

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

State Convention Update 2007 Vol. 3, Issue 4

"After the game, the king and the pawn go into the same box." – Italian Proverb

ECASB at NYSSBA in NYC

Several area school board members attended the NYSSBA convention in New York City, and ECASB members played a significant role in convention events, including being elected to leadership roles, facilitating and presiding over discussions and presentations, tallying votes, and addressing members of the NYS Commission on Efficiency in Government.

A highlight of this year's convention was the election of Wayne Schlifke, Erie 1 BOCES Board member, as NYSSBA President, effective Jan. 1. In his remarks, he noted, "The potential and power of every single child to make a difference should be at our board tables in every decision we make. I have been reminded of this time and again throughout my board service. That's why I've chosen 'Leadership for Learning' as my president's theme. It must be the focus of everything we do."

If you plan to attend next year's convention – get your calendars ready: the CONVENTION WILL BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLIER: (Oct. 17-19, 2008). As always, once registration opens, be sure to register early for best rates and rooms closest to the convention site.

Below, a few thoughts are shared by Marianne Jasen, a first-year Sweet Home Board Member, who attended her first NYSSBA convention:



ECASB members Wayne Schlifke and Florence Johnson were elected to NYSSBA top offices during the NYC convention. From left: Judy Katz, Erie 1 BOCES BOE President and past NYSSBA President; Marlene Schlifke, Wayne Schlifke (Erie 1 BOCES BOE), who was elected NYSSBA President, effective Jan. 1, 2008; Florence Johnson (Buffalo BOE), who was elected Vice President, and Tim Kremer, NYSSBA Executive Director.



Tom Kulaszewski and Mary Metzger, from the Cleveland Hill BOE, attended the conference. Tom, in his capacity as President of Promoting Partnerships in Education, addressed representatives of the Governor's Commission on Local

My First Day of School Day of School Board Convention

Will I learn anything? Will I know anyone?
Will I make new friends?

No, these are not my thoughts about the first day of school, but rather my thoughts on my first School Board Convention ... I nervously walked into the hotel when I saw the line at registration going out to the middle of the lobby. And while patience is not my virtue, I decided to make the best of it. I had some great conversations with fellow School Board Members from Honeoye Falls and Westchester.

I went through registration fairly quickly and set my sites upon reviewing the schedule of classes. Wow – lots to choose from. As a newbie I wasn't sure how user friendly these courses would be. To my surprise, many of the courses I attended offered good advice for both the seasoned and novice attendee.

While I walked away with a bagful of knowledge, I got the most out of comparing ideas with other members from around the state.

Did I learn? Did I feel I gained pointers to take back to my District? You bet! But I also learned how much more I have to learn.

See you at the next State Convention!

- Marianne Jasen, Sweet Home BOE

Government Efficiency and Competitiveness, drawing on findings from the Cornell Study to provide data.



LEFT: ECASB President Mary Busse, West Seneca BOE, was one of several board members who served as tellers, recording votes from the delegates during the annual business meeting.

RIGHT: Mike Connors, from the Springville GI BOE, was the facilitator for the Upstate/Downstate Resolutions Discussion. Mike is team leader for the ECASB Legislative Team this year.



Enjoying the city at night are, from left: Mary Busse, ECASB President; Jane Burzynski, ECASB Executive Director; Dan Nagy, West Seneca BOE and member of ArtScapades Planning Team.

Dec. 14: Deadline for Nominations for Area 1 Director

At the NYSSBA Annual Business Meeting in October, Area 1 Director Wayne Schlifke was elected NYSSBA President, effective January 1, 2008. This creates an opening for the position of Area 1 Director. An announcement for a special election for Area 1 Director has gone out from NYSSBA. Nominations for this Special Election for NYSSBA Area 1 Director are due to the NYSSBA office by 5 p.m. on Friday, December 14. The Area 1 Director represents the districts of: *Akron, Albion, Alden, Amherst, Attica, Barker, Batavia, Buffalo, Byron-Bergen, Cheektowaga, Cheektowaga-Maryvale, Cheektowaga-Sloan, Clarence, Cleveland Hill, Depew, East Aurora, Eden, Elba, Erie 1 BOCES, Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES, Evans-Brant, Frontier, Grand Island, Hamburg, Holland, Hopevale, Iroquois, Kenmore-Tonawanda, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Le Roy, Lockport, Medina, Niagara Falls, Niagara-Wheatfield, North Collins, North Tonawanda, Oakfield-Alabama, Orchard Park, Orleans-Niagara BOCES, Royalton-Hartland, Springville-Griffith Institute, Starpoint, Sweet Home, Tonawanda, West Seneca, Williamsville, Wilson and Wyoming*

If you have any questions about the nomination or election process, please contact Mary Metheny at mary.metheny@nyssba.org or 800-342-3360.

