

# 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

## Spring's Just Around the Corner Update February 2007 Vol. 2, Issue 4



## Check us out at [www.ecasb.org](http://www.ecasb.org)

Check out our new look at [ecasb.org](http://ecasb.org)!

Our Web site has been spruced up with a new look and feel for Phase 1 of our site redesign endeavor. Work begins this spring on Phase 2, which will begin to add greater functionality to the site, as well as more information about ECASB teams and activities and collaboration initiatives among our member districts. Stay tuned!

By the way, if your school district has information about collaboration activities on its Web site, we would be happy to link to it on the collaboration section of our site.

It's a terrific way to help share among our members what's happening with collaboration in your district! Just let us know at [snowak@e1b.org](mailto:snowak@e1b.org)

## FRN in Washington ...

Several ECASB members traveled to Washington, D.C., for Federal Relations Network (FRN) activities in our nation's capitol. Participants attended the NYSSBA Congressional Breakfast, which included presentations from several representatives, including Sen. Hillary Clinton. Highlights of National School Boards Association programming included a presentation from Representative Don Young, Alaska, whose No Child Left Behind Improvement Act proposal outlines a 40-some point plan for rectifying several problematic aspects of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Among the NSBA legislative priorities carried by the FRN team for discussion with our representatives in Washington were:

- Support of NSBA's comprehensive proposal to improve NCLB by securing co-sponsors for the No Child Left Behind Improvement Act introduced by Rep. Don Young (R-AK-At Large). This bill has bipartisan support and includes many provisions to grant more flexibility to the states.
- A special focus on placing Title 1 (NCLB's main funding source) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act on the path to fully funding the federal share.
- Strengthening teacher quality nationally by adding common sense flexibility to NCLB's Highly Qualified Teacher requirements.
- Improving early childhood education through creation of a new, voluntary preschool program that school districts and parents could opt to participate in, and by reauthorizing Head Start.

For more information and details on these important initiatives, please go to [www.nsba.org](http://www.nsba.org).



From left, row 1: Lorie Sabo, Erie 2 CC BOCES; Jane Burzynski, ECASB Executive Director; Rebecca Albright, Niagara Orleans; row 2: Dick Hegmann, Akron; Florence Johnson, Buffalo; Tom DeJoe, Area 3 Director; Lou Reuter, Ken Ton; Wayne Schlifke, Erie 1 BOCES/Area 1 Director; Paul Stencel, Ken Ton.



Sen. Hillary Clinton spoke to NYS school board members attending the Congressional Breakfast in Washington.



Dr. Barbara Peters (left), Superintendent of the Tonawanda City School District, attends Fiscal Oversight and Responsibility Training (FORT) with Board member Tony Melchiorre.

## FORT Training Update

Some 40 people attended the six-hour FORT training jointly provided by ECASB and Erie 1 BOCES on Jan. 20<sup>th</sup>. The ECASB/E1B partnership is able to provide the training at a cost drastically lower than other providers. For ECASB members, or members of E1B Finance and Legislation Service, the cost is just \$15 for each three-hour session – and only \$25 if you sign up simultaneously for both three-hour sessions. The next ECASB/E1B training will be on Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca. For registration info: [snowak@e1b.org](mailto:snowak@e1b.org) or 821-7297.



Kristin Anderson (center), manager from the auditing firm of Lumsden & McCormick, LLP, walks through this year's ECASB financial review with Fiscal Oversight Team members Ramona Popowich (Williamsville) and Jane Okun (Cheektowaga).

## Good marks for ECASB financial review ...

A few years ago, the ECASB Executive Board established a Financial Oversight Team to serve in an external review capacity working with the ECASB auditor and treasurer. In this day of heightened fiscal scrutiny, it is a way to ensure that ECASB continually maintains high standards of fiscal management. The team consists of three representatives from boards of education of member districts. Named to this year's team were Steve Hetey (Lackawanna), Jane Okun (Cheektowaga) and Ramona Popowich (Williamsville). Team members met with Kristin Anderson, from the auditing firm of Lumsden & McCormick, LLP, on Dec. 14, and heard that, "Your financial health is good. For the past four years, you have increased the bottom line, and you haven't been greedy about it, you have been prudent, and you continue to prudently assess dues to cover those costs."



