



This Week At ECASB ...

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

March 1, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS CLOSE MARCH 4TH. Any ECASB member may nominate for ECASB awards. Entire Boards DO NOT need to nominate individuals for awards. Award applications are on the ECASB website. Only a few days away.

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 7, 2024. THE WESTERN NEW YORK EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COUNCIL AND ECASB WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL WNY LAW CONFERENCE. Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel for New York State School Boards Association, Mr. Jay Worona, Esq. will be the keynote speaker. The program will be held at Salvatore's Banquet facility in Depew.

REGIONAL MAKER FAIRE: The WNY Regional Maker Faire is a gathering of individuals who enjoy making things, learning things, and sharing what they do. The event will take place on Saturday March 9th from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Lake Shore High School at 959 Beach Road, Angola, New York. The typical visitor will spend about 2 hours at the Faire depending on the number of activities you participate in. Perhaps you want to learn how to solder, make jewelry, learn about wood working and carving techniques, or solder beach glass and create beautiful pieces of artwork. Programs are free and a few have a small activity fee. To obtain free tickets please contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-western-new-york-regional-maker-faire-tickets-824376701907> ; to obtain more information you can go to : <https://wnyregion.makerfaire.com/about/>

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION SUMMER CONFERENCE: Will be held at Lake Placid this year July 14th - 16th. This will be a new location for the Rural Schools Association's Summer Conference. Registration is now open. Hotel registrations must be made by June 17th at 4:00 p.m. Room blocks are available at: Best Western Adirondack Inn, Bluebird Lake Plaza, Crowne Plaza, Grand Adirondack Hotel, High Peaks Resort and Mirror Lake Inn. Requests for proposals is open through March 8th. Have additional questions, please contact RSA at 518-750-4223 or email rsa@rsany.org.

PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP: ECASB will hold their annual Prospective School Board Workshop on Saturday, March 23rd, from 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The first part of the program will be presented by Hodgson Russ LLP attorneys Karl Kristoff, Esq. and Jeffrey Swiatek, Esq. The second part will include a panel discussion comprised of experienced School Board Members. If you are an experienced School Board Member with at least 1 year of service, and want to participate in the panel, please email Dave Lowrey at dlowrey@e1b.org to be considered to serve on the panel.

EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARDS ANNUAL EVENT: The Excellence In Education Awards nomination deadline is Saturday, March 2nd! Don't Delay. Nominate Buffalo teachers, principals, nurses, teacher aides, counselors, administrators, etc. today by visiting www.friendsforabetterbuffalo.com or the Excellence In Education Awards Facebook page.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAMES SAGER AND JENNIFER PISA FROM NORTH COLLINS CSD: James Sager was elected Board President and Jennifer Pisa was elected Vice President for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year due to the recent resignation of Past President Michelle DeCarlo. Good Luck to James and Jennifer!

NEW BILL INTRODUCED: S8524 and A9183. Senator Joe Griffo NYS Senate District 53 and Assembly-member Robert Smullen from Assembly District 118 have introduced a bill that if passed would allow districts to submit a waiver to the Commissioner of Education to opt out of certain requirements on the Zero Emission bus mandate. Please check out the details of the bills and if you are in support of the bills, contact your local legislators and urge them to sign on to the bills. If you are in support, we would urge you to also have YOUR district constituents to contact their local legislators.

SAD NEWS: Please keep Dr. Littman (Williamsville CSD Board Member) and his family in your thoughts and prayers. Dr. Littman's brother Kenneth G. Littman, Esq. passed away February 15th in Falls River, Maine. You can view the obituary at www.hathawayfunerals.com. Sympathy notes and condolences can be sent to Dr. Michael Littman, 142 Autumnview, Williamsville, New York 14221.

6 HOUR MANDATED GOVERNANCE TRAINING AND 6 HOUR MANDATED FISCAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- Governance Training - Part I - May 28th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Part II - June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training - Part I - June 11th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Part II - June 15th 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- * A light dinner will be served during the 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. sessions.
- * A continental breakfast will be served during the Saturday morning sessions.
- * All sessions are In Person.
- * Must attend both parts of a session to receive credit.
- * Member District cost is \$100 per course; Non Member District cost is \$250.
- * Certificates will be provided.
- * All sessions will be held at Erie 1 BOCES; 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, Building B
- * Participants must register with their district clerk the Thursday before the training sessions.

NYSSBA'S 2024 CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS FOR ANNUAL CONVENTION IS NOW OPEN. Deadline submission date is March 25, 2024. The Annual Convention and Expo will take place in New York City October 20-22, 2024. Presentation formats would be among the following formats:

- Best Practices and Innovations - 60 minute sessions designed around a topic of interest.
- Student Empowerment - 60 minute sessions where students would share a project from their district that focused on social issues and civic engagement.
- Pre-Convention Board Officers Academy - 45-60 minute sessions where Board Presidents and Superintendents can serve as subject matter experts/panelists.
- The Solution Room - For commercial companies only. 60 minute sessions including Question and Answer period that is educational in nature.

