



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

February 9, 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.

**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.

**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](mailto:dlowrey@e1b.org) to be considered to serve on the panel.

**CAPITAL CONFERENCE UPDATE:** The following ECASB members traveled to Albany on Tuesday for Wednesday's In Person Capital Conference, Jane Sullivan (ECASB/Iroquois CSD), Erik Polkowski (Akron CSD), Ed Schaeffer (Cheektowaga CSD), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD), Heather Jacobs (Iroquois CSD), Superintendent Sabatino Cimato (Ken-Ton UFSD), Matt Chimera (Ken-Ton UFSD), Todd Marquardt (Ken-Ton UFSD), Lee Ann Vogt (Ken-Ton UFSD), Karen Whitelaw (Ken-Ton UFSD), Superintendent Dan Pacos (Lake Shore CSD), Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore CSD), and Michael Franey (Lake Shore CSD). We visited many legislators including Senators Patrick Gallivan, Rob Ortt, Tim Kennedy, Sean Ryan, and Shelly Mayer as well as Assembly persons Bill Conrad, Monica Wallace, David DiPietro, Mike Norris, Stephen Hawley and Michael Benedetto. The group was introduced on the floor of the Assembly at the beginning of their session by Assemblyman Conrad. Topics discussed included Foundation Aid, the Foundation Aid Formula, Zero Emission Buses, as well as other topics.

Here is a short video clip of the introduction of part of the team that traveled to Albany being introduced to the New York State Assembly. <https://photos.app.goo.gl/1arYScoW5JSFapCWA>

**LETTER FROM SENATOR GEORGE BORRELLO:** Senator George Borrello representing the 57th District in New York State sent a letter to friends letting them know that Governor Hochul's proposed Executive Budget will result in huge losses for close to 1/2 the school districts in the state. There are specific items that Senator George Borrello suggests could have been cut or not funded:

- \$2.4 billion in funding NYC for its self-created migrant crisis (in addition to the \$2 billion al-

ready spent.

- \$150 million for swimming pools;
- \$40 million for theft prevention because criminals run rampant in our state thanks to policies that were instituted.

**OTHER COLSBA NEWS:** The Chautauqua County School Boards Association has outlined their 2024-2025 Legislative Priorities. Many of the priorities are the same as ours.

- Support/Increase school aid for 2024-2025 \$1.6 billion per Board of Regents
- Preserve and fully fund Expense-Based Aids; Transportation, BOCES, Capital Projects
- Fully fund state aid for 4-year old Pre-K education
- Allow fund balance to increase from current 4% to 10%
- Call on State to offer free breakfast and lunch to all students
- Increase threshold for building small capital projects from \$100,000 to \$250,000
- Change parts of Foundation Aid Formula:
  1. Increase weighting of High Need Students
  2. Update basic numbers in formula
  3. Use smaller ratio of CWR (Property or Income) and weigh the ratios differently
  4. Improve data collection and use Direct Certification
  5. Change Income Wealth Index and eliminate the .65 IWI floor
  6. Eliminate the 2.0 Income Wealth Index that increases aid to wealthiest districts
  7. Update Regional Cost Index (has not changed since 2007)
  8. Account for property tax cap of 2%; Minimum local contribution should be reconsidered.
  9. No More Community Schools “set asides”
- Regionalization for Educational Equity
- County Wide or Virtual/Hybrid High Schools
- Strengthen CTE by increasing \$30,000 cap
- Allow school districts to offer child care as automatically licensed providers
- Zero Emission Bus Overhaul
- School districts should determine if their schools can be used for polling places.
- Flexibility in school days
- New holidays make it difficult to meet minimum school attendance days.
- Provide mandate relief on CDL driving requirements
- Earnings cap waiver for Teachers should be extended.
- Change Civil Service requirements for hiring new staff

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

- February 15th - ECASB Budget and Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., A4
- February 29th - ECASB Delegate Assembly Meeting, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m, B1

**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
- **Hodgson Russ LLP-** February 8th - What Employers Need to Know. Presented by Asia Evans, Esq. and Elizabeth McPhail, Esq. Contact Hodgson Russ to register.

**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... "Can an employee of the district who is retiring in June run for the Board of Education?" Answer: Under normal circumstances - yes. They would retire in June and become a Board of Education member after July 1st. There would be complications if there were an open seat and top vote getter happens to be the employee who has not yet retired. In this case, they would have to forfeit the seat and could not run again for another year.*

**NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:**

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

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