

# 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

*March Madness Edition 2010 Vol. 5, Issue 4*

## Favorite Quotes

It's March again and for basketball fans that means March Madness! Several great basketball quotes sometimes also are fitting for experiences in the education sector. Just think of education or school board service as the contextual reference in the quotes below:

- 1) "We can't win at home and we can't win on the road. My problem as general manager is I can't think of another place to play."  
~ Pat Williams
- 2) "The secret is to have eight great players and four others who will cheer like crazy."  
~ Jerry Tarkanian
- 3) "Basketball is like war in that offensive weapons are developed first, and it always takes a while for the defense to catch up."  
~ Red Auerbach
- 4) "When it's played the way is spozed to be played, basketball happens in the air; flying, floating, elevated above the floor, levitating the way oppressed peoples of this earth imagine themselves in their dreams."  
~ John Edgar Wideman
- 5) "Good, better, best. Never let it rest. Until your good is better and your better is best."  
~ Tim Duncan
- 6) "Sometimes a player's greatest challenge is coming to grips with his role on the team."  
~ Scottie Pippen
- 7) "Basketball is a game that gives you every chance to be great, and puts every pressure on you to prove that you haven't got what it takes. It never takes away the chance, and it never eases up on the pressure."  
~ Coach Bob Sundvold
- 8) "My responsibility is getting all my players playing for the name on the front of the jersey, not the one on the back."  
~ Author Unknown



Hopevale Board of Education member Sharon Raimondi, right, joins Cleveland Hill board members Tom Kulaszewski and Mary Metzger at the Saturday Academy on *Building A High Performance District*.



Buffalo Board of Education member Pamela Cahill talks with Michael Baugh, a student in the LIFTS school administration program at SUNY Buffalo.



## An FRN Member Reports

*Diane Panasiewicz, a member of the Cheektowaga Board of Education and the National School Boards Association Federal Relations Network (FRN), shares her report from this year's FRN Conference in Washington, D.C., held Jan. 31-Feb. 2:*

The goal of the 37<sup>th</sup> annual FRN Conference was to help set the education agenda with our members of Congress. By learning about the planned funding for the future, FRN members are better able to speak to our representatives about what we believe will be best for the students in our school districts.

The first two days involved absorbing details of the various programs:

**Title I Grants**, the major source for funding the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), is continually underfunded. Our nation's children have received tens of billions of dollars less than necessary since NCLB began in 2002. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

increased funding from 50% to 75% but when it expires, school boards fear the government will revert to funding at only 50%, which is unacceptable.

**The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)**, which provides funds to educate students with disabilities, traditionally receives 17% of its funding from the federal government. For the 2 years of ARRA, IDEA will be funded at 26%, but this is still not near what the government promised when IDEA was first enacted, which was 40% federal funding.

**The Jobs for Main Street Act**, which extends the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund until 9/30/10, is being used for education job retention, school modernization and

infrastructural repairs. We can use it to halt job losses and improve achievement, but not for rainy day funds or debt retirement. Districts are very concerned because when this money ends, the funding loss will be severe.

**The E-Rate program** is used to provide discounts to libraries and schools to obtain affordable technology. We asked legislators to support permanent exemption for E-Rate from ADA so districts can get notifications in a timely manner so they can plan for their educational technology needs.

Many of us learned about the **F-1 Visa** for the first time. Small rural districts, such as the Newcomb Central School District in the Adirondacks, are struggling to support their schools. Newcomb has begun accepting international students who pay their own way. U.S. law permits them to stay for only 12 months, yet international students enrolled in private/parochial schools can stay as long as they want. We hope Congress remedies this unfair situation by amending the law to give the same rights to international students who want to attend public schools.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan spoke to us about one of the biggest topics of discussion, **Race to the Top (RTTT)**.

Forty states and D.C. applied for the funds, and New York State was just announced as a first round winner. There will be a phase 2 with applications due June 1, and awards made in September. Some \$4.35 billion will be awarded to RTTT winners. The awards are based on: (1) Internationally benchmarked standards/assessments

for college/career success (2)  
Effective teachers/principals (3)  
Longitudinal data systems: grade to grade (4) Turning around low performing schools.

