



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

December 1, 2023

*Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531*

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**NOVEMBER 30TH SPEED BOARDING EVENT:** The Speed Boarding was a great success. Thank you to all who attended. We heard Family Court Judge Deanna Tripi discuss the connection between Schools and Family Court. We heard attorneys Jeff Weiss, Esq. and Andrew Mark Esq. from Harris Beach talk about several student issues. The program concluded with a session that featured Rachael Pudlewski from the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra. Panelists included Buffalo Public School Music Supervisor James Schwanz, Lancaster High School Director of Orchestras, Lynne Ruda and K-5 Vocal and General Music Teacher Julie Furlong from the Amherst Central School District.

**THE ECASB ELF ON A SHELF PROMOTION STARTS DECEMBER 1ST.** Today starts the first day of the Elf on a Shelf Promotion. Any correct guess gets you entered into the final drawing. You have to be in it to win it. Don't pout if you stay out.

**CONDOLENCES TO BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER PAULETTE WOODS.** Paulette's father passed away this past weekend. Father of 11 children, Grandfather to 28, Great Grandfather to 18, and Great, Great Grandfather to two. Paul Woods was a WWII veteran and earned three Bronze Stars and a Liberation of the Philippines medal. Mr. Woods turned 100 this past February. Condolences and notes of sympathy can be sent to Reverend Paulette Woods at 139 Oxford Avenue, Lower, Buffalo, New York 14209.

**WINTER RURAL SCHOOLS CONFERENCE.** Is currently being held in Saratoga Springs. The program began Thursday and concludes today. I am currently in attendance at the Winter Conference. On Thursday we had an address by the Commissioner of Education Dr. Betty Rosa, New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and SUNY Vice Chancellor for Student Success Dr. Donna Linderman. Today there will be a session on "School-Based Health Centers: More Than a Ban-Aid", a Legal Update, a Student Mental Health Panel, a Retention Panel and an Electric Bus Panel. I will follow up with a report upon my return.

**NYSSBA DIRECTORS' MEETING:** On my way from the Rural Schools Conference in Saratoga Springs, I am making a brief stop in Albany. I will be attending an orientation session on Friday followed by a Holiday get together at NYSSBA. I will be attending the general session of the Board of Directors meeting on Saturday. I will not be staying for the Executive Session portion of the meeting

which is held on Sunday.

**ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN JANUARY 3RD.** Watch for the details of the specific ECASB awards over the next few weeks.

**NYSSBA OFFICERS:** January 1st, President Sandra Ruffo (President of the Broome-Tioga BOCES Board and Past President of the Susquehanna Valley School Board), First Vice-President Christine Schnars (Erie 2 CC BOCES and Jamestown City School District), Second Vice-President Rodney George (Avon School Board) and Board Treasurer Tom Nespeca (Monroe 1 BOCES Board) will assume their official duties.

**ALDEN CSD GRADUATE:** Sandra Ruffo (nee Eggleston) grew up in Erie County, lived in the Alden community and graduated from Alden High School in 1967. She graduated from Harpur College, now part of Binghamton University, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology. She then attended SUNY Broom Community College where she received her degree as a registered nurse. She retired from nursing. She has been a School Board Member since 1985. She served on the Susquehanna Valley Board for 18 years, including 15 years as president. She has joined the Broome-Tioga BOCES Board of Education in 1995. While in Buffalo, Sandra Ruffo indicated the theme of her presidency will be to "Support the Whole Child". The theme will recognize the academic, emotional, psycho-social, safety and security needs of today's students. Sandra has received the Susquehanna Valley Distinguished Service Award in 2023, the Rural Schools of New York Appreciation Award in 2019, and the Friend of Education Award from the School Administrators Association of New York State in 2015. She and her husband, Sam have 5 married children, and 14 grandchildren.

**PROGRAM SERVICES MANAGER JANE SULLIVAN WILL BE SCHEDULING LOCAL LEGISLATOR VISITS.** If you are interested in meeting with a group of ECASB members with your Local Legislators BEFORE they head off to Albany, please contact Jane Sullivan at [jsullivan@e1b.org](mailto:jsullivan@e1b.org) by November 27th. Jane will be scheduling local meetings during the month of December and early January. If you are new to advocacy, you can attend and watch as there will be a small group of dedicated advocates attending the meetings and willing to let you watch and learn. If you are concerned about Foundation Aid, Zero Emission Buses, School Safety, Mental Health, Teacher and Staff Shortages, as well as other educational related issues, then you need to advocate with your fellow ECASB members. It is important that the Legislators hear from you and how these issues impact your students, your districts and your community.

**SURVEY RESULTS:** Senator Patrick Gallivan is my New York State Senator representing the 60th district. Each year, he sends out a survey to the households in his district. One of the questions was whether the amount of money NYS allocates for education should increase, decrease, or stay the same. Of those who responded 49% indicated it should stay the same, 34% indicated it should increase and 17% would like to see it decrease. The use of SRO's in schools is supported by 78%, while 61% said that NYS should provide funding, 24% said no NYS funding should be provided and 15% had no opinion. The vast majority 63% said that no mandatory Covid vaccines for school age children should be required. In 2021 50% of the respondents said that there should not be mandatory Covid vaccines for children.

**TRIVIA:** The trivia was to name a famous elf. Names sent in included Bernard (Santa Clause), Buddy (Elf), and Hermey (Rudolph). Locally back in the 1960's on local television there was Forgetful the Elf and Grumbles the Elf. The winner of the drawing among several entries was Lackawanna City School Board Member Kimberly Bukaty. Kimberly receives a \$15 Tim Horton Gift Card.

**LEGISLATIVE DINNER FOLLOW UP:** I had several Legislators and Legislative Aides contact me after the dinner to let me know that they really enjoyed the dinner and the conversation. They said they really were able to get a better perspective on the issues from our point of view. We NOW need to stay in constant contact.....call them, email them, use your ECASB post cards. Remember the old adage, "The squeaky wheel gets the oil".

**WE ARE FINALIZING DETAILS FOR THE 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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- December 1st- ECASB Elf On A Shelf Promotion Starts
- December 8th - ECASB Executive Board Meeting
- January 2nd - ECASB Award Nominations Open

**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

**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

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