



This Week At ECASB ...

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

April 3 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB AWARD INFORMATION. This week we announce the names of the Diana R. Miller Leadership Award. The Ken Ton UFSD is a School Board comprised of 5 members. Between the Superintendent, and the Board Members, they have attended on average 9.6 programs/events/meetings each. On occasion, in the past, awards have been provided to two very deserving candidates, this is the first time the award has been given to an entire Board of Education. Additionally, the Award will be presented to Denise McCowan, who currently serves as President of ECASB.

The Diana R. Miller Leadership Award:

- Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD)
- Ken Ton UFSD School Board and Superintendent (Superintendent Sabatino Cimato, President Matt Chimera, Vice President Todd Marquardt, Board Members Paul Spors, Lee Ann Vogt, and Karen Whitelaw).

Again many thanks to the Awards Committee consisting of Lorry Goldhawk, Kristin Schmutzler, Dawn Snyder, Sherry Steffans and Renee Wilson.

ECASB SPRING SPEEDBOARDING: Deadline is April 4th to register.

MAY 2ND BUDGET AND FINANCE TEAM MEETING: Will not be held due to the fact the that Budget and Finance Team approved the Budget during the February 15th meeting.

NEW YORK STATE BUDGET NEWS. Still waiting on final budget.

2024-2025 PROPOSED ECASB EXECUTIVE BOARD: The ECASB Nominating Committee has recommended the following individuals to serve on the ECASB Executive Board for the 2024-2025 school year. The slate of candidates will be voted on the at the Delegate Assembly meeting on May 9th and will be installed at the ECASB Annual Dinner:

- President: Patrick Boyle (Frontier CSD)
- Vice President: Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst CSD)
- Treasurer: Dawn Snyder (Clarence CSD)
- Past President: Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD)
- At Large Directors:
 - Kim Bukaty (Lackawanna City SD)
 - Matthew Chimera (Ken Ton UFSD)
 - Dwight Eagan (Erie 2 CC BOCES)
 - Erik Polkowski (Akron CSD)
 - Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD)
- Buffalo Board Rep (Selected by the Buffalo Board of Education President) - Cindi McEachon

- Superintendent Rep (Selected by the ENSSA President) - Sabatino Cimato (Ken-Ton UFSD)
* The Nominating Committee, when putting together the list attempts to balance the representatives so that they represent northern, southern, central, eastern, western districts as well as a variety of districts based on size ie....small city school district, large, medium, small, rural, suburban, urban, etc. Special Thank you to the nominating Committee of Chairman, Davis Podkulski (Frontier CSD), Elizabeth Gates (West Seneca CSD), Tricia Andrews (Clarence CSD), Michele DeCarlo (North Collins CSD), Stephanie Dombrowski (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD), and Mary Busse (Erie 1 BOCES).

ECASB ANNUAL DINNER IS THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH. We are in the process of finalizing details. Please note that the dinner will be at Kloc's in West Seneca. We will have our traditional ECASB Basket Raffle and Split Club which benefits that Lorie Sabo Advocacy Scholarship fund. Baskets should be donated by individuals or ECASB members. More details will be sent out in the weeks ahead.

VISIT TO GOWANDA CSD: I traveled to Gowanda CSD on Wednesday night for the Board of Education meeting. This was the last member district that I attended for the 2023-2024 school year. There was a presentation on the Blue Ribbon Graduation Requirements. Although I had a presentation at the NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting, this is the first report that I have viewed in the field. Thank you to Board President Max Graham, Vice President Dollene Christopher, and Board Members Shauna McMahon, Mark D. Nephew, Zachary Nobles, John Waterman, and Barbara Weston. Special Thank You to Superintendent Dr. Robert Anderson and District Clerk Kathy Ferneza. I will now focus on traveling to districts in NYSSBA Area 1 which in addition to Erie County includes Niagara County, Orleans County, Genesee County and Wyoming County.

