

ECASB Update

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

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What's in store at this year's Law Conference?

What with cyber-bullying, MySpace, FOIL-able e-mails, cell phones ringing in kids' underwear, students posting video clips of classroom activities on the Internet ... what more could possibly be left in the Pandora's Box of today's (and tomorrow's) technology? We'll find out about that ... and we'll learn what educators and school officials can do about it at this summer's annual Law Conference.

Addressing the policy and legal implications of technology will be the core topic of this year's Conference presented by the Erie County Association of School Boards and the WNY Educational Service Council. Save the date now: **Thursday, Aug. 2** at the Millennium ... and look for the registration flyer later this spring!



Some members of this year's Law Conference Planning Committee finish up one of the several planning sessions held in preparation for the annual event. Front: Jane Burzynski, ECASB Executive Director, and Bren Price, WNY Educational Service Council Executive Director; standing (left) Phillip Brothman, Esq., Harris Beach, and (right) David Hoover, Esq., Erie 1 BOCES.

Do you know what to expect during the Comptroller's Audit?

You have a pretty good idea if you were one of the nearly 40 people who attended this Dessert Forum with presenters from the East Aurora and Orchard Park school districts. Other guests also offered perspectives and insights, making this an informative evening for all.



Of Storms & Sales Taxes

The ECASB discussion with Erie County Budget Director James Hartman about the proposal to shift the traditional sales tax revenue for schools to an increased STAR aid/county tax credit plan took place on the evening of the October Surprise Storm.

A heartfelt salute to the presenters and to the couple of dozen folks who ventured out that night, and who then had a harrowing ride home again! It was an evening of vibrant discussion. We will share any further updates on this issue as they arise.



From left, clockwise: Lancaster Board of Education member and Erie County Acting Deputy Commissioner of Finance Joseph Maciejewski; Erie County Budget Director James Hartman; Rick D'Arcy, ECASB President (Erie 1 BOCES); Lorie Sabo, Legislative Team and Budget & Finance Team (Erie 2CC); Ray Carr, ECASB Executive Board and Budget & Finance Team alternate (Cheektowaga).

NY, NY! Big and Small!

NYSSBA reports that the New York City location brought the largest turnout ever for its annual convention ... and while many people noted that the rooms were a bit tight, it did certainly create a cozy environment. I sat with Williamsville board members Carolyn Giambra and Camille Eichorn at the NYS School Public Relations Communication Awards luncheon, where the district received two awards, one for a special purpose publication, "Schools of Excellence," and one for their district calendar. Congratulations, Williamsville! The luncheon speaker was Lawrence Levy, senior editorial writer from *Newsday*, who predicted that the state comptroller's office will become even more exploitive of school districts in the audit process, as it seeks to restore credibility to that office and regain the public's faith in its watchdog role.

On another note, there were some nice tips at NYSSBA's School Board Institute Course # 2 for those awkward moments, such as when you're speaking to a group that did not support you in your election. Suggested statement: "Maybe you didn't support me, but I am interested in your concerns and would like to hear more about (insert appropriate issue)..." That's a nice segue into a conversation and away from what could have been a confrontation.

Peace to you in this New Year.

- Jane Burzynski

By the way ...Some nice folks from Baker Victory Services visited ECASB offices to share some information about their Work Appreciation for Youth model which provides vocational training for students with behavioral issues ... specifically for students who may not be academically strong enough for a BOCES program, and who may "fall through the cracks." Students in this program learn job readiness skills, get employment experience and BVS says it is showing some good results. Typically, students are referred to the program by social services, but BVS wanted to let us know they're out there ... for more information, contact Sharon Cavanaugh at 828-7038 or go to www.bakervictoryservices.org/services.html.

Thanks to all who responded to the CPR survey!

Thanks to all who responded to the ECASB survey on offering CPR in the schools. We learned that 11 of the 28 districts responding offer CPR training to students, through venues such as health and physical education classes, human sciences classes, or as part of lifeguard certification/recertification training. In addition, two districts have CPR available to students through community education programs. Several districts requested information on CPR training. Mary Busse, ECASB Vice President, who initiated the survey, notes that Ryan's Hope Foundation, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization offering CPR/AED and first aid training for adults, children and infants. The organization works with the American Red Cross/Buffalo Chapter, to contain costs, and most of its equipment is donated, so services are free. The only cost to the individual is \$15 to process the Red Cross cards. Donations are accepted. Classes are scheduled at the convenience of the requesting organization. Registration minimum is eight. For information: 668-5978, RyansHope2004@aol.com or www.ryanshope2004.com.