Folasade Oladele, Ed.D., Buffalo's Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Buffalo Public Schools, spoke on "The Three-Year Plan for Buffalo Public Schools."



Dennis E. Ward, Commissioner, Erie County Board of Elections, on "The Special Challenges of School Board Campaigns," including petitions and timelines.



Jack Coyle, Buffalo Board of Education, presented with attorney Karl Kristoff from Hodgson Russ.

## Learning the Ropes of School Board Candidacy ...

Six of the nine seats on the Buffalo Board of Education are up for election this spring, and several organizations teamed up to help potential candidates learn the ropes of the election process and the issues of the Buffalo Public Schools. The training for Potential Buffalo School Board Candidates (and their campaign managers) drew some 20 prospective candidates for a day-long workshop.

Presenters included: Folasade Oladele, Ed.D., Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and Instruction; Karl Kristoff, Esq., Hodgson Russ, and Jack Coyle, Buffalo Board of Education; Dennis E. Ward, Commissioner, Erie County Board of Elections; Dr. Catherine Collins, Buffalo Board of Education; and David Ernst, Communications Director of the New York State School Boards Association.

The program was provided through a partnership of the Erie County Association of School Boards/Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, the YWCA, Good Schools for All, the New York State School Boards Association, and the League of Women Voters, with funding support from the Peter and Elizabeth C. Tower Foundation.



Eight legislators joined members and friends of ECASB for its Legislative Breakfast at Michael's in Hamburg. Attending were: Assemblymen Dennis Gabryszak, Mark Schroeder, Sam Hoyt, Sen. William Stachowski, Assemblyman Jack Quinn III, Assemblyman Mike Cole, Sen. Antoine Thompson and Sen. Dale Volker.



The weather cooperated on Feb. 10, allowing relatively non-challenging driving conditions for this year's Legislative Breakfast attendees.

## Legislative Breakfast Gets Good Reviews ...

Thanks to all Legislative Breakfast attendees who filled out those gold opinion forms!

The event received overwhelmingly high marks, with many individuals noting they were very glad to see the high turnout of legislators and attendees this year. Final count was approximately 150 individuals.

Our thanks to our many partnering organizations, including the League of Women Voters, the Western Region PTA, the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents, the WNY Association of School Business Officials, the WNY Association of School Personnel Administrators, the Instructional Development Advisory Board, and the WNY Association of Secondary School Principals. Such broad participation helped underscore the united concern about the issues addressed: Health Care Costs, Pension Reform, Charter Schools, Taylor Law, and Unfunded Mandates (with special attention to school safety).

The ECASB Legislative Team and its partners have worked since last Fall on studying these issues, preparing issues statements and questions, and planning for the breakfast. Your support and interest are much appreciated.



## **'Call for Baskets' ...**

**Join the Fun!** A Theme Basket Silent Auction will be held at this year's ECASB Annual Dinner which will be on Thursday, June 7 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens.

Member boards who wish to participate are asked to donate a theme basket -BY JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> - with an attached tag that lists the name of your Board of Education and a typed listing of the basket contents. *(Please note, these donations should come from individuals toward a basket on behalf of the district ... not as a donation from the district itself.)* Baskets may be dropped off at the ECASB offices, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca (Building C/Room 237) ... or they may be brought to any ECASB meeting/event prior to JUNE 1<sup>st</sup> and dropped off with Jane Burzynski.

During the registration and social time (5-6 p.m.) preceding the June 7<sup>th</sup> dinner, guests will be able to view the baskets and purchase tickets to "bid" on the basket(s) of their choice. The winning tickets will be announced and baskets distributed at the end of the dinner. Proceeds will help support the programs of ECASB.