NIAGARA ORLEANS SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION: Will hold their Prospective School Board Member Workshop on March 16th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:a.m. at North Tonawanda High School Library 405 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda. To register for NOSBA Workshop please call 716-731-6800 ext. 2211 or email dstamp@onbores.org by Wednesday, March 13th.

CIDEL: Committee For Identifying and Developing Educational Leadership program will be held on March 9th at Erie 1 BOCES 355 Harlem Road. Registration, Donut Holes and Coffee will be 8:00 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. Keynote speaker is Superintendent Kevin McGowan. His presentation will be on "The Joy in Leadership: Supporting the Whole Administrator". The program is designed for educational leaders in a school. To register call 716-923-6514 or email wnyesc222@gmail.com

VISIT TO NIAGARA COUNTY: I had my first visit to a School Board Meeting in Niagara County on Monday evening. Starpoint CSD is an Associate Member of ECASB this year (a very small section of the Starpoint CSD falls within Erie County). I had the opportunity to view a presentation on RTI as it

relates to Social-Emotional Health, and Behavior in addition to Academics. Having served as a Student Based Support Team Chair at Lockport High School for several years, I found the report to be very interesting and thorough. Thank you to Board President Jeffrey Duncan, Vice President Kelly Swann, Board Members Gregory Brehm, Michelle Leuer, Jason Madden, Beth Pyskaty, Dr. Shawn Riestler, Chad Shepherd, and Michael Zimmerman. I also heard an innovative fundraiser held at the Starpoint High School entitled Locked In and Locked Out under the Superintendent Dr. Sean Crofts report. There were 291 Seniors who were locked in the school until the next morning to raise money for Roswell Park. Students had various activities planned to keep them occupied and awake through the evening. Special thank you to Starpoint CSD District Clerk Dorothy Sza paicher.

LAST PART OF THE 2024 TIMELINE FOR BUDGET VOTE & SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS: A few weeks ago, I sent out the first part of the Budget Vote and School Board Election timeline in This is the last portion of the timeline in the event a Budget Revote is required:

May 28-June 4 - Budget must be completed at least seven days prior to the budget hearing at which is to be presented.

June 4 – Deadline for publication of the first of two required legal notices prior to the budget re-vote.

June 11 – Publication of second and final legal notice prior to budget re-vote.

June 4-11– Public hearing to present the budget 7-14 days prior to the revote.

June 4-18 – Copies of the budget, together with attachments required by law, must be made available, upon request, to district residents during the fourteen days immediately preceding the re-vote (as well as at the public hearing on the re-vote, and on the day of the re-vote). Moreover, if changes have been made to the budget that was defeated by the voters on the first vote, copies of the budget disseminated prior to a re-vote must incorporate such changes.

June 11-17 - Last possible day for voter registration by school district boards of registration (7-2 days before re-vote).

June 12 - Deadline for mailing “budget notice” (6 days before re-vote).

June 18 - Uniform Budget Re-Vote Date. No district is compelled to hold a budget re-vote, but if it does, it must be held on the third Tuesday in June, unless the Commissioner of Education, at the request of the school district, certifies no later than March 1st that such a vote would conflict with religious observances, in which case the re-vote must be held (if at all) on the second Tuesday in June.

Education Law §2022(7) requires a school district to post on its website

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- March 4th - ECASB Award Nominations Close
- March 6th - Awards Nomination Committee 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. B1
- March 7th - Executive Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., B1
- March 14th - Legislative Team 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., B1

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
 - March 23rd - Updates on Current Legal Issues Facing Employers
 - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- Annual Conference and Exposition - April 4-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Rural Education Summit - April 5th in New Orleans, Louisiana

AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- **ERIE NIAGARA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S ASSOCIATION:** Achieving the Joy and Mastery of Learning podcast listing. [CLICK HERE](#)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: *Inquiring School Board Members want to know... "When approached by a community member about a concern about the school, what should I do?" A few steps that should be followed:*

- *Share the information with the Superintendent.*
- *Share the information with the Board President.*
- *Many districts have an email and contact information for each Board of Education Member on their website. A few districts have an email button that will email 'all Board of Education members' at the same time, so that all Board Members have the same information. In this scenario, the Board President should serve as the spokesperson of the Board and should respond. NOT all Board Members should respond.*
- *Encourage the community member to contact the party at the lowest level connected to the issue first. Only move up the chain of command after the issue has been exhausted at the appropriate level...ie... contact the teacher or coach first, then the assistant principal or director, then the principal, then the Assistant Superintendent.*

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

There will be a NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting on March 2nd/3rd in Albany.

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