

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

Back-to-School Update 2007 Vol. 3, Issue 1

Education Law Conference Explores Technology Issues

With cyber-bullying, cyber-crime and plain ol' cyber-mischief everywhere, what bedevilmments could possibly remain in the Pandora's Box of today's (and tomorrow's) technology? Of the 175 school board members, administrators and attorneys who attended the 29th Annual WNY Education Law Conference, 58% said it was an outstanding – and 41% said it was a good – program addressing the legal and policy implications of technology in schools today. This event was co-sponsored by the Erie County Association of School Boards and the WNY Educational Service Council.



Presenters at the WNY Education Law Conference included (from left) Alan Winchester, Harris Beach; Molly Talty, Grand Island Director of Instructional Technology; Holly Hubert, FBI; and Jon MacSwan, West Seneca West Principal.



Clockwise from above:

- 1) The audience found plenty of food for thought during the day's presentations.
- 2) Tracie Lopardi, Harris Beach, and Lynda Tarantino, Erie 1 BOCES, spoke on cyber-bullying and electronic tools of torment.
- 3) Jeffrey J. Weiss, Hodgson Russ, gave a special education update.



Bulletin Board

Oct. 4 Leaders' Forum for School Board Presidents, Vice Presidents and Emergent Leaders

*Work with fellow leaders on topics such as
Dealing With An Irate Public
"Rebel" Board Members
How to Lead When You're Not the Board President
... and more!*

**5:30-8:30 p.m., Oct. 4
355 Harlem, W. Seneca**

Oct. 13 Wish You Could Have Smoother, More Efficient Board Meetings?

*Give us a morning and we'll give you this
Leadership & Decision-Making
Academy to help make it so!*

Collaboration and Shared Decision-Making Within Your Board of Education

**8:30-Noon, Oct. 13
355 Harlem, W. Seneca**

ECASB and E-NSSA Welcome New Superintendents

The Erie County Association of School Boards and the Erie-Niagara School Superintendents Association teamed up to welcome new school superintendents to the Erie-Niagara region and introduce them to the area's educational culture.

In addition to acquainting them with the school boards' and superintendents' associations, the "Welcome to the Superintendency Breakfast" profiled Promoting Partnerships in Public Education, as well as an overview of educational services and opportunities from Erie 1 BOCES District Superintendent Donald A. Ogilvie and Erie 2 CC BOCES District Superintendent Robert Guiffreda. Welcome to:

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

New ECASB Officers Elected

ECASB officers elected for '07-08 were introduced at the Annual Dinner Meeting in June. They are Mary Busse (West Seneca), President; Rick Vogan (Lake Shore), Vice President; and Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 BOCES), Treasurer.

Also this year, new at-large members join the Executive Board: Myrna Blair, Grand Island; David Ehrle, Lancaster; Ramona Popowich, Williamsville; Donald Sniezak, Orchard Park, and Catherine Nugent Panepinto, Buffalo.

Returning to the Executive Board for '07-08 are at-large member Ray Carr (Cheektowaga), Past President Jack Semler (Clarence), Superintendent representative James Bodziak (East Aurora); and Area 1 Director Wayne Schlifke (Erie 1 BOCES).

Do you know who these school boards are?

Connetquot Central School District of Islip – Islip
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES – Angola
Fulton School District – Fulton
Hannibal Central School District – Hannibal
Harborfields Central School District – Greenlawn
Monroe County #1 BOCES – Monroe County
Nanuet Union Free District – Nanuet
Orleans/Niagara BOCES – Lyndonville
Putnam/Northern Westchester BOCES – Yorktown Heights
Wayne-Finger Lakes BOCES – Walworth
Williamsville Board of Education – Williamsville

These are the 11 New York State school boards, among 334 school boards across the nation, that have passed a resolution in support of H.R. 648, the National School Boards Association-supported bill that includes more than 40 recommendations for improving the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

If your school board passes the resolution, NSBA and ECASB encourage you to share the news with your local media and fax a copy of your resolution to NSBA at 703.548.5613. NSBA has found that members of Congress are more enthusiastic about supporting NSBA's bill to improve NCLB (H.R. 648) when they see that their school districts have formally taken action in support of it. See nsba.org for a sample copy of the resolution and news release.

Did You Know ...

