



This Week At ECASB ...

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

April 25, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

Diamond Level Sponsor



BLACK PASSPORT GROUP

GLOBAL INSIGHTS IN A CONNECTED WORLD

ECASB ROAD RALLY: Will your district win 2025 Best Time? 2025 Most Points?

- 2023 Best Time Winner - Amherst CSD
- 2023 Most Points Winner - Clarence CSD
- 2024 Best Time Winner - Cheektowaga-Sloan CSD
- 2024 Most Points Winner - Tonawanda City SD

The 2023 ECASB Road Rally took us on the streets of the Buffalo Public School District and to 5 different schools. The 2024 ECASB Road Rally took us to the Ken-Ton UFSD and several historic locations. Where will 2025 take us? Meet for instructions, rules, and Tim Horton's coffee and donuts at Erie 1 BOCES 355 Harlem Road in Room A-1 (enter B Building) on April 26th. Road Rally starts at 8:30 a.m. - Solve the first clue and get driving. Lunch will be provided at the final location.

ECASB T-SHIRTS: The new gray t-shirts with white printing and new logos have been distributed except for those schools that Dave Lowrey attended early in the year before the new shirts arrived. An order form was sent to the District Clerk of those districts. If we missed anyone, and you would like a T-Shirt, let us know. They are men's size shirts. Shirts are available in sizes small-xxx large. We will send it interschool mail. Shirts are available to all ECASB members including Student Ex Officio members.

ECASB RISING STAR AWARDS 2025: Congratulations to this years Rising Star Award Recipients. Rising Star recipients will be recognized at the ECASB Annual Dinner in June. Rising Star Recipients have attended 6-8 programs/events/meetings. Recipients include: Heather Cayea, Phillip Kenline and Kristy Pingitore from Akron CSD; Edward Shaefer, Lisa Sekuterski and Renee Wilson from Cheektowaga CSD; Mike Montoro, Cleveland Hill UFSD; Zach Nobles, Gowanda CSD; Sherry Steffans, Grand Island CSD; Heather Becker and Heather Jacobs from Iroquois CSD; Lee Ann Vogt, Ken Ton UFSD; Kimberly Bukaty, Lackawanna City SD; Dirk Rabenold, Sweet Home CSD; and Brandon McGuire, Tonawanda City SD.

ECASB SHINING STAR AWARDS 2025: Congratulations to this years Shining Star Award Recipients. Shining Star recipients will be recognized at the ECASB Annual Dinner in June. Shining Star Recipi-

Platinum Level Sponsors



Corporate Screening &
Investigative Group, LLC
PO Box 1274 • Buffalo, NY 14127 • 866.786.3466



ECASB Gold Level Sponsor



ents have attended 9 or more programs/events/meetings. This year's Shining Star Recipients include Andrea Kersten and Erik Polkowski from Akron CSD; Lorry Goldhawk, Amherst; Tricia Andrews and Dawn Snyder from Clarence CSD; Stephanie Dombrowski, Denise McCowan, and Jim Stachewicz from Cheektowaga Sloan UFSD; Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore CSD), Linda Hoffman, and Dave Lowrey from Erie 2 CC BOCES; Mary Jo Szucs, Holland CSD; Jane Sullivan, Iroquois CSD; Matt Chimera, Sabatino Cimato, Paul Spors, and Karen Whitelaw from Ken Ton UFSD; Michael Franey, Lake Shore CSD; Scott Johnson, Sweet Home CSD; Kristin Schmutzler, Tonawanda City SD; Lorene Barulich, West Seneca CSD; and Maureen Poulin, Williamsville CSD.

NYSUT IS HOSTING A RALLY TO FIX TIER 6: The rally will be held on Tuesday, May 6th from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Niagara Square; 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York. ECASB has identified Fixing Tier 6 as an issue that will assist with staffing many of our schools. Please feel free to join NYSUY at the rally.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION: 2026 Annual Convention will be in San Antonio Texas, April 10-12th.

ECASB ANNUAL DINNER: Will again be held at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on June 12th. Registration forms and information will be sent out next week. When I contacted Kevin at Kloc's he informed me that the prices remained the same from last year, hence we will be able to keep the same pricing as last years dinner. That was a pleasant surprise!

LEADERSHIP IN EDUCATION EVENT: The NYSSBA Leadership in Education Event is scheduled for August 1st and 2nd at the Crowne Plaza - The sessions will focus on the following topics: Student Mental Health, Student Digital Literacy, Building Board Unity, Student Ex Officio Board Member, Financial Planning for an Uncertain Future, School Improvement Planning, and BOCES and Future Ready Students. Details have been sent and registration is now open.

GOVERNANCE TRAINING: Is scheduled for June 3rd and 7th. June 3rd will be from 6:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m. with dinner provided. June 7th will be from 8:00 a.m.– 12:00 noon with a continental breakfast. The program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is May 29th.

FISCAL OVERSIGHT TRAINING: Is scheduled for June 24th and 28th. June 24th will be from 5:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. with dinner provided. June 28th will be from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. The program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is June 19th.