## **Nuts & Bolts of Finance**

More than 40 school board members, superintendents and other central office administrators attended the "Saturday Academy" on School Finance.

The half-day session featured excellent preparation for the budget season ahead, with perspectives on school finance issues from a superintendent, attorney and an accountant, plus information on harnessing a school district's capacity for buying power through cooperative purchasing.

Participants' evaluations were overwhelmingly positive, and also provided helpful feedback and suggestions for next year's Finance Academy. Thanks to all for your participation and for helping to shape our programs to meet your needs!



East Aurora, Iroquois and Orchard Park were among the districts attending the "Nuts and Bolts" Academy.

## PPPE Names Officers

Tom Kulaszewski, Cleveland Hill, has been elected President of Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, Inc., with Jack Semler (Clarence) named Vice President. Jane Burzynski continues as Secretary-Treasurer. The annual election of members PPPE Board of Directors also included:

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

**Names in the News ...** “Educators Totally Committed,” a group of active and retired educators established in 1988 to encourage young people and recognize the needs of those less fortunate in their communities, received a proclamation of support from the Town of Tonawanda Town Board designating Friday, Feb. 2 as “Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Community Day of Caring and Sharing.” The “Educators Totally Committed” group has raised more than \$650,000 by sponsoring an annual sleep out event on the first Friday of February to collect donations for WNY agencies that help people in need.

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

## MARCH EVENTS Coming Up:

- 1** ECASB Executive Board Meeting, 5-7 p.m.
- 3** “**Anybody ever tell you you’d make a great school board member?**” ... an open invitation to meet over coffee and learn what it’s all about in casual conversation with veteran school board members from WNY! This is an informal discussion opportunity hosted at the West Seneca West High School Library on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 9:30-11 a.m.
- 10** **School Board Leadership and Decision-Making**, a Saturday Session from 8:30-noon *Sponsored by Nowak and Associates.*
- 24** **ECASB So You Want to be A School Board Member Workshop, 8:30-noon** ... formal presentations (from school attorneys, a school superintendent, a veteran school board member and a new school board member) for prospective school board members.

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

## General Notes:

**A note from our counterparts to the south ...** Chautauqua County School Boards' Legislative Breakfast will be on Feb. 24 in Jamestown at the Holiday Inn. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., with breakfast at 8:45 a.m. NYSSBA's David Little will lead off speaking to the legislators and then five board members and or superintendents will follow up with specific issues. Chautauqua's format will follow the Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> *State Legislative Network News*, which talks about "Leader to Leader: A Partnership for Change."

**CIDEL announces its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual School Leadership Academy Retreat, "I Like You, I Just Don't Trust You . . . How to Build Trust for Better Schools,"** to be held March 2 – 3 at Beaver Hollow. The presenter is Julie Reed Kochanek, author of *Building Trust for Better Schools*. Registration and breakfast will be at 8 a.m. Friday, March 2 ; conclusion is 1 p.m. Saturday, March 3. Overnight stay is required. Cost: \$295. Info: 407-9275 or 821-7004.

**UB presents "The Leadership Pipeline: How to Prepare and Retain Effective School Leaders,"** from 8:30-10:30 a.m. (Check-in /breakfast begins at 8 a.m.) on Thursday, March 8 at WNED Studios, 140 Lower Terrace, Buffalo. Cost: \$20/\$12 for full-time UB students. Featured speakers are Cathy Battaglia, Ph.D., Community Superintendent, Buffalo Public Schools; Judith Hart Howard, Ed.D., Superintendent, Niagara Wheatfield; Stephen Jacobson, Ph.D., Associate Dean, Graduate School of Ed., University at Buffalo. REGISTRATION: 645-6642

**NSPRA\* NOTES: Why We Need Public Schools ...** Public education plays a vital role in America's democratic society, and the public spirited missions of public schools remain essential today, according to a new report by the Washington, D.C.- based Center on Education Policy. The report, *Why We Still Need Public Schools: Public Education for the Common Good*, highlights the history and importance of public education in the United States, dating back to its establishment as a necessary institution for the young republic and Horace Mann's efforts to promote a common school for all. *Click here for the whole report:* <http://www.cep-dc.org/PublicSchoolFacts/why/>

