



This Week At ECASB ...

Important news from this past week and news for the upcoming week.

December 15, 2023

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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LOCAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS: Thank you to the following ECASB members that have volunteered to attend local meetings with their legislators to discuss ECASB's legislative platform and specific school related issues with legislators in their local offices. If any other school boards would like to attend, please let Jane Sullivan know. Advocates include: ECASB Legislative Co-Chairs Scott Johnson (Sweet Home CSD), Kathleen Chiavetta (Erie 2 CC BOCES and Lake Shore CSD), and Erik Polkowski (Akron CSD); Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD); Dennis Priore (Clarence CSD); Mark Manna (Williamsville CSD); Kristy Pingitore (Akron CSD); Karen Whitelaw (Ken-Ton UFSD); and Kristin Schmutzler Tonawanda City). Meetings are set up as follows. :

- Assemblywoman Monica Wallace: Tuesday December 19th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2562 Walden Avenue, Suite 102 in Cheektowaga

- Senator Gallivan: Thursday, January 11th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2721 Transit Road, Elma

* The team met with Senator Sean Ryan (Tuesday) and Senator Tim Kennedy's office on (Thursday). Jane will provide updates on the various meetings.

WE WISH LINDA HOFFMAN WELL IN RETIRING AS NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR: *We wish Linda Hoffman well and thank her for services as she completes her final few weeks as the NYSSBA Area 1 Director. Linda Hoffman will continue to serve on the Erie 2 CC BOCES Board of Education. Linda began her Board of Education Service on the Springville Griffith Institute CSD Board of Education in the 1980's. If you would like to drop Linda a note, her address is 11805 Snyder Road, Springville NY 14141 or lhoffman@e2ccb.org. Additionally, Linda has recently been appointed to the NYS Rural Schools Association Board of Directors.*

ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2ND. Watch for the details of the specific ECASB awards next week. ECASB has wide variety of awards that honor the work of our members. We ask that you look around your Board table. Consider nominating someone from your Board of Education to receive and award and honor them for their work. Nomination forms are kept on file and reconsidered every year for a period of 5 years.

VISIT TO KEN-TON UFSD: I ventured north to the Ken Ton UFSD School Board meeting on Tuesday, December 12th. Each meeting, the Ken-Ton UFSD Board and Administration recognize one school in

the district. On Tuesday night, I witnessed the recognition of a student, a support staff member, an educator and a community member from the Holmes Elementary School. Each recipient was awarded with a certificate, a district T-Shirt and many kind words. I was impressed with the community partner who has about 20 employees who mentor students and participate in the many fund raising and community building programs. Thank you to Board President Matthew Chimera, Vice-President Todd Marquardt, Board Members Paul Spors, Lee Ann Vogt, and Karen Whitelaw. Although they are only a 5 member board, it is not uncommon to see the entire Board of Education attend the many ECASB and NYSSBA events. Special Thank you to Superintendent Sabatino Cimato, District Clerk Gina Santa Maria and Student Board Representative Maura Ramos Rua. Thank you to Central Office Administrators present including Assistant Superintendents Kelly White, Matthew Bystrak, Nicole Morasco, Jeff Richards and Director of Communications Patrick Fanelli.

EAST AURORA UFSD: On Wednesday evening, I was able to visit the East Aurora UFSD Board of Education meeting. The meeting is held at the East Aurora Middle School on main street. The building used to be the high school many, many years ago. In fact, even though my mother lived in Elma, she went to high school in East Aurora because Iroquois (and the Chiefs) were not even in the picture. So every time I walk through the halls of the school to attend one of their meetings, I wonder what the building looked like back in the 1950's. Yes...my Mom was a Blue Devil. I was able to be part of the 'celebration' of the Boys and Girls Cross Country Team recognition for winning the New York State Championship when I attended the meeting. Thank you to Board President Jessica B. Armbrust, Vice-President Joe Cassidy, Board Members Paul Blowers, Daniel Brunson, Kimberlee Danieu, Maria Improta, and Terry Ohlweiler. Special Thank you to Superintendent Brian Russ and District Clerk Elizabeth Casey.

ARRIVING EARLY: I arrived early to the East Aurora UFSD Board of Education meeting and had the opportunity to speak with East Aurora District Clerk Elizabeth Casey. We had a nice conversation. I was able to learn that Elizabeth had served on the Springville GI CSD Board of Education just a few years ago and also worked for the Erie 2 CC BOCES in many different buildings and programs. One aspect of traveling to districts that I am able to talk with and get to know our ECASB members so that we can provide better service.

SATURDAY MORNING JANUARY 27TH PROGRAM. The program will be a breakfast program in conjunction with NYSSBA and the Niagara Orleans School Board Association. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information. The topic will be an "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence. What It Is...What It Isn't...And Is Your District Ready?" This program will be our Saturday morning breakfast session held at Erie 1 BOCES. Details will be sent out next week. Start the New Year out right by attending this informative and entertaining presentation.

ECASB ELF ON A SHELF PROMOTION CONTINUES UNTIL DECEMBER 15TH. Thank you to all ECASB members that are participating in this annual tradition. On the 18th we will draw names of all the individuals that have guessed correctly at the daily clues to determine the recipients of the prizes.

REMAINING SCHOOLS TO VISIT: Come January 1st I will become the NYSSBA Area 1 Director as Linda Hoffman retires from the position. There will be a learning curve, so I ask that you please be patient with me. I am thankful that Linda is NOT going away and will be around if I have questions as I serve with her on the Erie 2 CC BOCES Board. As I have traveled around to each and every district within Erie County in my role as the Executive Director, I hope to make a visit to many schools within Area 1. Districts that I have yet to visit in ECASB family include: Amherst CSD, Eden CSD, Gowanda CSD, Grand Island CSD, Hamburg CSD, Lake Shore CSD, Springville GI CSD, Sweet Home CSD and Williamsville CSD. I also need to visit our two Associate Members this year Starpoint CSD and Pio-

near CSD.

THANK YOU TO ECASB MEMBERS WHO ENCOURAGE STUDENT MUSICIANS TO APPLY FOR THE BPO YOUNG MUSICIAN'S SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS. Auditions will take place March 2, 2024 at Buffalo State University. A total of 15 applicants have applied.

LOOKING AHEAD: The ECASB office is closed December 25th, 26th and the 29th. ECASB Executive Director Dave Lowrey will be on vacation December 19th - 22nd.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd - ECASB Award Nominations Open
- Local Legislative Meetings with NYS Senators and Assemblypersons during the month of December and January.
- January 27th - "Lets (Not) Freak Out About A.I."

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
 - February 29th—2024 Educational Institutions Conference
 - March 23rd - Updates on Current Legal Issues Facing Employers
 - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
- **Hodgson Russ LLP**
 - January 12th - 39th Annual School Client Conference 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; at M Hotel Buffalo; 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo New York

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS: None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Save the following dates:
 - 2024 Virtual Capital Conference - February 2, 2024
 - In Person NYSSBA Lobby Day in Albany - February 7, 2024

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- Equity Symposium - January 27th in Washington D.C
- Advocacy Institute - January 28th-30th in Washington D.C.
- Annual Conference and Exposition - April 4-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Rural Education Summit - April 5th in New Orleans, Louisiana

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