NYSSBA RESOLUTIONS KEY DATES: The Area 1 NYSSBA Resolutions Chair is Leslie Tobin (Lockport City SD). The NYSSBA Resolutions kit has been sent. Important dates include:

- July 18, 2025 @ 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for Submission of Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions
- September 8, 2025 - Distribution of Proposed Bylaw Amendments and Resolutions Book
- September 19, 2025 - Deadline for Submission of Amendments, Rebuttals and Endorsements
- September 29, 2025—Distribution of Voting Delegates Guide
- October 16, 2025 - Annual Business Meeting (Virtual)

WE WISH FOUR COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS WELL: They will celebrate their 50 Year Anniversary (1975-2025) at their annual dinner on May 15th. Four County School Boards Association serves the Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates counties.

ECASB KEYNOTE YEARS:

- 2030 - ECASB will celebrate 100 years
- 2028 - ECASB will celebrate 60 years of being incorporated
- 2028 - ECASB will celebrate their 50th Annual Dinner/Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- April 26th - 3rd Annual ECASB Road Rally 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- May 1st - Delegate Assembly Meeting 6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m., B1
- June 3rd - Governance Training Part 1 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., B1; B2b
- June 7th - Governance Training Part 2 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; B1, B2b
- June 12th - ECASB Annual Dinner and Meeting 5:30 p.m. at Kloc's
- June 24th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training Part 1; 5:15 p.m.– 8:15 p.m., B2a,B2b
- June 26th - Executive Board Retreat 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. B1
- June 28th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training Part 2; 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., B2a & B2b

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Wednesday May 7th 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Student Centered Policies: Recent Changes, New Opportunities (Virtual Workshop)
- Modernizing Superintendent Evaluations for Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness - Thursday May 15th 12:00—1:30 p.m. Complimentary
- Developing and Supporting Effective Superintendents: Thursday, August 21st from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. - Live Virtual
- Leadership in Education Event - August 1st and 2nd in Albany, New York (more details to follow).
- NYSSBA Summer Law Conferences:
 - July 15th - Long Island
 - July 31st—Albany
 - August 5th-6th - Live Virtual

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE: The 2025 Rural Schools Association Rural Teacher of the Year is awarded to Mr. Christopher Romanchock of Canisteo-Greenwood Central School District. Mr. Romanchock teaches 7-12 grade Social Studies. He was awarded \$1,000 for his own classroom and \$2,000 to enhance the rural education program.

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- National School Board Association Annual Convention 2026 will be in Nashville, Tennessee

AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- Erie Niagara School Superintendents has a list of all of their podcasts over the last three years. If you are interested in subscribing or following the E-NSSA podcast you can search for "Achieving Joy and Mastery in Public Schools" within your favorite podcast platform.

BEST PRACTICES: In the Governor's New York State Budget there is language related to Cell Phones in schools. Boards of Education will have to decide if they are going to set an example or not set an example as parents and community members may show up at future meetings questioning the states stance if the proposed bill to ban cell phones passes. When the budget passes, and if there is language regarding Cell Phone bans during the day, will Board of Educations serve as an example and not have their cell phones out? A great topic for discussion at the Board table.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

So far, I have been nominated by the following Boards of Education in Area 1: Amherst, Ken-Ton, Lake Shore, Le Roy, Niagara Falls, and Royalton-Hartland. Thank you to Boards of Education that have taken the time to nominate me to serve another term as the Area 1 Director. Nomination submission deadline is July 31st. Nominations should be mailed to Mary Metheny, Executive Assistant, NYS Association School Boards Association, 24 Century Hill Drive, Suite 200, Latham, New York 12110

IN SPORTS:

GIRLS HOCKEY 2024-2025 HONOR ROLL: As chosen by girls hockey league coaches

- Offensive Player of the Year - Maya Griffin (FFLOP)
- Defensive Player of the Year - Jenny Wild (CASH)
- Coach of the Year - Nicola Admiej (CASH)
- James Rustin Awards - Rick Hopkins (Williamsville)

First Team:

Bella Jayme	Ken/GI/Port
Izzy Bourgeault	Ken/GI/Port
Abby Zimmerman	Niagara County
Jocelyn Smaczniak	FFLOP
Ella Celej	CASH

Teams:

FFLOP	Frontier, Franklinville, Lake Shore, and Orchard Park
KenGI-Port	Kenmore (East and West), Grand Island and Lockport
CASH	Clarence, Amherst, Sweet Home
HHEWS	Hamburg, Holland, Eden, West Seneca (East and West)
LIDA	Lancaster, Iroquois, Depew and Alden
Niagara County	Niagara Wheatfield, Starpoint, Lewiston-Porter



William L. Miller, NYSSBA Area 5 Director was elected to the National School Board of Directors. He will serve a one year post as NSBA's Northeast Region Director. Mr. Miller is currently a member of the Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Otesaga BOCES. He represents school districts in Jefferson, Lewis, Oswego, Oneida, Herkimer and Madison counties. He was elected NYSSBA Board President in 2018. During his term, he hopes to help bring states who left NSBA in recent years back into the organization and use ideas and input from other states to make the association stronger.