranney, Clarence.



Joan Kelly,  
Springville; Wayne  
Schlifke, Erie 1  
BOCES; Jane  
Burzynski, ECASB.

# BUFFALO BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER FLORENCE JOHNSON IS INCOMING NYSSBA PRESIDENT



Tom Kulaszewski, President of Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, gives Florence Johnson a congratulatory kiss in honor of her term as President of the New York State School Boards Association, which begins in January. Current President Wayne Schlifke announced the incoming slate of officers, which also includes Tom Nespeca (Webster), First Vice President; Lynne Lenhardt (Capital Region BOCES), 2nd Vice President; and Michael Massey (Fayetteville-Manlius), who will serve his fifth term as Treasurer.



On hand to share the congratulations in New York City were Florence's husband, George, and their son, Ernie. Both have seen her efforts over the past 15 years as a member of the Buffalo Board of Education and various school board groups. She thanked them for their support of her work, including understanding the time commitment, and also for chauffeuring her to numerous meetings and events.



Florence has been active in local school board association efforts, including serving on the PPPE Board and generating support for the Gowanda Relief Fund. She is shown here with ECASB Executive Director Jane Burzynski.



## WELL- WISHERS GATHER

Immediately after the election of Florence Johnson as incoming NYSSBA President at the Annual Convention in New York City, a reception was held in her honor in the Lenox Room at the Sheraton Hotel and Towers.

While Manhattan's traffic bustled in the streets below, the room filled with well-wishers who gathered to celebrate the moment and enjoy a cake and punch reception.



### Top Photo:

(front, center) Mary Busse (West Seneca), immediate Past President of ECASB, and Florence Johnson; (row two, from left) Andy Loeb (Erie 1 BOCES), Dan Nagy (West Seneca), Mary Metzger (Cleveland Hill), Julie Horton (Cleveland Hill), Tom Kulaszewski, President of PPPE (Cleveland Hill).



### Middle Photo:

David Smaczniak (West Seneca), Immediate Past Area 1 Director; Tim Kremer, NYSSBA Executive Director; Tom Kulaszewski, Florence Johnson, Mary Busse.

### Bottom Photo:

John Licata (Buffalo), Tim Kremer, Florence Johnson, Vivian Evans (Buffalo), Mary Kapsiak (Buffalo), Dr. James Williams (Buffalo School Superintendent).

# 2009 LEADERS FORUM

Nearly 60 people attended this year's Leadership Forum for Board Presidents, Vice Presidents, Superintendents and Aspiring Leaders. Held at the Millennium, the program featured challenges successfully addressed by the administrative and governance teams in three of our member districts. Orchard Park Schools spoke on a successful redistricting effort, Clarence Central Schools spoke on Team Building & Relationships, and Lackawanna City Schools spoke on Returning the Spotlight to Student Performance.

The Annual Leaders Forum is sponsored by ECASB in collaboration with the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association.

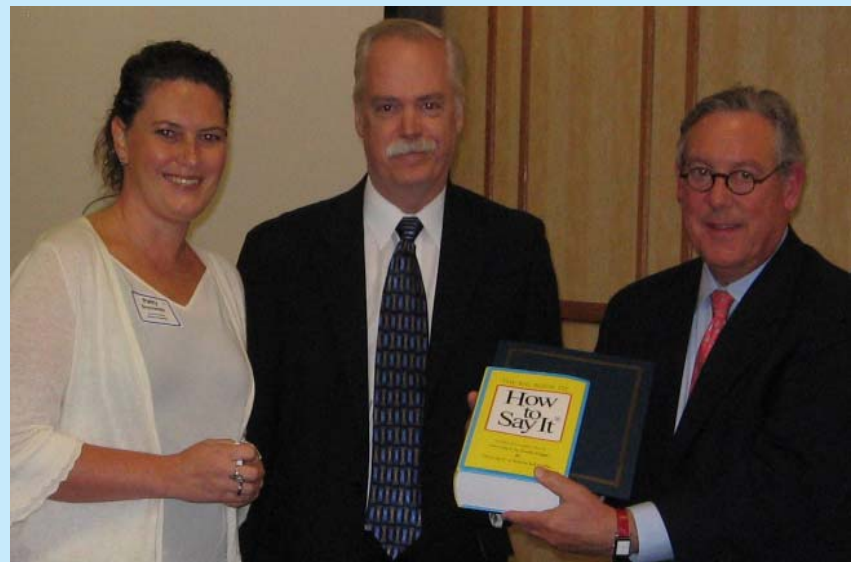
***Thank you to our program sponsors:***



From the Clarence Schools, (from left) Superintendent Dr. Tom Coseo and BOE members Susan Altman and Jack Semler, are thanked by ECASB President Rick Vogan for their presentation on bringing new school board members onto the team.



