



This Week At ECASB ...

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

May 9, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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Happy Mother's Day to all Mothers, Grandmothers, Godmothers, Step Moms, Aunts, and any woman that has been important and influential in the life of a child.

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!

J.P. MORGAN CORPORATE CHALLENGE IS JUNE 12TH. It came to our attention that the J.P. Morgan Corporate Challenge happens to be on June 12th, which is the same date as the ECASB Annual Dinner. ECASB reached out to J.P. Morgan to find out if they have a set date each year for the corporate challenge to see if we can avoid it in the future. ECASB establishes their calendar in February/March of the previous year. The 2025 Annual ECASB Dinner was set back in March of 2024. The corporate challenge in Buffalo was announced in January/February 2025. The Buffalo corporate challenge is usually scheduled 2 weeks after the New York City corporate challenge. ECASB has traditionally scheduled the annual dinner the 2nd Thursday of June. Thursdays have been selected for ECASB events as it is the night of the week with the least number of districts having Board of Education meetings. (Only two districts have their meetings on Thursday nights). The ECASB Executive Board will discuss the issue at their June meeting.

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.

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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.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES INDOOR AIR QUALITY GRANT APPLICATION: NSBA has partnered with Go Green Initiative on an EPA funded program to improve air quality and reduce gas emissions in low-income and Tribal school districts. Each year 10 schools will be chosen to receive on-the-ground technical assistance and \$50,000 in grant funding to enact Indoor Air Quality Management plans. To qualify, districts must serve a population of 50% or more who qualify for free and reduced-price lunch or reside in a Tribal community. Deadline for submission of the application is May 15, 2025. For more information please contact Jill Buck, CEO Go Green Initiative, at Jillbuck@gogreeninitiative.org.

GOVERNANCE TRAINING AT MONROE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION. In the event that a School Board member is unable to attend ECASB's Governance Training on June 3rd and 7th, School Board members could travel to Monroe County to take advantage of the In Person training on Saturday, June 7th. Registration is due by May 30th. Cost is \$175 and includes continental breakfast, lunch, and New School Board Member Handbook. Check in is 7:30 a.m.. Training will be from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at The Strathallan Rochester Hotel, 555 East Avenue, Rochester, New York. For more information, please contact Tammy Gurowski at 585-328-1972.

RURAL SCHOOLS SUMMER CONFERENCE: The Rural Schools Summer Conference will take place on July 13-15 at Lake Placid this year. The event begins at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday July 13th. The conference adjourns at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 15th. Featured events include Curling 101 on Sunday and a reception on Monday evening at the Lake Placid Olympic Ski Jumping complex.

NYSSBA RESOLUTIONS IMPORTANT DATES:

- 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 @ 5:00 p.m. - Deadline for submission or amendments rebuttals and endorsements.
- September 29, 2025 - Distribution of voting delegate guide
- October 16, 2025 @4:00 p.m. - Annual NYSSBA Virtual Business Meeting.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION UPCOMING STATE BUDGET WEBINAR: Rural Schools Association of New York State will hold a Legislative Lunch Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 13th at noon. The meeting link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88454548609?pwd=QFZva4DTayiuEsHg7cz89sRa7AdnSB.1> . RSA Executive Director Dave Little, NYSCOSS Deputy Director and NSSBA's Governmental Relations Director, Brian Fessler will discuss state budget implication particularly for rural schools.

EDUCATION RELATED BUDGET ITEMS: State budget runs were available on Thursday. Below are

highlights that have been released related to the budget:

- Full funding of Foundation Aid.
- Minimum 2% Foundation Aid increase for all school districts.
- Universal free school breakfast and lunch.
- Increase to the BOCES aidable salary cap will move from \$30,000 to \$60,000 in 2028-2029.
- Foundation Aid formula changes to student poverty/need factors.
- Foundation Aid formula increases to assist English language learners
- Foundation Aid formula change to increase English language learner weighting from .50 to .53

NYSSBA AND ECASB ARE PROUD TO RECOGNIZE NYSSBA'S BOARD RECOGNITION RECIPIENTS.

