

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

FALL Update 2007 Vol. 3, Issue 2

"I don't know the key to success, but the key to failure is to try to please everyone." – **Bill Cosby**

ECASB Members Invited To Hear David Little

David Little, NYSSBA's Director of Governmental Relations, will meet with the ECASB Legislative Team on Thursday, Oct. 18 at 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, to discuss resolutions that will be addressed at the NYSSBA convention, and to give advice on establishing a "Local Lobby Day." The Resolutions/Local Lobby Day discussion will be held from 7:15-8:15 p.m. From 8:15-9:15 p.m., David will work with Legislative Team topic committees preparing issues statements and questions for the Feb. 9th Legislative Breakfast at the Millennium. All ECASB members are invited to attend the Oct. 18th session (some of it or all of it, as your time allows!) ... please RSVP with Shirley at 821-7297 or snowak@e1b.org.

ECASB Hosts NYC Resolutions Discussion

It's Erie County's turn to facilitate the Upstate/Downstate discussion of NYSSBA proposed resolutions during the convention (Friday, Oct. 26 from 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm, in Conference Room E, at the Convention site). Legislative Team Chair (Michael Connors, Springville Griffith Institute) will be the facilitator. Welcome to attend are voting delegates/alternates and other interested parties from Erie County, Four County, Genesee Valley, Monroe County, Nassau-Suffolk, Niagara Orleans, Rockland and Westchester Putnam School Boards!



Members of the ECASB Legislative Team at a recent meeting who worked on the Feb. 9, 2008 Legislative Breakfast included:

Row 1, from left: Mary Kless, Lancaster; Maria Eagan (Western Region PTA); Lorie Sabo, Erie 2 BOCES

Row 2, from left: Joseph LoGalbo, Lake Shore; Diane M. Reynolds, Hamburg; Carla Marozzo, Orchard Park; Jean Ranney, Clarence; Kathyann Lorika, East Aurora

Row 3, from left: Lou Reuter, Ken-Ton; Michael Connors (Team Leader), Springville Griffith; Tom Gannon, Eden; Patrick Howard, Eden; Ed Cavan, Erie 1 BOCES; Dave Smaczniak, West Seneca; Paul Kunkel, Cleve Hill; Dan Lach Cheektowaga Sloan.

Save the Date List:

ArtScapades! ... A fund-raising art auction and social networking event for members of ECASB, colleagues, family and friends! Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008 at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 950 Losson Road, Cheektowaga. Preview from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Auction from 7:30-9 p.m.

WNY Education Law Conference ...

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008, Millennium.
Sponsored by ECASB & WNY Educational Service Council.

Bulletin Board

OCT. 15 ... Youth, Teens & Depression

A lecture by Ross Szabo, entitled "What Happy Faces are Hiding: Talking About Depression," will be held at 7 p.m., Oct. 15 in Hilbert College William E. Swan Auditorium. Diagnosed bipolar at age 16, Szabo will give a candid discussion about his struggles with mental illness and his experience coping with his illness. He will address the complexities of depression and how societal stereotypes can lead to increased loneliness, isolation and suicide. He will share signs that may indicate when someone needs help with a mental health issue. Q&A with a panel of mental health professionals will follow the lecture. Free.

OCT. 24 ...Have Any Thoughts on Consolidation?

A recent *Buffalo News* editorial urged taking another look at consolidation and streamlining of local government and schools. The editorial referenced the work of the Governor's Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness and invited people to "weigh in" on the matter during a hearing from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 24 at the Albright Knox. The Commission encourages prior submission of written testimony to localgov@empire.state.ny.us.

OCT. 26 ... Yet More on Consolidation

At 4 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26 at NYSSBA in NYC, the Governor's Commission on Local Government Efficiency and Competitiveness will engage in a "dialogue" on school cost containment with convention attendees. NYSSBA needs to schedule speakers to provide information and respond to questions from the commission. Board members or superintendents engaged in cost saving measures or who can speak to the need for state assistance, please Christine Decatur at (518) 783-3740 to arrange a time to provide testimony.

Nov. 15 ... Dr. Joyce Epstein

Dr. Joyce Epstein will present "Creating Family and Professional Partnerships with Schools and Community Agencies," from 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., on Thursday, Nov. 15 at Lucarelli's Banquet Center in Lackawanna. For information, call 824-8711.

Dec. 4 ... What's Up With BioInformatics?

Want to learn more about BioInformatics and its implications for our region? Dr. Douglas P. Merrill, Director, RIT Center for Bio-Science Education and Technology, will speak at 8 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4th at Erie 1 BOCES, Building B. 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca.

Going to NYC?

Stop by for a visit ...

ECASB joins Four County School Boards and other local SBA's in hosting an Upstate/Downstate Hospitality Suite at the NYSSBA Convention in NYC. The suite will be available Thursday, Friday and Saturday afternoon and evening. It's a nice place to gather, meet and greet, and just relax for a bit. Hours: Thurs., 3-5 & 8-midnite; Fird, 5:30-midnite; Saturday, 1-6 p.m. and 8 p.m.-midnite. Room location TBA. Generous grants from Nassau-Suffolk SBA and Hodgson Russ, and a donation from Turner Construction helped make this possible.

Did You Know ...