In New York State, a new Chancellor has been appointed and there are huge financial problems with getting adequate funding from the state government. Still, many find unacceptable some of the RTTT solutions to turning around low performing schools, such as bringing in management teams and eliminating boards of education.

Several criticisms were levied against the competitive nature of funding, including concerns about small districts that can't afford grant writers, and expectations for BOCES to write grants for large numbers of districts. Some also complained that districts have to change their plans 'midstream' when new projects from the government come up. Charter schools don't play with the same rules as publics, don't take children with IEP's and our school boards have no power to assess their students and there is no accountability, stated some BOE members. Others complained that unreasonable, unfunded mandates are breaking the backs of the districts.

On Tuesday, Senators Charles Schumer and Kristin Gillibrand were among the legislative leaders who addressed the New York State contingent at a breakfast meeting organized by NYSSBA on Capitol Hill.

Sen. Gillibrand stated that while 200,000 jobs will be created in NY from the stimulus money, she is worried about the 'cliff' in 2011 when money stops, so she is trying



*Diane  
Panasiewicz*

**‘Attending the FRN  
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government level  
and the long process  
needed to get ideas  
written into  
legislation, and then  
voted into law.’**

to develop a gradual decrease in funding. She mentioned Green Schools grants, and referred us to her assistant, Jon Cardinal ([Jon\\_Cardinal@gillibrand.senate.gov](mailto:Jon_Cardinal@gillibrand.senate.gov)), for help in applying for these grants.

Paul Tonko, a member of Congress from NY for 25 years, is on the House Committee on Education and Labor. He spoke about money that

can be provided for Green Schools to save energy, renovate buildings bring them up to “green building standards.” He said NYSERDA has the best green projects in the country.

Gabriella Gomez, Assistant to the U.S. Education Secretary, stated that there is \$1 billion in reserve funds for reauthorizing ESEA, and many new funding streams are being developed. She stated that Title I money is not being touched, and is not competitive. Many worry that competitive grants will result in many districts not getting money.

On the final day of the conference, we had “Our Day on Capitol Hill,” with 79 members of the NYS delegation meeting with various government officials. The WNY school board members represented by Brian Higgins met with Jana Powell, his legislative assistant. We informed her about some problems we have in WNY: the need to keep Title I money noncompetitive, funding IDEA at 30-40%, taking the ‘bad’ out of NCLB and leave in the good, creative aspects, and concerns about who will read and score the RTTT grants. She stated that Rep. Higgins is co-sponsoring a bill to fully fund IDEA. She also said that Bonnie Lockwood in Higgins’ local office can help with grant questions.

Attending the FRN Conference in Washington, D.C., gives school board members the opportunity to see in detail, the huge amount of information dealt with at the federal government level and the long process needed to get ideas written into legislation, and then voted into law. I am proud that I was able to represent my area at this conference.

All Superintendents, Administrators and  
School Board Members are Invited to Attend a  
**School Law Briefing**



Held in Buffalo and Rochester on  
**Thursday, April 29, 2010**

Presented by the Attorneys of

**FERRARA, FIORENZA, LARRISON, BARRETT & REITZ. P.C.**

There is no registration fee, but space is limited. Please register today.

**The Briefing will be held on April 29, 2010, at the following times and locations:**

8:00AM to 10:00AM  
Millennium Hotel Buffalo  
2040 Walden Avenue  
Cheektowaga, New York 14225

AND

Noon to 2:00PM  
Holiday Inn Rochester Airport  
911 Brooks Avenue  
Rochester, New York 14624

**Briefing Summary**

**Reserve Funds:** This session will focus on: 1) how various types of reserve funds may be created and funded; 2) what expenditures may be lawfully made from reserve funds; and 3) an update on changes and proposed changes to the rules governing what actions school districts may take to preserve their ability to pay future costs.

