



This Week At ECASB ...

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

March 22, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB AWARD INFORMATION. The names of the recipients of the various ECASB Awards will be released over the course of the next few weeks. The annual dinner will be held June 6th. Award recipients will be recognized and the 2024-2025 officers will be installed. More details will be released within the next few weeks about the dinner. The awards that will be given out this year include: The Diana R. Miller Service to Education, The Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children, The Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hodgson Russ Collaboration Award, The Lorie Sabo Advocacy Award, The Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award, and the Friend(s) of ECASB Award. In addition, ECASB will recognize recipients of the Shining Star and Rising Star Awards.

This year the Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award is awarded to:

- Kristy Pingitore (Akron CSD)

This year the Lorie Sabo Award is awarded to:

- Michael Franey (Lake Shore CSD)

This year the Hodgson Russ Collaboration award is awarded to:

- Sweet Home CSD for the Northwest Community Center in conjunction with the Town of Amherst, the Amherst IDA and Zaepfel Development

SAD NEWS: Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Hamburg Board Member David Yoviene in the recent passing of his son Daniel Yoviene. Please keep David (Karen) Yoviene in your prayers along with his sister Natalie and brother David. Family will be present, Friday March 22, 2024 from 3-7 p.m. at the (Hamburg Chapel) John J. Kaczor Funeral Home at 5453 Southwestern Blvd. (corner of Rogers Road). A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at St. Bernadette Church 5930 S. Abbott Road, Orchard Park. Memorials may be made in memory of Dan to Village Engaged (www.villageengaged.com). Dan was a proud assistant coach at Hamburg Central School for modified football.

ECASB SPRING SPEEDBOARDING: Will be held Thursday, April 11th starting at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. The program will be held at the new CTE Center at Calspan, 4411 Genesee Street, Suite 200 Cheektowaga, NY. The program will provide an overview of the Digital Media program, Web Technologies & Game Programming, and Video Production and Recording Arts. The program opened in the fall of 2023. More information and registration will take place beginning next week.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JAY WORONA, ESQ.: NYSSBA is proud to announce that our very own Jay Worona has been named a 2024 Trailblazer in Law by City & State New York magazine. Click here - https://www.cityandstateny.com/power-lists/2024/03/2024-trailblazers-law/394895/?oref=csny_powerlist_nl - to set the full list. Jay is in the Public Policy section.

CHAMPIONS OF CHANGE: NYSSBA is happy to announce two WNY districts will be recognized as Champions of Change. A colorful banner is provided to the district that they can display in recogni-

tion of the creative programs/initiatives. The Champions of Change Banner will be presented at a future Board meeting.

- West Seneca CSD - "Gifted & Special Education Program"
- Orleans Niagara BOCES - "Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Program"

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.

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.

SAD NEWS: *Former West Seneca School Board Member Janice Dalbo* passed away March 20th. Jan served on the West Seneca CSD for 33 years beginning her Board of Education service in 1990. She retired from Board service last June in 2023. Mrs. Dalbo was awarded the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award in 2013. Mrs. Dalbo was active on the ECASB Legislative Committee and had served on the ECASB Awards Committee for several years. Jan served on the West Seneca Youth Court Executive Board, served as a judge for the Odyssey of Mind competitions, and for years represented the Board of Education at D.A.R.E. graduation. Additionally, Jan served as Vice President of the West Seneca Historical Society, was the recipient of the many ECASB Rising and Shining Star Awards, and had received the NYSSBA Board of Excellence Award recipient. Services will be at Loomis, Offers and Loomis on Tuesday March 26th from 3 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at 1820 Seneca Street. Church services will be March 27th at Immanuel Lutheran Church in East Aurora at 10:30 a.m.

NYSSBA UNIVERSAL MEALS CALL-IN DAY: NYSSBA is encouraging Board members to call-in on Tuesday March 26th to your representatives in the State Senate and the Assembly, as well as Governor Hochul's office to encourage full funding for school meals in the final state budget. The key to the message being sent is critical mass. Encourage parents in your community to make calls also.

DEADLINE FOR NYSSBA CONVENTION PRESENTATIONS: Is Monday, March 25th. Please contact NYSSBA for details.

CONGRATULATIONS TO AMHERST CSD STUDENT SAMANTHA JAY WHO WAS AWARDED NYSSBA'S TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY RECOGNITION PROGRAM: The certificate is presented to Samantha Jay to recognize her for her commitment and extraordinary leadership to form the first Mental Health Committee at her High School.

VISIT TO SWEET HOME CSD: I traveled North to visit the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education at their meeting. I thought it was Spring, but it seemed a lot more like winter as the roads were slippery, and the snow was flying on Tuesday evening. Sweet Home CSD is one of the few school districts in the area that is experiencing growth within the district. There was a report by the town of Amherst Supervisor on the redevelopment of the Boulevard Mall site which would bring additional housing and families to the area. The report was a very, very detailed report on the redevelopment plan. The Superintendent's report provided a great deal of information on the 2024-2025 budget as well. Thank you to Board President Amy Battaglia, Vice President Peter Bellanti, and Board Members Joshua Feldmann, Marianne Jasen, Brian Laible, Kailey McDonald, and Scott Johnson. Special Thank you to District Clerk Sherry McNamara, and Superintendent Dr. Michael Ginestre.

ONE HOUSE BUDGETS HAVE BEEN RELEASED: Please continue to advocate and let your legislators know where you stand on Save Harmless, Foundation Aid, Social/Emotional Health, School Safety, and any other issues that of concern to your Board of Education.

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.

ECASB IS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING THE 2024-2025 ACTIVITY AND MEETING CALENDAR.

Once the calendar is complete, we will send out so that any returning Board Members will be able to place events on their calendars. Final printed versions will be sent out after reorganization meetings.

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- March 23rd - Prospective School Board Member Workshop
- April 11th - ECASB Spring Speed Boarding
- 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 5:30 p.m. Registration; Kloc's - Seneca Creek Road

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- *Harris Beach PLLC*
 - March 28th - Legal Issues in Recruiting and Hiring Employees webinar 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
 - 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:

- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event

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... "Why does Jane Sullivan include information from Senator George Borrello and Senator Ortt in ECASB news?" Answer: Senator Borrello directly represents the Gowanda CSD and Springville Griffith Institute. He also represents component Boards of Education in the Erie 2 CC BOCES district. Erie 2 CC BOCES includes Erie County districts of East Aurora, Eden, North Collins, Holland, Iroquois and Orchard Park. Senator Ortt directly represents Akron CSD. Akron CSD falls within the Erie 1 BOCES boundaries. Hence, the actions of the Senators directly affect certain districts, but indirectly affects others.*

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

- **NYSSBA** has recently announced the recipients of the Champions of Change Award and the Tomorrow's Leaders Today Recognition Award. Superintendents are notified. The NYSSBA Area Director or an Ambassador will attend a Board Meeting to help present the award if the district desires. Dawn Snyder (Clarence CSD) is the Area 1 Representative serving on the NYSSBA Awards Committee.
- I attended the Niagara Fall City School Board Thursday evening. The Board of Education meets prior to the meeting for dinner. It was nice to be included in this Board of Education ritual.

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