The Erie County Association of School Boards participated in a day-long workshop with area leaders who were gathered to share information that will be used to formulate local and regional preparedness policy in the event of an influenza pandemic. Mary Busse, ECASB President, and Jane Burzynski, Executive Director, attended the School Closure Discussion Workshop sponsored by the Erie County Department of Health in collaboration with the WNY Public Health Alliance and the NYS Association of County Health Officials. Highlights:

Currently, we are in a **Phase 3 pandemic alert period**.

While there's no crisis at this time, please take a look at the statistics below – you will want to be informed and you will want to wash your hands, and you will want to use your elbow when you sneeze! We also have added to the ECASB Resource Library the dvd: Pandemic Flu Social Marketing Materials from the NYS Department of Health. For additional resources: panflu@health.state.ny.us

Facts and Statistics Re: Schools and Children:

Children are among the highest at-risk populations.
Children are efficient transmitters of flu.

When Would School Closure be a Countermeasure:

School closures are recommended to be considered if fatality ratios reach from half percent to one percent of population (a category 2 or 3 outbreak - like the 1957 and 1968 outbreaks). School closure itself would be recommended if fatality rates reach above one percent of the population (a category 4 or 5 outbreak, like the 1918 pandemic). Schools would be recommended to be closed for up to four weeks in a category 2 or 3, and up to 12-weeks in category 4 or 5.

Here are some other information highlights:

What is an influenza pandemic ... this would be a global outbreak of a new type of influenza virus – an acute viral respiratory illness - that is easily transmitted from human-to-human.

Expected #'s Affected: In a severe (1918-like) scenario, Erie County could expect some 30% of residents (270,000) to contract the illness, with some 130,000 (50%) needing outpatient care, and 29,700 needing hospitalization. Some 5,709 deaths would be anticipated. In a more moderate outbreak (1958/1968 like), the numbers of Erie County residents anticipated to contract the illness and need outpatient care (30% and 50%) respectively, are the same, but numbers actually needing hospitalization would be less (2,700), as would be the number of anticipated deaths (607).

Pharmaceutical Interventions: Vaccines would not be available until approximately six months after a pandemic strain is identified. Only minimal quantities can be manufactured in an initial wave, enough to cover less than 2% of the population each week.

Antivirals: These treatments can reduce suffering and death, but can only modestly affect community transmission.

Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions:

Wash hands (traditional or alcohol-based hand sanitizers) and use cough etiquette (cover nose and mouth with tissue, sneeze/cough into elbow).

Isolation of ill persons.

Quarantine of those exposed to ill persons is justified only when there are a limited number of cases.

Wash surfaces, use masks and respirators.

Social Distancing Measures: Work place policies, restricting public gatherings, travel restrictions, school closings.

Did You Know ...

Statistics show that **1 in 4 girls** and **1 in 6 boys** are sexually abused before their 18th birthdays, area leaders were told in a recent seminar on child sexual abuse issues. While most of us think that child abuse is taboo, something simply not allowed in society, the audience heard statistics indicating that child sexual abuse is epidemic. What seems to be taboo is actually talking about and responding to sexual abuse, said session leaders. Child & Adolescent Treatment Services (CATS) of WNY, in collaboration with the Parent Network of WNY, invited ECASB and other community leadership organizations to a preview of Stewards of Children, a sexual abuse prevention training program that educates adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. The Stewards of Children program is designed for organizations that serve children and youth. Currently, the only organization in Erie County offering this 2.5 hour training is CATS's Lee Gross Child Advocacy Center. The training includes a video, interactive workbook and discussion. If your district or organization is interested in further information, contact Judith Olin at jolin@catswny.org or call 886-5437. The ECASB resource library also now has on file a copy of the interactive workbook. Also see www.darkness2light.org

Notes from Colleagues and Friends

Max Donatelli, from the Parent Network of WNY, reminds our members that Dr. Joyce Epstein is coming to WNY on Nov. 15. "It is a major coup getting a person of her stature nationally to talk to parents and professionals on parent involvement," says Max. "Both Dr. Rebecca Cort, NYSED VESID Deputy Commissioner, and Dr. James Williams will be part of the welcoming leaders." The flyer is at: <http://www.parentnetworkwny.org/files/Flyers/Brochure%20-%20Final.pdf>

New in the ECASB Lending Library

The Erie County Association of School Boards maintains a resource library of various resources for members to borrow. The following are the most recent acquisitions. For a complete listing of library holdings, please see your ECASB directory (The 'Maroon Book'). To borrow an item, contact Shirley at 821-7297 or snowak@e1b.org.