Orchard Park Schools Superintendent Joan Thomas spoke on that district's elementary boundary realignment project.



ECASB President Rick Vogan (Lake Shore), center, thanked Lackawanna School Board President Patricia Bryniarski and Superintendent Dr. Fred Wille for their presentation on academic gains in their school district.

**Got Success? Share your story, suggestions and advice with your colleagues! ECASB is interested in how your district prevailed in the face of administrative/governance challenges ... if you have a suggestion for next year's Leadership Forum please contact [jburzynski@e1b.org](mailto:jburzynski@e1b.org).**

# PROMOTING PARTNERSHIPS IN PUBLIC EDUCATION



Members of the PPPE Board of Directors met with *WNY Heritage Magazine* Editor Douglas DeCroix to discuss a staff development initiative for social studies teachers. The effort includes a component based on the War of 1812, and another based on integrating magazine content with curriculum. Above are (front, from left): Kate Riedel, Susan Mendel Hausman, Doug DeCroix, (back) Dave Smaczniak, Lorie Sabo, Margie Jones-Carey, Tom Kulaszewski, Jack Semler.

## In the PINK!

Districts may use the pink sheet form (see next page) to share their collaborations with other ECASB members.

Submissions are automatically entered for consideration for the annual Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award.

## SO FAR ...

**Promoting Partnerships in Public Education efforts so far this year include inviting districts to “Share Your Best” collaborations (see pink circle above), as well as:**

- \* **Continuation of collaboration e-mails** to all ECASB School Board members and Superintendents to convey information on grant opportunities, shared concerns, and relevant programs and announcements from various organizations and agencies.
- \* **Gowanda Relief Fund ...** Nearly \$1100 was raised to help residents of the Gowanda school-community after this summer’s flooding disaster. Donations were distributed in three areas: 1) water (taken to Gowanda by ECASB volunteers); 2) donation to a family in need, and 3) in anticipation of a bleak year for many families, a donation was made to the Gowanda Police Community Policing Unit for their holiday gift drive for children. In addition, various donations of canned goods, clothing and personal care items were contributed.
- \* **Testimony** was submitted from PPPE President Tom Kulaszewski to the Senate Education Committee on expanding the role of BOCES for taxpayer savings.
- \* **A Community Schools Summit** was presented by the United Way in collaboration with ECASB, PPPE, Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association, Erie 1 and Erie 2 BOCES.
- \* **A collaboration** is underway with WNY Heritage Magazine and the Frontier and West Seneca social studies departments for staff development training in local history.

# SHARE YOUR BEST!

A COMPILATION OF BEST PRACTICES AND SUCCESSES IN COLLABORATION

*An initiative of Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, Inc.*

Completed information from this form will be posted at [www.ecasb.org](http://www.ecasb.org)

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Name & Title of Contact Person for more information: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of Best Practice: \_\_\_\_\_

Description:

Partners:

Need Addressed:

Costs/Resources Used:

Briefly describe how you implemented this:

What were the outcomes:

(Briefly describe how the partnership improved the district's educational program; or saved money/time/resources; or other factors that make it different or unique.)

Please complete this sentence: This program serves as an example to others because \_\_\_\_\_

Are there supporting materials you would recommend or share?

*All completed sharings are automatically entered for review by the PPPE Board of Directors in consideration for nomination for the Annual Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award.*

*No Deadline!!! Sharings are accepted continually! Mail to ECASB, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, NY 14224 OR Fax to 821-7296 OR e-mail electronic file to [jburzynski@e1b.org](mailto:jburzynski@e1b.org).*

# COLLABORATION SHARING

## FROM THE SEPT. 24 DELEGATE ASSEMBLY MEETING

Delegate Assembly members on Sept. 24 received a "PINK SHEET" which allows greater detail of their district's collaborations. The completed forms may be sent to ECASB and the information will be placed on the collaboration section of the ECASB web site. Also, collaborations from the "PINK SHEETS" will automatically be considered by the Awards Review Team for the annual Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award.

**Rick Vogan (Lake Shore) ...** As ECASB President, Rick represents the Association on the Erie County Industrial Development Agency and will try to notify member districts of ECIDA agenda items that affect them.