The Foundation for Investor Education, the not-for-profit educational arm of **The Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association** (SIFMA), sponsors the Stock Market Game, in levels appropriate for grades four through 12. To learn more about this opportunity for your district, see www.stockmarketgame.org.

Participation is appropriate for students in ELA, Math, Social Studies, Consumerism, Economics and Business. Also, be sure to look for www.investwrite.info, a teacher-designed writing competition (with big-time prizes) designed to reinforce students' critical thinking skills.

Fred J. Press, the SMG Buffalo/Rochester spokesperson, is available to speak about and/or conduct workshops for interested teachers and educators. He can be reached mornings at Bryant & Stratton College at 677-9500, ext. 182, or at fpress@bryantstratton.edu

OCT. 31: Deadline for High Schools To Register for Bring Poetry Out Loud National Recitation Contest

Winners graduate to the school, regional, state, and finally, the national competition. Administered by the NYS Council on the Arts and the NYS Alliance for Arts. Educators who register to participate will be provided with top-notch teaching tools and guides, including audio CDs, poetry anthologies, lesson plans, online resources, and more.

Student finalists will be awarded cash prizes and poetry books for their schools. Learn more and download a registration form at www.nysaae.org. More info: Lainy Slyder at lainy@nysaae.org or (800) ARTS.N.ED.

“JUNIOR Minutes”

A synopsis of highlights from recent meetings of the Budget & Finance Team (Sept. 13), Legislative Team (Sept. 20) and Delegate Assembly (Sept. 27):

ArtScapades – A fund-raising art auction and social networking event for members of ECASB, colleagues, family and friends will be held on Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008 at St. Philip the Apostle Church, 950 Losson Road, Cheektowaga. Preview from 6:30-7:15 p.m. Auction from 7:30-9 p.m. Linda Hoffman, ECASB treasurer, chairs this event. All ticket sale proceeds go to ECASB. Each member board will be asked to sell tickets. A flat payment, or percentage of auction purchases, whichever is higher, also goes to ECASB if certain attendance levels are reached throughout the one-and-a-half hour auction.

ECASB Directory Status: This year, ECASB will begin the process of transitioning the information from the traditional maroon and white print binder to electronic documents and ECASB Web site postings.

Legislative Breakfast – Topics selected for this year's Feb. 9th Legislative Breakfast are: 3020A reform, mandate relief and special education. An opening statement will be made in appreciation of this year's state aid increases, with examples of how the additional funds have helped children. This year's breakfast again will be held in conjunction with multiple partner organizations.

Area 1 Director Position

President Mary Busse shared the timeline for filling the anticipated vacancy of Area 1 Director, assuming Wayne Schlifke becomes the next NYSSBA president as expected:

- Oct. 27 ...** Wayne gets elected at the convention; assumes his role Jan. 1.
- Mid-Dec. ...** Nominations for Area 1 Director due.
- By Dec. 31st ...** NYSSBA sends ballots if more than one person is nominated.
- Jan. 25 ...** New Area 1 Director named.

Promoting Partnerships in Public Education report:

- Mission Statement has been developed.
- Celebration of Collaboration set for 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 28 at Erie 1 BOCES.
- Meeting of the Member to follow Executive Board meeting on Dec. 6.
- A grant application for a program entitled **MY Story, MY Song ...** has been submitted to the Community Foundation. This program would be a local effort modeled after the FreedomWriters initiative, kicked off with a program on April 25th for 150 students and teachers, who would then sustain the program's efforts at their schools. Representatives from the Western Region Teacher Centers are working with ECASB for the staff development follow through.
- Collaboration E-Mails also are being sent to all ECASB members.

07-08 Financial Oversight Team: Lorie Sabo, E2CC BOCES; Andy Loeb, E1 BOCES; Carmen Garozzo, Lake Shore. These members of the Budget and Finance Team meet with the ECASB accountant for discussion of the association's annual financial review.

07-08 Awards Review Team: Eileen Rucker, Ray Carr, Andy Loeb, Dave Smaczniak

Leaders' Forum Draws Leadership from 15 Area School Districts

Officers and representatives from 15 area boards of education participated in ECASB's recent Leaders' Forum for School Board Presidents, Vice Presidents and Emerging Leaders, sponsored by Hodgson Russ. The evening's facilitated discussion addressed the many expectations, realities and challenges faced in these leadership roles. At right, from left:

Photo 1: Mary Ruth Kapsiak, President, Buffalo Board of Education; Kathyann Lorka and James Bodziak, Vice President and Superintendent, respectively, of East Aurora Schools

Photo 2: From Lake Shore Schools: Carmen Garozzo, Vice President; Cindy Latimore, President; Richard Vogan, Member, with Melissa Brinson, President, Kenmore Tonawanda Board of Education

Photo 3: From the Newfane Board of Education: Gretchen DeWitt, Vice President; Donna Pieszala, President; Lorie Kauffmann, Member, with Ray Carr, Cheektowaga and Erie 1 BOCES Board of Education Member.



Coming Up:

The HOW TO BUILD COLLABORATION AND SHARED DECISION-MAKING WITHIN YOUR BOARD OF EDUCATION workshop scheduled for Oct. 13 will be rescheduled to spring or fall.

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., 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 item you would like to share? Send to jburzynski@e1b.org for the next ECASB Update!