The Board Building Cycle, Second Edition *Nine Steps to Finding, Recruiting and Engaging Nonprofit Board Members*

Good boards do not just happen, they take care, thought and planning. This edition features nine steps for your board to follow through the board development process. Included is a CD-ROM containing forms, worksheets, and sample documents. New to the CD-ROM is a Microsoft PowerPoint presentation for orienting new board members, including a section on the board's roles and responsibilities and an overview of the nonprofit sector.

The Source, *Twelve Principles of Governance That Power Exceptional Boards*

Exceptional boards add significant value to their organization, making discernable differences in their advance on mission. How does a board rise to this level? Are there standards that describe this height of performance? BoardSource convened a group of experts and, together, explored the characteristics of exceptional boards. Defining and analyzing their common traits and actions, they distilled the essence of what great boards do that is different and how they do it. Aspirational in nature, these principles offer chief executives a description of an empowered board that is a strategic asset to be leveraged. They provide board members with a vision of what is possible and a way to add lasting value to the organizations they lead.

Taming the Troublesome Board Member

... lays out a blueprint for avoiding and resolving the challenge of disruptive board members. It explores the root of troublesome behaviors and helps identify and address problems quickly and with as much grace as possible. Real-life case study examples illustrate specific behaviors with analysis and recommendations on the best next steps in any boardroom. Board chairs will find this book empowering and accessible as the board leaders who need to take action. Others will also benefit from this resource in an effort to understand what might be causing trouble in the boardroom. This popular book addresses more than 25 different types of troublesome behavior.

Governance as Leadership, *Reframing the Work of Nonprofit Boards*

... provides a powerful framework for a new covenant between board members and executives; more macro governance in exchange for less micromanagement. This book sheds new light on the traditional fiduciary and strategic work of the board and introduces a critical third dimension of effective governance: generative thinking.

Stewards of Children Interactive Workbook, Darkness to Light, Charleston, S.C. Interactive workbook that accompanies the Stewards of Children training.

Pandemic Flu Social Marketing Materials, a dvd from the NYS Department of Health.

Online resources:

Education Leadership Policy Toolkit ... A comprehensive toolkit released by The Education Commission of the States on effective educational leadership policies and practices. Created through the support of the MetLife Foundation, the toolkit is designed to provide information to state policymakers and school district leaders for increasing leadership capacity in schools, districts and states. <http://www.ecs.org/metlifetoolkit>

The 10th edition of Technology Counts from Education Week is now online. It grades states on leadership in education technology, finding wide variation in the core areas of access, use and capacity. Also includes an interactive timeline examining key educational technology trends over the past decade. <http://www.edweek.org/ew/toc/2007/03/29/index.html>

Coming Up:

ECASB Leaders' Forum for School Board Presidents, Vice Presidents and Emergent Leaders: 5:30-8:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 4, Room B2A. Sponsored by Hodgson Russ.

School Board Member Academy Series: Leadership and Decision-Making- HOW TO BUILD COLLABORATION AND SHARED DECISION-MAKING WITHIN YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION: 8:30 a.m.-Noon, Saturday, Oct. 13, Room B2A

How to Get – And Keep – The Best Leaders for Your School District: Light Dinner and Networking: 5:15-5:45 p.m.; Program 6-7:30 p.m. p.m., Thursday, Nov. 8, Room B2A

FORT - Fiscal Oversight & Responsibility Training: Parts 1 and 2: Registration 8:45-9 a.m.; Program 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 17

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

2007-08 ECASB Executive Board

Officers:	Mary Busse (West Seneca) President Richard Vogan (Lake Shore) Vice President Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES), Treasurer
At-large members:	Myrna Blair (Grand Island) Ray Carr (Cheektowaga) David Ehrle (Lancaster) Ramona Popowich (Williamsville) Donald Sniezak (Orchard Park)
Buffalo Representative:	Catherine Nugent Panepinto
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 for the next ECASB Update!