**Student Residency:** This session will address what school officials should know about student residency including: 1) legal principles; 2) residency determinations (standards, procedures, exceptions, etc.); 3) the homeless (federal and state rights apply); 4) questionable claims of residency (investigation and action); and 5) practice tips.

**Special Education Law Update:** This session will review some of the significant changes and discuss the impact of new laws and regulations on school districts' efforts to provide services to students with disabilities.

**Registration**

Please register at our website [www.ferrarafirm.com](http://www.ferrarafirm.com). Simply click on the item "School Law Briefing" for either Buffalo or Rochester from the Events Calendar on our firm's home page, then click on "Register Now" and complete the online form. Click Submit and you're registered. You may also register by telephone or email (as indicated below) by providing your name, the name of your school district or organization and the names of all participants who will be attending.

By telephone — Call 315.437.7600.

By e-mail — Send your registration information to [njgross@ferrarafirm.com](mailto:njgross@ferrarafirm.com).

**FERRARA, FIORENZA, LARRISON, BARRETT & REITZ. P.C.**

5010 CAMPUSWOOD DRIVE, EAST SYRACUSE, NEW YORK 13057

2858 DELAWARE AVENUE, KENMORE, NEW YORK 14217

TELEPHONE: (315) 437-7600 FACSIMILE: (315) 437-7744

WEBSITE: [WWW.FERRARAFIRM.COM](http://WWW.FERRARAFIRM.COM)

# Building A High Performance District

A high performance district is created and sustained not just by the students' test score rankings, but also by how the district's leadership team measures up.

With that in mind, representatives from several districts attended the High Performance District Saturday Session on Feb. 27th to hear about both Superintendent Evaluations and School Board Self-Evaluations.

Grand Island Superintendent Bob Christmann led the group in an anonymous "clicker test," in which participants rated their board on 16 Characteristics of Effective Boards.

Michele Handzel, General Counsel from the New York State Council of School Superintendents, discussed superintendent evaluations and shared a superintendent evaluation format developed by NYSCOSS and NYSSBA.

Karl Kristoff from Hodgson Russ discussed elements of School Board self-evaluations. Those interested in samples may contact Karl at [kkristoff@hodgsonruss.com](mailto:kkristoff@hodgsonruss.com).



Carol Paskuly, Gowanda BOE Vice President, left, and Ann Martindale, President, review some points with fellow board members.



Jack Chiappone, Frontier BOE, with Michele Handzel, NYSCOSS.



John Spencer, Depew BOE, reviews workshop materials.



Myrna Blair, Grand Island BOE, and Nicholas Gimmarise, Maryvale BOE.



Jeff Rabey, Lake Shore Superintendent (center), with Board members Dyan Scritchfield, Lake Shore, and Dave Zalenski, Lancaster.



Karl Kristoff, Hodgson Russ (center), with Grand Island BOE member George Casey, left, and ECASB President Rick Vogan (Lake Shore BOE).



Save the Date  
**Western New  
 York Education  
 Law Conference**  
**Wednesday,  
 Aug. 4, 2010**

**Strong Foundations are built  
 upon Fundamentals That Matter**

**FINANCE, LAW  
 and GOVERNANCE**

**Having a firm grasp on these  
 fundamentals ensures a strong  
 foundation for your schools.  
 With that in mind, these strands  
 are featured in this year's  
 conference.**

**LAW:** Special Education, Open  
 Meetings, Taylor Law Update

**FINANCE:** Coordinated Bargaining,  
 Negotiating Health Benefits, What's  
 New in the Comptrollers' Audits and  
 Follow Up Audits ...

**GOVERNANCE:** Role Implications  
 for Superintendents and School  
 Boards, Student Health and Safety  
 in the Era of H1N1 and Sexting,  
 Residency and Homelessness.

Registration begins this spring!



