



This Week At ECASB

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



Week Ending OCTOBER 6, 2023 -
Dave's Cell Phone - 716-867-3531

Platinum Level Sponsor



OCTOBER IS BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH: The pink ribbon is synonymous with Breast Cancer. When Breast Cancer Awareness began in 1985, it began as a campaign for a week. The awareness campaign now covers the entire month of October.

OCTOBER IS NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO! If school board members were school board members last year, they were provided with lawn signs last year (hopefully you still have them), to thank you for your service on behalf of ECASB. If you are a new board member, you should have received a sign. The signs were distributed via events, ECASB Committee Meetings, or were dropped off directly to District Clerks/sent interschool mail. Please place the sign on your front lawn and know that NYSSBA, ECASB and the community support you and thank you for your service. If you do not wish to keep the sign out during the entire month, you could put the sign out during School Board Appreciation Week which is October 15th—21st this year. Please keep the sign for future years. If you need a replacement sign, let me know.

ALBANY UPDATE WITH DAVE LITTLE - November 2th at Creekside Banquet Center, Cheektowaga. Registration closes on October 26th. Register with your District Clerk. Watch for details soon

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: The Legislative Breakfast will be held at the Columns Banquet Center November 16th. The event will be a plated dinner. Deadline to register with your District Clerk is November 2nd. Watch for details soon.

NYSSBA ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING - OCTOBER 16th AT 4:00 P.M.: You will want to make sure that you have your proposed resolutions book handy so that you can follow along. The night could be a long night with the number of resolutions. You might want to plan on a light dinner that you can eat in front of the computer.

THE WINNER OF THE BOARD CONNECTION TRIVIA #4 IS: The Winner of the \$15.00 Gift Card to Tim Hortons is Tricia Andrews from the Clarence CSD Board who correctly identified the year that ECASB Executive Director Dave Lowrey was first elected to the Iroquois School Board. In case you are wondering - the year was 1987.

BOARD CONNECTION & NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS: I just sent out one last chance reminder for new School Board Members. ECASB would like to feature all new school Board Members in the weekly Board Connection, however, if we don't have the information, we are unable to share the information with our membership. ECASB Board Members enjoy reading about ECASB newest members. ECASB is able to use the information from the Board Connections in future write-ups when members are the recipients of ECASB annual awards.

LAST YEAR ECASB HAD A STUDENT LEADERSHIP DINNER: We invited students from ECASB member districts who serve on their member District Boards of Education as a Student Representative. We had a guest speaker, invited Board Presidents, Superintendents, and the student's parents to the dinner to honor the student for their time and service. One suggestion was to have a one day or a 1/2 day conference for the student leaders so that they would be able to talk and discuss their roles amongst themselves. ECASB chose to NOT host the Student Leadership Dinner this year, and perhaps restructure it and bring it back next year. Not all Boards/Superintendents were on board with the Student Leadership Dinner last year. Last year we provided the Student Leaders a portfolio at the dinner. Even though we will not be having the dinner this year, we do have portfolios available to honor the Board Student representative if School Boards are interested in giving it to the Student Board Member. The portfolios have the following wording on the front of the black portfolio:

Board of Education Student Leader

ECASB Logo

You Voice Matters

Please let us know if you would like one of the portfolios to honor your Board Student Representative, and we will send it to the District Clerk via interschool mail.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ECASB OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 9TH:

In observance of Columbus Day / Indigenous People's Day the office will be closed on Monday, October 9th. We will return on Tuesday, October 10th.

VOTING DELEGATE REGISTRATION CLOSING WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11TH AT 12:00 P.M.: Voting delegates need to have their district clerks register them. The business meeting will be held virtually on Monday, October 16th at 4:00 p.m.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE: Has announced its' 2023-2024 Student Video Contest. The theme is the 'The Miracle of Rural Education'. The contest is open through January 12, 2024.

- Students may work in groups or individually. A class or club may submit and entry.
- Students must identify a faculty/staff mentor to complete the registration on their behalf.
- Various video platforms are allowed (YouTube, Vimeo, etc).
- Submissions are specifically 2-3 minutes in length. No longer than 5 minutes.
- Entries are due January 12, 2024.
- Age groups are K-6 and 7-12.

DR. RICK TIMBS PROGRAM ON OCTOBER 12TH "FEDERAL AID, STATE AID & FINANCE CONSIDERATIONS FOR 2023-2024 AND BEYOND: Deadline to register for the event was Thursday, October 5th. Dr. Timbs is the Executive Director of the State Wide School Finance Consortium and is often called upon by state legislators to providing information on Foundation Aid and the impact on schools. For those individuals that are unable to attend the meeting, you can always check out the Chautauqua County School Boards website to see the recording. Although your district's numbers will not be available, you will be able to hear about key talking points when meeting with your legislators about Foundation Aid and Zero Emission School Buses.