PPPE Board Named

The annual election of members to the Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, Inc., Board of Directors includes the following individuals, who have been named to one- and two-year terms:

Alison Hyde , School Board Member (Hopevale)	2 Years
Richard D'Arcy , ECASB President, PPPE Acting President	2 Years
Florence Johnson , Urban School Board Member	1 Year
Thomas Kulaszewski , Suburban School Board Member	2 Years
Max Donatelli , Community Agency Rep. (Parent Network)	1 Year
Delia Bonenberger , School Superintendent (Cheek/Erie 1)	2 Years
James Bodziak , School Superintendent (East Aurora/Erie 2)	1 Year
Margy Jones-Carey , BOCES Staff Representative	1 Year
Kate Riedel , Rural School Board Member	1 Year
Jack Semler , Business Representative	2 Years
Jane Burzynski , Secretary-Treasurer	2 Years
Susan Mendel-Hausman , Ret. School Admin.	1 Year
David Smaczniak , West Seneca Board of Ed	2 Years
Lorie Sabo , Erie 2 CC BOCES Board of Ed	1 Year
David Ehrle , Lancaster Board of Ed.	1 Year
Ann Ryan , United Way	2 Years

Names in the News ... Dr. Catherine Collins (Buffalo Board of Education) this year saw the publication of her book *Sources of Stress and Relief for African American Women* (Greenwood Publishing Group), in which she chronicles stress factors that can lead to black women dying earlier than their white counterparts, and how to cope with that stress. She also saw publication of a textbook that she edited and helped write: *African American Women's Health and Social Issues* (Praeger Publishers).

Tom Kulaszewski (Cleveland Hill Board of Education) is a recipient of this year's NCCJ Sister/Brotherhood Award. He will be honored at the NCCJ annual luncheon on Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Buffalo Convention Center.

Coming Up:

Nuts and Bolts of Dollars and Cents Academy: 9 a.m. to noon, Saturday, Jan. 6

Just in time for budget season! A look at what impacts and influences school district finance, as well as what to look for in budget development, best practices and accountability in purchasing, and related issues in collective bargaining and personnel.

Fiscal Oversight & Responsibility Training: Parts 1 and 2: 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 20
(Registration: 8:30-9 a.m.)

Workshop for Prospective Buffalo School Board Candidates (and their campaign managers): 8:45 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 27, 712 Main St., Buffalo.

Legislative Breakfast: rescheduled to Saturday, Feb. 10, Michael's, Southwestern Blvd., Hamburg. Registration & Breakfast: 8:30-9 a.m./Program: 9-11 a.m.

Leadership & Decision-Making Academy: rescheduled from the October Storm to 8:30-noon, Saturday, March 10. Topics: Creating A High Performance Board, Your Role As A Policy Maker, and Board Ethics, Citizen Complaints and Pressure Groups.

*(Note: Events are at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, unless otherwise noted.)
Registration and Information: 821-7297 or snowak@e1b.org*

2006-07 ECASB Executive Board

Officers: Richard D'Arcy (Erie 1 BOCES), President
Mary Busse (West Seneca) Vice President
Kate Riedel (Eden), Treasurer

At-large members: Ray Carr (Cheektowaga)
Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 BOCES)
Laura Monte (Iroquois)
Will Thiel (Orchard Park)
Richard Vogan (Lake Shore)

Buffalo Representative: Dr. Catherine Collins
Superintendent Representative: James Bodziak (East Aurora)
NYSSBA Area 1 Representative: Wayne Schlifke
Immediate Past President: Jack Semler (Clarence)

An Alert from the National School Public Relations Association:

Tough Choices or Tough Times, published by the National Center on Education and the Economy, calls for a systemic overhaul of how we deliver education throughout the United States. It is also the official report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce.

To receive an executive copy of the report go to:

http://www.skillscommission.org/pdf/exec_sum/ToughChoices_EXECSUM.pdf

Have a news items you would like to share? Send to jburzynski@e1b.org for the next ECASB Update!