*ECASB assists the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association in planning the annual Scholastic Achievement Recognition Dinner. This year's Honorary Chair, Robin Zymroz (Akron Superintendent) talks with some of her planning committee members: Superintendents Neil Rochelle, Iroquois; Gary Pogorzelski, Newfane, and Laura Chabe, Amherst.*



*To help cost-effectively provide staff development for social studies teachers, a Social Studies Summer Seminar is being offered on Aug. 16 and 17 this year. Inspired as a partnership between ECASB, Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, and WNY Heritage Magazine, the effort crystallized as representatives from Frontier, West Seneca and Clarence school districts contributed their talents, as well as those of some of WNY's historical agencies and experts. The program will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, and brochures/registration will be announced soon. Above, from left, Jane Burzynski, ECASB; Doug DeCroix, WNY Heritage Magazine Executive Editor; Teri Miranda Braden, Frontier Social Studies Teacher; David Smaczniak, Frontier High School Assistant Principal/Member West Seneca BOE.*

## **Albany Bound ...**

Traveling to Albany for the NYSSBA State Issues Conference on March 14 and 15 will be: Scott Johnson (*Sweet Home*), Dirk Rabenold (*Sweet Home*), Linda Hoffman (*Area 1 Director/Erie 2 CC BOCES*), Rick Vogan (*ECASB President/Lake Shore*), Carla Thompson (*Lake Shore*), Florence Johnson (*Buffalo*), Jan Dalbo (*West Seneca*), Ramona Popowich (*Williamsville*), Nancy Renckens (*Erie 2 CC BOCES*), Joanne Martin (*Erie 2 CC BOCES*), Nancy Stock (*Erie 2 CC BOCES*), and Jane Burzynski.



## Do You Know Someone Who Would Make A Great School Board Member?

If you know someone who would make a great school board member, encourage them to attend ECASB's annual Prospective School Board Member Workshop on Saturday, March 27 at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road West Seneca. This workshop is for Board of Education candidates in all Erie County School Districts, including candidates for the Buffalo Board of Education. This workshop is offered as a public service and there is no charge. Register at [snowak@e1b.org](mailto:snowak@e1b.org) or 821-7297. A light continental breakfast will be provided. Here is the agenda:

**8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.:** ALL CANDIDATES  
**12:30-2:00 p.m.:** Buffalo-specific discussion with Board of Elections Commissioners and Hodgson Russ School Attorneys

**8:30 a.m. Registration**  
**8:45 a.m. Welcome and Introductions**  
**9:00 a.m. Presentations Begin**  
 9-9:15 a.m.: **The BOCES Perspective** ... Donald A. Ogilvie, District Superintendent, *Erie 1 BOCES*  
 9:15-9:45 a.m.: **School Boards & The Law** ... Karl Kristoff, Esq., *Hodgson Russ LLP*  
 9:45-10 a.m.: **"Board Relationships: Within the Board, Community and Administration"**  
 Dr. Cam Morton, Assistant Sup't. for HR & Admin., *Orchard Park Schools*  
 10-10:15 a.m.: **Perspective from a New School Board Member** ... David Zalenski, Lancaster BOE  
 10:15-10:30 a.m.: **Perspective from a Veteran Board Member** ... Donald Sniezak, President/Orchard Park BOE

**10:30 a.m. Break**  
**10:40 a.m. Round Table Discussions**  
**11:30 a.m. The Election Process:** Jeffrey Swiatek, Esq., *Hodgson Russ*  
**12:15 p.m. Final Remarks and Closure for ALL CANDIDATES session**

**12:15 – 12:30 Break**

**12:30-1:30 p.m. RECONVENE for the BUFFALO-specific portion of the program:**

**The Special Challenges of School Board Campaigns in the Buffalo City School District** ... Petitions, fundraising, district vs. At-Large seats, district boundaries, etc. Dennis E. Ward and Ralph Mohr, Commissioners, Erie County Board of Elections

**1:30-2 p.m. ...**  
 Question-and-Answer session for Buffalo candidates with Board of Elections officials and school attorneys.

# The 4th 'R': Redefining Literacy ...

David Warlick presents a **new** vision for the classroom that is changing our definitions of teaching.