KICK OFF TO CONVENTION: New This Year. Kick-Off will be held on Wednesday October 25th at Resurgence Brewing Company. This will be a free event for ECASB members and Platinum and Gold Level Sponsors to get together to prepare for the upcoming NYSSBA Convention and Expo in Buffalo. Hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be served. We have a few spots remaining

THANK YOU TO THE FRONTIER CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION. I was able to attend the Frontier CSD Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd and see updated pictures of the recent Capital Project that ECASB Gold Level Sponsor Campus Construction shared with the audience. When I looked at the agenda early in the day - I thought to myself "I am going to be there all night long". The Board President and the Board kept the meeting moving right along and was able to have great discussions, discuss ECASB Committee meetings, and make general comments at the end of the meeting. I could not believe how much business was taken care of in such a short time. Special Thank you to Board President Dr. Mary Ann Costello, Vice President John Cordier, Board Members Patrick Boyle, Daniel Diplock, Davis Podkulski, John Kilcoyne, Jr. and James Voto. Special thank you to Superintendent Christopher Swiatek, and District Clerk Shannon Cross.

ON WEDNESDAY NIGHT, I TOOK A TRIP TO AKRON CSD ON A WARM EARLY FALL EVENING. I was able to view a presentation from three Middle School students who shared an informative slide show on the Akron Middle School and the Student Government program. Thank you to President Erik Polkowski, Vice President Phillip Kenline, Board Members Ryan Allen, Heather Cayea, Joseph Cena, Stephanie Coffa and Kristy Pingitore. In addition to the Middle School student presentation, I was also able to hear a discussion about potential Board Development programs that the district is reviewing. Many higher functioning Boards in Erie County will tend to take time as a Board to provide Professional Development to the Board Members and conduct a Board Self Evaluation. Reviewing Board Goals, the Board's Mission and Vision statement, and taking the time to have conversations helps to make the Board a much more effective Board of Education. Districts spend thousands of dollars on professional development on their entire staff. Boards of Education rarely take the time to have meaningful Professional Development for themselves. Thank you also to Interim Superintendent Andrea Kersten and District Clerk Roxanne Rebmann.

THE FOLLOWING DISTRICT CLERKS TOOK TIME OUT OF THEIR BUSY SCHEDULE TO ATTEND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. Presenters included NYSSBA Legal Counsel and Deputy Director Mr. Jay Worona, Esq., Melanie Beardsley, Esq. from Webster Szanyi, and motivational speaker Soda Kuczkowski who is a Sleep Health Educator and Certified Sleep Coach. District Clerks that were able to join use included: Deb Custodi (Amherst), Dr. Will Keresztes (Buffalo), Melissa Wilson (Cassadaga Valley), Paula Jones (Cattaraugus Little Valley), Heidi Martin (Chautauqua Lake), Jessica Hedges (Cheektowaga), Megan Sutton (Clarence), Wendy Limardi (Cleveland Hill), Stephanie Leek (Clymer), Jessica Neischel (Depew), Elizabeth Casey (East Aurora), Trisha DeGraff (Erie 2 CC BOCES), Shannon Cross (Frontier), Kathy Ferneza (Gowanda), Jude Kuehne (Grand Island), Nora Specht (Iroquois), Gina Santa Maria (Ken-Ton), Sheena Palmer (Maryvale), Crystal Frank (Newfane), Kathy Mason (North Collins), Kristie Ling (Pine Valley), Carrie Bartoszek (Pioneer), Jenna Snell (Royalton-Hartland), Michelle Moore (Tonawanda), Tina Winslow (Westfield Academy), and Jennifer Pavan (Wilson). The program focused on Roberts Rules of Order, Parliamentary Procedure, and the Reorganization Meeting. A second District Clerk workshop will be held for a 1/2 day in January. Many district clerks are afraid to take a day, or even part of a day to attend a workshop. Professional Development for School District Clerks is EXTREMELY important. The information that is gained at the workshops help the District Clerk understand the legalities associated with their job. Please encourage your District Clerks to attend ECASB programs, NYSSBA programs, and ASBO programs.

NOT SURE IF YOUR PASSWORD IS SECURE? Visit www.bitwarden.com. Scroll to bottom of screen and click on "password strength tester". When you type in your password, the program will let you know your password strength and the estimated time to crack the password. The program can also generate passcodes for you.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events)

- October 12th - A Night with Rick Timbs at The Columns - 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
- October 16th - Legislative Committee Meeting - 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- October 25th - Convention Kick Off at Resurgence Brewing Company
- October 26th - 28th - NYSSBA Convention and Expo
- November 2nd - Dave Little Program - See attachments
- November 16th - Legislative Dinner - Information will be sent out soon.
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SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- Harris Beach PLLC
 - October 18, Fall 2023 Special Education Update @ Creekside Banquet Facility 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.; Available via webinar also.
 - November 16th - End of Year Labor Updates
 - 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:

- Assemblyman David DiPietro - October 12th. 5th Annual Sportsman Dinner; Doors open at 5:30

p.m. Dinner at 7:00 p.m. @ Arrowhead Golf Club 12292 Clarence Center Road, Akron. Event ticket is \$99.00. Questions - call Nancie at 716-548-6560. Send checks to DiPietro For You; P.O. Box 700, East Aurora, NY 14052

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Lunchtime Webinar Series: (Watch live or view the recording at your convenience)
- October 11th 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Meeting Today's Communication Challenges
- Superintendent Evaluation Workshop (2023 Live Virtual Workshop) September 22nd from 8:00 a.m.— Noon.
- October 6th 8:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Live Virtual Board Officers Academy - Gain a better understanding of the job of the Board President and identify strategies for effective communication, positive superintendent relations and how to work with the media. Learn about school board self evaluations.

***"THIS WEEK AT ECASB" IS
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