\* National School Public Relations Association

**Libel FAQs ...** Fast-paced information sharing is becoming necessary as school districts try to stay ahead of the demand for instant and technologically advanced communication with families and communities. It is vital to any school district in the age of Web sites, blogging and podcasting to keep informed on the laws regarding libel to stay clear of legal repercussions. To learn more: [http://www.medialaw.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Public\\_Resources/Libel\\_FAQs/Libel\\_FAQs.htm](http://www.medialaw.org/Content/NavigationMenu/Public_Resources/Libel_FAQs/Libel_FAQs.htm)  
[http://www.magnetmail1.net/ls.cfm?r=7034626&sid=1773305&m=256279&u=NSPRA&s=http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/multimedia/acs\\_overview.html](http://www.magnetmail1.net/ls.cfm?r=7034626&sid=1773305&m=256279&u=NSPRA&s=http://www.census.gov/pubinfo/www/multimedia/acs_overview.html)

**Struggling Students Say They Want Vocational Education ...** Most American high schools phased out vocational education years ago, motivated by complaints that it was used as a tool to “track” African American and Latino students into low-paying careers. But the idea of combining traditional academics with career training is making a comeback, and a new poll suggests that it is popular among one particularly important group: struggling high school students. The poll of California 9<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup> graders, conducted for the James Irvine Foundation, found that six in 10 students didn’t particularly like school and weren’t motivated to succeed. But of those disaffected students, reports Mitchell Landsberg, more than 90% said they would be more motivated if their school offered classes relevant to their future careers.

**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’s also the official report of the New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce. To get an executive copy: [http://www.skillscommission.org/pdf/exec\\_sum/ToughChoices\\_EXECSUM.pdf](http://www.skillscommission.org/pdf/exec_sum/ToughChoices_EXECSUM.pdf)

### **African-American Pioneers in Education Honored in Exhibit**

Ten African-American educators are honored in an exhibit at the Frank E. Merriweather, Jr., Library, 1324 Jefferson Ave, in the library’s African-American resource room. The exhibit was organized by retired teacher Eva M. Doyle. Honorees are:

**Albert Thompson**, Buffalo School Superintendent from 1990-1996

**Mary Chappelle**, special education teacher and founder of the Mary Crosby Chappelle Education and Black History Foundation

**Lydia T. Wright**, pediatrician and first African-American to serve on the Buffalo Board of Education

**John Dixon**, former principal and director of reading and an ordained minister

**Claude Clapp**, former deputy superintendent and the city’s first African American principal

**Ouida Clapp**, director of language arts and co-author of a textbook series that pioneered the inclusion of minorities in books

**Jerry D. Pope**, teacher and principal at nine city schools and president of the Secondary Assistant Principals Association

**Lee Segars**, a 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher who was active in local community groups

**Pam Ann Gayles Johnson**, a teacher who organized student cultural trips to Canada, the Bahamas and Jamaica

**Ora Curry**, the first African American teacher at Bennett High School and an administrative associate at the State Education Department.

## 2006-07 ECASB Executive Board

Officers:

Mary Busse (West Seneca), President  
Richard Vogan (Lake Shore) Acting Vice President  
Kate Riedel (Eden), Treasurer

At-large members:

Ray Carr (Cheektowaga)  
Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 BOCES)  
Laura Monte (Iroquois)  
Will Thiel (Orchard Park)

Buffalo Representative:

Dr. Catherine Collins

Superintendent Representative:

James Bodziak (East Aurora)

NYSSBA Area 1 Representative:

Wayne Schlifke

Immediate Past President:

Jack Semler (Clarence)

***Have a news items you would like to share? Send to [jburzynski@e1b.org](mailto:jburzynski@e1b.org) for the next ECASB Update!***