ECASB's Annual "Just in Time for School Budget Season: The Nuts & Bolts of \$ and Cents Academy"

on

**School Finance, Budgeting, Purchasing
and Related Bargaining/Personnel
Matters**

**9 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., Sat, Jan. 5th, 2008
355 Harlem Road, West Seneca**

The budget workshop that covers it all:
the scope of school finance,
what's impacting your budget,
how to maximize your spending power through
BOCES and cooperative purchasing,
how to present a budget plan with clarity and
sensitivity and without the hype,
key bargaining/personnel matters
related to your budget.

Register through your Superintendent's Office, or
contact Shirley at snowak@e1b.org or 821-7297

Save the Date ...

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. To register: 821-7196.

Saturday, Feb. 9, 2008 ... Annual Legislative Breakfast, from 9-11 a.m., at the Millennium.

This year's topics: **3020A Reform,
Special Education, and Unfunded
Mandates.**

Wednesday, Aug. 6, 2008 ... WNY Education Law Conference, at the Millennium.

This year's topic: **"PREVENTING (How
DO these people get hired in the first
place????!!) and ADDRESSING and
RESPONDING to Staff Misconduct."**

Sponsored by ECASB & the WNY
Educational Service Council.

ECASB ArtScapades!

Saturday, Jan. 26, 2008

St. Philip the Apostle Church
950 Losson Road, Cheektowaga, NY
Preview: 6:30 pm || Auction: 7:30-9 pm

An art auction & social networking
event to help support the programs
and activities of Erie County Association of School Boards
Info at www.ecasb.org or 821-7297



ArtScapades! Q&A

- 1. *I'm selling my ArtScapades! tickets, but who does the check get made out to?***
Checks should be made out to ECASB.
 - 2. *After I sell the tickets, what do I do with the ticket stubs/checks?***
You can give them to your district clerk to ship to ECASB, or drop them off at ECASB offices (Building C, rm. 237 at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca), or bring to any ECASB meeting and give to Jane Burzynski.
 - 3. *What's the dress code for the ArtScapades! event?***
Business casual is fine. (And Jane plans to wear very comfortable shoes.)
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Getting the Best Leaders for Your School District

Our sincere thanks to our presenters who spoke to about 40 school board members from Erie and Niagara counties at the ECASB dinner forum on "How to Get - And KEEP - Great Leaders for Your School District." Presenting were (from left): Dr. Vincent Coppola, WNY Educational Service Council Search Consultant; Mr. Donald A. Ogilvie, Erie 1 BOCES District Superintendent; Dr. Lynn Fusco, Alden School Superintendent; Dr. Howard S. Smith, Williamsville School Superintendent. Not pictured: Mr. Robert Guiffreda, Erie 2 BOCES District Superintendent.



David Little Assists Legislative Committee Efforts

Our sincere thanks to David Little, NYSSBA director of governmental relations, who met with the ECASB Legislative Team to discuss proposed NYSSBA resolutions and to give suggestions for advancing local legislative outreach efforts. With David (center), are (from left): Wayne Schlifke, Erie 1 BOCES; Steve Cahoon, Maryvale; Mary Kless, Lancaster; Jean Ranney, Clarence; Mike Connors, Springville GI.

Around and About

Around and About is a periodic compendium of notes from other associations. Below are some notes from Ron Wilson, Executive Director, N. American Assoc. of Educational Negotiators:

1. New York: For some good insight into how journalists approach education reporting: "Tools for Reporting on Teaching: What to Look for in Classrooms." From the Hechinger Institute on Education and the Media and the Cotsen Family Foundation is a new Web site launched for journalists to help them learn to be better observers of the most important aspects of education: teaching and learning. The Hechinger Institute published the excellent guide for journalists this Spring: *From Contracts to Classrooms: Covering Teacher Unions*.
http://hechinger.tc.columbia.edu/assets/hechinger/pdfs/Hechinger_Union_Primer.pdf