**Thursday, March 18th, 2010**

**@ Michael's Banquet Facility**

**4885 Southwestern Boulevard, Hamburg**

**6-7:00 Dinner || 7-8:00 Presentation || 8-8:30 Questions and Dialogue**

*"As little as we know about the future for which we are preparing our children, it is clear that it will be a place that is governed by information. Accessing, processing, building with, and communicating that information will be a major part of our daily professional and personal work. The concept of literacy in the 21st century will be far richer and more comprehensive than the 3Rs of the one-room school house."*  
- David Warlick

Mr. Warlick's appearance is sponsored by the WNY Joint Management Team (Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2 Chautauqua Cattaraugus BOCES, Cattaraugus Allegany BOCES, Orleans Niagara BOCES). This program is presented in cooperation with the Erie County, Niagara-Orleans, Chautauqua County, and Allegany-Cattaraugus school boards associations, and the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association.

\$25.00 registration includes dinner and speaker. There will be a cash bar. Interested district administration, staff and other colleagues also may register for this program.

Please register through your Superintendent's Office.  
For Info: snowak@e1b.org or 716-821-7297.

David Warlick, a 30-year educator, has been a teacher, district administrator, and staff consultant with the North Carolina State Department of Public Instruction. For the past 10 years, he has operated The Landmark Project, a consulting and innovations firm in Raleigh, North Carolina.

His web site, Landmarks for Schools, has some of the most popular teacher tools available on the Net and gets a half-million visits a day. Mr. Warlick has written three books on instructional technology and 21st century literacy, and has spoken to audiences throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia, The Middle East, and South America.

# ECASB Calendar

*March 10 is the deadline for ECASB Award Nominations ... nomination forms are at [ecasb.org](http://ecasb.org)!*

## March 2010

- 10 ECASB Awards Nomination Deadline ... nomination forms are at [ecasb.org](http://ecasb.org)!
- 14-15 NYSSBA State Issues Conference (formerly known as SLN) – Albany, N.Y.
- 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) in cooperation with ECASB, Niagara Orleans School Boards, Chautauqua County School Boards, Cattaraugus Allegany School Boards, and the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association.
- 25 Executive Board, 5-6:30 p.m., Cheektowaga High School, 3600 Union, Cheektowaga
- 25 Legislative Team, 7-8:30 p.m., Cheektowaga High School, 3600 Union, Cheektowaga
- 27 **Prospective School Board Member Workshop. 8:30-noon, Rm. B1, with Buffalo-specific info continuing from 12:30-2 p.m.**

## April 2010

- 2 **Good Friday (Office Closed)**
- 10-13 NSBA Conference, Chicago
- 19-23 Spring Recess, E1B & E2CCB
- 29 Budget & Finance Team Program Discussion from 6-7 p.m., followed by Delegate Assembly, 7-8:30 p.m., Rm. B1

## May 2010

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

## 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**
- 17 Executive Board Planning Meeting

### SAVE the DATES:

- Aug. 4 ... WNY Education Law Conference
- Aug. 16 & 17 ... Social Studies Summer Seminar

# NYSERDA Energy Grant Info

**Thurs., MARCH 11**

**2:00 PM**

*Randolph Municipal Building*  
72 Main Street  
Randolph

**Fri., MARCH 12**

**2:00 PM**

*Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.*  
50 Fountain Plaza, Suite 600  
Buffalo

**rfp 1613 deadline is April 7.**  
application and details at:  
<http://www.nyserda.org/funding/1613rfp.asp>

# Family Night March 2010

**Building a  
Blueprint for Change  
7-9 p.m., March 10**

Millennium Airport Hotel  
2040 Walden Avenue  
Cheektowaga

**Sponsored by: The Peter and  
Elizabeth C. Tower  
Foundation, The Children's  
Guild Foundation and Parent  
Network of WNY**

Dr. Al Condeluci  
will focus on:

- How to develop services and supports for your family member with a disability.
- The future and how services are delivered.