**Carol Nowak (Sweet Home Board President) ...** noted that several families have not attended the 9<sup>th</sup> grade Alcohol/Drug Substance Abuse Awareness program. They will have one more chance for the video option.

**Illana Lane (Amherst) ...** the district is partnering with UB and the Amherst Police Department to ensure that their safety standards are up to par at the High School level. Similar efforts are also underway at the elementary level and new Boys' and Girls' club, which is being used as a second location for evacuation emergencies.

**George Casey (Grand Island) ...** Noted the Grand Island Business and School Alliance is underway with student ambassadors selected on the basis of marks and community service. This has been expanded to include two juniors, as well. Also, the DECA program is up and going for the new school year.

**David Goris (Grand Island) ...** Noted joint meetings with the Town and School District ... there are 4-5 meetings per year, addressing various areas of collaboration. The BOE has a capital project vote scheduled for December, and is in discussion with the Town about a joint transportation center.

**David Zalenski (Lancaster) ...** The drug and alcohol awareness program for parents was impressive and would be good for kids to hear, as well. The paraphernalia demonstration - mmm, not so much.

**Dan Caprio (Akron) ...** Collaborating with Akron youth/sports groups on a head trauma and sports related injuries seminar with UB Medical School. The district also is engaged in its capital project.

**William Freeman (Williamsville) ...** Also having a program on concussion management. Dr. Anthony Billittier from Erie County Health Department presented on H1N1 on Opening Day.

**Charles Wuest (Ken-Ton) ...** Security camera project at the High School is complete. This is a Town/School district collaboration. There are 46 cameras at the two high schools.

**Jean Ranney (Clarence) ...** Clarence is partnering with Lancaster in a grant-funded transitions program for parents.

**Don Sniezak (Orchard Park) ...** W. Seneca and Orchard Park are collaborating on a bus garage initiative.

**Joyce Hogankamp (Tonawanda) ...** Collaborating in a grant with the City of Tonawanda for shared school/municipal facilities, shared athletics programs – exploring possibility of moving from current football stadium to a state of the art facility for kids. Volunteers are serving on three task forces.

**Alison Hyde (Hopevale) ...** Alison sent thanks for donations at the Annual Dinner to help ship donated equipment/uniforms from Lake Shore Youth Soccer and school supplies from Sweet Home to the Crossroads Springs Orphanage School.

**Karen Littles (Hopevale) ...** Collaboration involves training in Circle of Courage, a "reclaiming youth" movement for troubled kids. Reinforces values at home and school. The aim is to better align the messages students get from home and school.

## COLLABORATIONS CON'T ...

**Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES President, ECASB Treasurer, NYSSBA Area 1 Director)** ... Noted the Collaboration of ECASB and other area SBA's and the Joint Management Team (Erie 1, Erie 2CC, Niagara Orleans, and Catt-Ally BOCES) in bringing in nationally-known speaker David Warlick for a dinner program March 18 at Michael's in Hamburg.

**Lorie Sabo (Erie 2 CC BOCES, ECASB Legislative Team Leader)** ... the School Safety Village collaboration with BOCES 2 and local law enforcement continues to evolve. It is a mini-village replica for learning road/bicycle safety.

**Ray Carr (Cheektowaga, Erie 1 BOCES)** ... the joint Cheektowaga Town-School Alliance is in its 5<sup>th</sup> year, and in its 9<sup>th</sup> year are joint meetings, two-three times annually, of the four area school district boards, and Depew has now also joined those joint meetings.

## Bulletin Board

**Western New York Human Rights Summit** ... On Monday, November 2, Hamburg Schools will host a *Western New York Human Rights Summit* to present the nationally recognized "Summer Institute for Human Rights and Genocide Studies" and to discuss how other districts might become involved with similar efforts. The summit will be at Armor Elementary School, 5301 Abbott Road, Hamburg from 5-8 p.m. Dinner and registration will be provided at no charge. Please register with [JKroll@hamburgschools.org](mailto:JKroll@hamburgschools.org)

**"Where Does the Rain Drain?"** ... As part of its Ecology and Watershed Studies, the Buffalo Urban Outdoor Education organization will present a six-lesson series on water pollution, culminating with a field experience taking place on a sail on Buffalo's tall ship, the *Spirit of Buffalo*. The series begins in November. More info at [www.buoe.org](http://www.buoe.org)