Within the NYSSBA structure, there are 4 levels.

- Level 1: Board Achievement Award; 75 points, Achievement Certificate
- Level 2: Board Excellence Award; 150 points, Excellence Certificate and recognition in On-Board
- Level 3: Board Mastery Award; 250 points, Mastery Certificate, free registration for a seminar, recognition in On-Board, and a padfolio
- Level 4: Board Lifetime Achievement Award; 500 points, Board Lifetime Achievement plaque, free registration to NYSSBA Annual Convention, Recognition in On-Board, Executive pen set.

Level 1 ECASB Recipients:

Loren Barulich (West Seneca)
Christina Bleckinger (Williamsville)
Dennis Feldmann (Lake Shore)
Maria Improta (East Aurora)
Patrick Law (Depew)
Jason Madden (Starpont)
Cindi Magera (Clarence)
Beth Pyskaty (Starpont)
James Stachewicz (Cheektowaga-Sloan)
Keith Vergien (Iroquois)

Level 2 ECASB Recipients:

Heather Cayea (Akron)
Stephanie Dombrowski (Cheektowaga-Sloan)
Terrance Heard (Buffalo)
Cindi McEachon (Buffalo)
Maureen Poulin (Williamsville)
Beth Pyskaty (Starpont)
Sherry Steffans (Grand Island)
Paul Steimle (Amherst)
Lee Ann Vogt (Ken-Ton)
Karen Whitelaw (Ken Ton)

Level 3 ECASB Recipients:

Mary Ann Costello (Frontier)
Kimberlee Danieu (East Aurora)
Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst)
Crystal Kaczmarek-Bogner (Williamsville)
Mark Mecca (Erie 1 BOCES)
Gary Sieczkarek (Cheektowaga-Sloan)

Level 4 ECASB Recipients:

Carol Kiripolsky (Cheektowaga)
Edward Schaefer (Cheektowaga)
Jane Sullivan (Iroquois)
Paulette Woods (Buffalo)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- 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:

- Grand Island School Board Member Sherry Steffans - will be running for Grand Island Councilperson. Her fundraiser is June 11th at Malwitz's Bowling. Cost is \$40 and includes shoes, bowling, pizza and pop.
- Friday, July 11th - Assembly Cup Golf Tournament - NYS Assemblyman David DiPietro @ Elma Meadows Golf Course 1711 Girdle Road, Elma, New York. Individual is \$150, twosome \$300, and foursome \$500. Includes Lunch at the turn, 18 hole of golf, dinner, contests and prizes. To register and information contact Jeff Souder at 716-866-0478 or daviddipietroforyou@gmail.com

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- 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:

- July 13th - 15th - Summer Conference at Lake Placid. Single day registration is \$250. Full conference registration is \$495. If you have questions please reach out to Andrea Durmiaki, RSA Director of Communications and Planning at adurmiak@rsany.org. Registration will be coordinated through FEH BOCES. Register at rsaconference@fehb.org.

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

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: When I attended the Medina CSD Board of Education meeting, they have a table set up with not only the sign in sheet and the agenda, but they also had their most recent district newsletter, the Mustang Journal. Additionally they had the Orleans/Niagara Bulletin. Many times community members may be visiting the Board meeting for the first time and it is great to have positive public relations materials available. Many districts in ECASB also have the school calendar and Board of Education flyer available.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

Now that I have visited all the ECASB districts, I have started to visit the rest of the districts in NYSSBA Area 1. On Tuesday night I traveled to Medina CSD and on Thursday night I visited with the Byron-Bergen CSD Board Members. It is great to meet with Boards of Education outside the immediate area to see how their meetings are conducted and what their needs are for their districts.

IN SPORTS:

No news this week.