2. GENERATION Y TEACHERS QUESTION THE MORIBUND EDUCATION CLIMATE October 11, 2007

Generation Y teachers are clamoring for creative freedom, the power to make a difference, professional opportunities to grow, rewards for a job well done and an end to one-size-fits-all instruction, according to a survey of 865 first year teachers. Teaching is a labor of love, and that will not change for the next generation of educators as 79% would choose more supportive

administrators over significant salary increases. The survey also finds that of the 16% of teachers who plan to leave the profession within the next five years, 54% came from schools of education and currently serve high-needs schools. When looking at alternatively trained teachers, 79% in high-needs schools said that the lack of administrative support is a drawback. Of this group, only 16% see teaching as a lifelong career, but another 48% anticipate staying in the education field in some capacity. To improve teacher quality, 90% of Generation Y teachers say there needs to be more professional learning opportunities and particularly better preparation to meet the needs of a diverse classroom. As teacher candidate pools dwindle, it becomes increasingly important to take the advice of those drawn to the profession.
<http://www.ncctq.org/publications/NCCTQBiennialReport.php>

3. Labor reform has little chance. Rochester Democrat and Chronicle. By Jay Gallagher, Gannett News Service (October 20, 2007) -

Like the men in Aesop's Fable groping different parts of an elephant, critics of a state law that governs employee relations - and therefore to a large degree how much we pay in property taxes - can't even agree on what the problem is, much less solutions. To mayors, town supervisors and fiscal conservatives, the statute, known as the Taylor Law, is so skewed toward public-employee unions that they're virtually powerless to break what they see as a cycle of higher and higher wages and benefits, and therefore higher taxes. But to union leaders, the very same statute, which was adopted 40 years ago, unfairly blocks their attempts to use the workers' ultimate weapon - the strike - and lets employers drag out talks forever, since they pay no penalty for doing so.

<http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071020/OPINION02/710200319/1039/OPINION>

4. Tackling NY's Taylor Law.

A new report from the Empire Center for NY State Policy. October 19, 2007.

NY's Public Employees Fair Employment Act - better known as the Taylor Law - was designed to balance the broad public interest and the narrower interests of unionized government workers. Enacted in 1967, the law provided a framework for orderly resolution of labor disputes with public employee unions. However, New Yorkers have paid a steep price for public-sector labor peace. While the Taylor Law led to an expansion of union membership and political power in the state, high personnel costs in state and local government are a leading factor in what Governor Spitzer has described as "a perfect storm of unaffordability" threatening New York's future. <http://www.empirecenter.org/html/2007/10/TaylorPortal.cfm>

Report: http://www.empirecenter.org/Documents/PDF/TaylorLaw_Final.pdf

Coming Up:

Registration and Information: 821-7297 or snowak@e1b.org

December 2007

6 ECASB Executive Board Meeting, 5:50-6:25 p.m.; PPPE Meeting of the Member, 6:30-7:30 p.m., 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca.

24, 25 *Winter Recess (Office Closed)*

24-Jan. 1 Winter Recess, E1B & E2CCB

January 2008

1 *New Year's (Office Closed)*

3 ECASB Budget & Finance Meeting, 7-9 p.m. (Room B1)

5 **Annual "Just in Time for Budget Season: Nuts & Bolts of Dollars & Cents Academy," 9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.** (Room B1)

13-15 NYSCOSS Mid-Winter Conference, The Desmond

17 ECASB Executive Board Meeting, 5:30-7 p.m. (Room A1)

17 ECASB Legislative Team Meeting, 7:15-9:15 p.m. (Room B1)

- 21 ***Martin Luther King, Jr., Day (Office Closed)***
- 22-25 Regents Exams
- 24 ECASB Delegate Assembly, 7-9 p.m. (*Room B1*)
- 26 ECASB ArtScapades!, St. Philip the Apostle Church, 950 Losson Road, Cheektowaga. Preview: 6:30 pm || Auction: 7:30-9 pm

February 2008

- 3-5 Federal Relations Network (FRN) – Washington, D.C.
- 9 ECASB Legislative Breakfast @ Millennium, 2040 Walden Ave., Cheektowaga, 9-11 a.m.
- 18-22 ***Mid-Winter Recess, E1B & E2CCB***
- 18 ***Presidents' Day (Office Closed)***
- 28 **Dessert Forum:** Celebration of Collaboration, 7-9 p.m. (*Room A2*)

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!