CREATING STRONG PASSWORDS: Did you know if you use a regular English word with all lower-case letters, a hacker can crack the code in less than a second. Using a favorite athlete's name with a mix of upper and lower case letters ... 9 seconds to crack the code. Combine letters, numbers, special characters and spaces at least 14 characters or longer. Avoid personal information such as pets' or kids' names, street names, or the model of your car. You can choose a string of random words, an inside joke or an obscure movie quote - add in spaces and swap out some letters and special characters. You can check out the password strength at www.bitwarden.com/password-strength

SUMMER HAPPENINGS: Spring has just begun, but summer programs are already starting to appear on the calendar.

- Grand Island CSD will be hosting a second Lunch and Learn event sponsored by ZeroEyes on July 25, 2024 at Grand Island High School in the Auditorium 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072. [CLICK HERE to RSVP](#) The ZeroEyes team will be conducting testing and offering a brief overview of their software at 11:00 am. The Lunch and Learn will end around 12:30 pm. ZeroEyes is a human-verified proactive gun detection and situational awareness software that integrates into existing digital security cameras with a mission to stop mass shootings and gun-related violence.

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 5:15 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.
Part II - June 1st 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- * A light dinner will be available Tuesday, May 28th
- * A continental breakfast will be available Saturday June 1st.
- * All sessions are In Person.
- * Must attend both parts of a session to receive credit.
- * All sessions will be held at Erie 1 BOCES; 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, Building B
- * Participants must register with their district clerk the Friday before the training sessions.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- April 11th - Spring Speed Boarding at Erie 1 BOCES (Calspan location on Genesee Street)
- April 18th - Legislative Team Meeting 6:30 p.m./ B1
- April 27th - 2nd Annual ECASB Road Rally 8:30 a.m. start time (Location will be announced).
- May 9th - Delegate Assembly Meeting 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; B1

- May 11th - Legislative Wrap Up Breakfast @ The Columns - Transit Road, Elma 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- May 28th / June 1st - Governance Training
- June 6th - ECASB Annual Awards Dinner/Meeting 5:15 p.m. Registration; Kloc's - Seneca Creek Road
- June 11th/15th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
 - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
 - June 27th - Workplace Leave Laws webinar 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- May 8th - Artificial Intelligence: A New Frontier for School District Policy. Join live or watch the recording at your convenience. 8:30 a.m. - 11:45. \$140 for members / \$280 for non-members
- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

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... "My district will be laying employees off this year. What information should I be aware of? I am getting many questions in the community about layoffs." Answer: With a majority of any school budget being tied to salary and benefits, it is not uncommon when funding is tight that employees may be laid off. You should refer questions back to the Human Resources Department and/or the Superintendent. Districts administrators will take a look at areas of certification, tenure, hire dates, as well as other information that Board Members do not always have access to regarding decisions that come into play when there is a reduction in staffing.*

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

Area 1 School Board Members that will be attending the National School Boards Association in New Orleans include:

- **Buffalo Public School : President Sharon Belton-Cottman, Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown, Paulette Woods, Cindi McEachon, and Terrance Heard,**
- **Cheektowaga CSD: Paul Nazzarett and Vice President Edward Schaeffer**
- **Erie 1 BOCES: Janet MacGregor Plarr, Andrew Loeb, Renee Wilson, and Mark Mecca**
- **Erie 2 CC BOCES: Anita Ray, Ronald Catalano, Tom DeJoe, Dwight Eagan, Linda Hoffman, and Nancy Renckens**
- **Lake Shore CSD: Michael Franey, Kathleen Chiavetta and President Jennifer Michalec**
- **NYSSBA Board of Directors: Sylvester Cleary, David Lowrey**
- **Niagara Falls City SD: Clara Dunn, Nicholas Vilardo, Vincent Cancemi, Michael Capizzi, Anthony Paretto, and Earl Bass**
- **Orleans Niagara BOCES: Colleen Osborne**

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