**Your Life, Your Money** ... On Thursday, October 29, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., WNED will host a FREE event to highlight financial literacy resources drawing from the WNED-produced **YOUR LIFE, YOUR MONEY**. This program premiered nationally on PBS in September, and will re-air Nov. 24 at 10 p.m. on WNED-TV. The evening includes a selective screening of **YOUR LIFE, YOUR MONEY**, an overview of its accompanying facilitator's guide, other hard-copy materials as well as a tour of the show's Web site, [pbs.org/your-life-your-money](http://pbs.org/your-life-your-money). Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy Executive Director and YOUR LIFE, YOUR MONEY national adviser Laura Levine will give the keynote address, and dinner will be served. All attendees will receive complimentary dvds of **YOUR LIFE, YOUR MONEY** as well as the facilitator's guide and other outreach materials. **RSVP: [rpape@wned.org](mailto:rpape@wned.org) or 845-7000 ext. 345.**

**Seminar on Homelessness** ... Philip R. Endress, Erie County's Commissioner of Mental Health, extends an invitation to a free seminar on homeless children from 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 18 in the Buffalo & Erie County Public Library Auditorium.

He notes: "As we move forward with our evolving children's system of care, the role of education and the public schools will continue to grow in importance." The program will cover who is protected under the McKinney-Vento Act, the rights of homeless students, where districts provide special services to these students, when provisions apply to children awaiting foster care placement, why recent Fostering Connections legislation has improved options for educational stability, and how local departments of social services and school districts must coordinate to promote educational stability for students in foster care. The seminar is being presented by Jennifer Pringle, Esq., Project Director, NYS-TEACHS at Advocates for Children of New York and Kathleen DeCataldo, Esq., Executive Director, NYS Permanent Judicial Commission on Justice for Children. Register: [kcarroll@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:kcarroll@courts.state.ny.us)

# ECASB Program Calendar

All programs are at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, unless otherwise stated.

## November 2009

- 14** Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility Training for New Board Members ... Registration from 8:45-9 a.m.; Program ... 9-3:30 p.m., in Rm. B1 and **REFRESHER FORT for Veteran Board Members, (covering Fund Balance Management, Use of Reserve Funds, Audits - internal, external, claims and comptroller's audits)** 8:30-11:45 a.m. in Rm. B2a
- 19** **Do You Know What's In Your Teachers' Contract – And What's Not There But Should Be?**, Dessert Forum, with John J. Christopher from Hodgson Russ, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Rm. B

## January 2010

- 9** Nuts & Bolts of Dollars & Cents, Annual School Finance Workshop, 9 a.m.-noon , Rm. B1

## February 2010

- 6** Legislative Breakfast @ Millennium, 8:30-11 a.m
- 27** Building A High Performance District, 8:30 a.m. registration and continental breakfast; Program from 9 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## March 2010

- 18** **Technology: the 4<sup>th</sup> R ... Redefining Literacy**, speaker: David Warlick. Buffet dinner from 6-7, speaker from 7-8-ish, Q&A/audience discussion open till 8:30, at Michael's, 4885 Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg. Sponsored by the WNY Joint Management Team (Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 CC BOCES, Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES, Orleans Niagara BOCES).
- 27** Prospective School Board Member Workshop, 8:30-noon, Rm. B1

## June 2010

- 5** ECASB New School Board Member Academy, 8:30-12:30, @ Millennium
- 10** ECASB Annual Dinner @ Salvatore's
- 12** FORT: Registration ... 8:45-9 a.m.; Program ... 9-3:30 p.m. , Rm. B1

# Team Meetings

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.

All meetings are held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, unless otherwise noted.

## Executive Board

**December 3** ... 5-6:30 p.m., Rm. B2b, followed by PPPE Annual Meeting of the Member, 7-8:30 p.m., Rm. B2a

**January 7** ... 5-6:15 p.m., Rm. B2a

**March 25** ... 5-6:30 p.m., Board Room, Cheektowaga High School

## Delegate Assembly

**Jan. 21** ... 7:30-9:00 p.m., Rm. B2b

**April 29**...7-8:30 p.m.,Rm. B1

## Budget and Finance Team

**Nov. 5** ...7:30-8:30 p.m., Rm. B1

**Jan. 7** ... 6:30-8 p.m., Rm. B2b

**March 4**...6:30-8 p.m., Rm. B1  
**(IF NEEDED)**

## Legislative Team

**Nov. 5** ... 6-7:15 pm, Rm. B2b

**Jan. 21** ... 6-7:15 pm, Rm. B1

**March 25** ...7-8:30 pm, Board Room, Cheektowaga High School

