



This Week At ECASB ...

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

December 22, 2023

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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LOCAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS: - Senator Gallivan: Thursday, January 11th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2721 Transit Road, Elma. Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan will provide updates on the various meetings attended for those ECASB members that are unable to attend.

WE WISH LINDA HOFFMAN WELL IN RETIRING AS NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR: *If you would like to drop Linda Hoffman a note as she steps down as the NYSSBA Area 1 Director, her address is 11805 Snyder Road, Springville NY 14141 or lhoffman@e2ccb.org. Additionally, Linda has recently been appointed to the NYS Rural Schools Association Board of Directors.*

ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2ND. Consider nominating someone from your Board of Education to receive an award and honor them for their work. Nomination forms are kept on file and reconsidered every year for a period of 5 years. Forms will be sent out on January 2nd. Older forms are available on the ECASB website under the Awards tab. Please note that the incorrect submission date is on those forms. Those forms will be updated on January 2nd.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE: 2023-2024 Student Video Contest 'The Miracle of Rural Education' is open now through January 12, 2024. A student or a club may submit entries. Video should be 2-3 minutes in length and should not exceed 5 minutes. Questions, please contact Andrea Durmiaki, Director of Communications and Planning at adurmiaki@rsany.org.

WE SAY GOODBYE TO HOLLAND DISTRICT CLERK AND SECRETARY TO THE SUPERINTENDENT LYNETTE CRACCHIOLA. Lynette was very helpful to ECASB as we brought Holland CSD back into the ECASB membership. We thank her for her assistance and wish her well in retirement. Lynette's last day will be December 28, 2023.

ECASB WELCOMES SUE RADECKI AND SARA STOCK: Sue Radecki will become the new Holland CSD District Clerk on January 1, 2024. Sara Stock will become the new Secretary to the Superintendent on January 1, 2024.

I VISITED LAKE SHORE CSD ON TUESDAY DECEMBER 19TH: The school is filled with festive holiday décor, athletes playing different sports, the chorus practicing, and just a lot of activity! Walking

through the halls reminds me of my teaching days at Lockport High School where it seemed like there was something going on every hour of the day and every day of the week. Thank you to Board President Jennifer Michalec, Vice President Mike Franey, Board Members Kathleen Chiavetta, William Connors, Arlene DeJoy-Meckes, Dennis Feldman, and Megan Smaldino. Special Thanks to Superintendent Daniel Pacos, District Clerk Kristine DeMartino, Business Manager Johnathan Perry and Legal Counsel Marnie Smith from Webster Szanyi LLP.

IT WAS BACK TO THE SOUTHTOWNS ON WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 20TH AND TO THRUWAY EXIT # 75A EDEN-ANGOLA. Except this time I turned left to attend the Eden CSD Board of Education Meeting. I heard a detailed report on the middle school. It's been awhile since I have been in middle school. Not sure if I would ever want to go back to middle school, but the report was very detailed. Eden Middle School has only been in existence for a short time. The district is able to design the Middle School to meet the many new challenges with mental health, DEI, and other issues in education. Thank you to Board President Donald Sutfin, Vice President Jennifer Horschel, Board Members Cheryl Carpenter, Jack Cuddihy, Jen DellaPenta, Marlene Grunder, and Allan Silver. Special Thank you to Superintendent Jeffrey Sortisio and District Clerk Barb Thomasulo.

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 about the program have already been sent. Start the New Year out right by attending this informative and entertaining presentation.

ECASB ELF ON A SHELF PROMOTION CONCLUDES: We had a record number of ECASB members participate in the holiday promotion. Three names were drawn from the 486 entries. Receiving the first place prize was Board Member Jim Stachewicz. He received a holiday cookie jar, cookies from Bipperts Farms, Watson's Chocolates and \$200 cash. Receiving second prize of a \$100 Gift Card to Macy's was Holland Superintendent Eric Lawton. Third place prize was a \$50 Gift Card to Barnes and Nobles Bookstore. That prize was won by Hamburg Business Administrator Christine Ljungberg. Thank you to Image Model Management, and Platinum Level Sponsors Evans Government Services, Harris Beach PLLC, and Hodgson Russ LLP for contributing to the promotion.

I STILL HAVE TO GET TO THE FOLLOWING SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS: I will start back up with Board visits in January. Districts on the list include: Amherst CSD, Gowanda CSD, Grand Island CSD, Hamburg CSD, Springville CSD, Sweet Home CSD, Williamsville CSD, Pioneer CSD, and Starpoint CSD

NEW YORK STATE MATH AND ELA SCORES HAVE BEEN RELEASED: The complete listing was available in the Buffalo News on December 21st.

ELECTRIC BUS MANDATE: State Senator George Borrello and 14 Republicans are asking Governor Kathy Hochul to rescind the electric bus mandate for public schools or commit to fully funding the conversion. Please contact your local legislator and urge them to join Senator Borrello.

LOOKING AHEAD: The ECASB office is closed December 25th, 26th and the 29th.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd - ECASB Award Nominations Open

- Local Legislative Meetings with NYS Senators and Assemblypersons during the month of December and January.
- January 27th - “Lets (Not) Freak Out About A.I.”

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**
 - January 12th - 39th Annual School Client Conference 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; at M Hotel Buffalo; 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo New York

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

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- Equity Symposium - January 27th in Washington D.C
- Advocacy Institute - January 28th-30th in Washington D.C.
- Annual Conference and Exposition - April 4-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Rural Education Summit - April 5th in New Orleans, Louisiana

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