



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

March 28, 2024

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

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*Happy Easter!*

**THE ECASB OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED:** Thursday March 28th due to vacation days taken by staff and Friday, March 29th in observance of Good Friday. We will return to the office on Monday, April 1st. Do not forget the registration deadline for the Speed Boarding April 11th Twist on Tech at BOCES is April 4th. This is one of the last programs that will be offered this year. The ECASB Road Rally will be on April, Saturday 27th...with more details to come after Easter.

Looking ahead, I will be traveling to the NSBA Convention and Expo in New Orleans on Thursday, April 4th. I will return on April 9th. There will not be a This Week at ECASB sent out again until Friday, April 12th. Hopefully we will have a new budget with Hold Harmless restored. As always, if you have specific questions, you can always call my cell phone.

**ECASB AWARD INFORMATION.** The names of the recipients of the various ECASB Awards will be released over the course of the next few weeks. The annual dinner will be held June 6th. Award recipients will be recognized and the 2024-2025 officers will be installed. More details will be released within the next few weeks about the dinner. The awards that will be given out this year include: The Diana R. Miller Service to Education, The Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children, The Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the Hodgson Russ Collaboration Award, The Lorie Sabo Advocacy Award, The Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award, and the Friend(s) of ECASB Award. In addition, ECASB will recognize recipients of the Shining Star and Rising Star Awards.

**The Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award:**

- Scott Johnson (Sweet Home CSD)

**Laura Burns Advocacy For Children Award:**

- Sharon Belton Cottman (Buffalo PS)

**ECASB SPRING SPEEDBOARDING:** Will be held Thursday, April 11th starting at 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

The program will be held at the new CTE Center at Calspan, 4411 Genesee Street, Suite 200 Cheektowaga, NY. The program will provide an overview of the Digital Media program, Web Technologies & Game Programming, and Video Production and Recording Arts. The program opened in the fall of 2023. More information and registration will take place beginning next week.

**PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP:** ECASB held the Prospective School Board Member Workshop this past Saturday. Special Thank You to Maureen Poulin (Williamsville CSD), James McDermott (Maryvale UFSD) and Jane Sullivan (Iroquois CSD) for serving on the panel discussion to discuss their experiences with serving on the Board. Also Thank You to Cheektowaga CSD District Clerk Jessica Hedges who attended 'just to get to know more about running for a school board'. There were 3 participants from Chautauqua County School Districts, 2 participants from Niagara County School Districts, and 16 from Erie County School Districts. Participants arrived from Alden, Amherst, Buffalo, Iroquois, Lake Shore, North Collins, Orchard Park, Pioneer, Tonawanda, West Seneca, and Williamsville

**THE FINAL NEW YORK STATE BUDGET HAS NOT BEEN ADOPTED.** Continue to contact your legislators and let them know where you stand on issues.

**ECASB ANNUAL DINNER IS THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH.** We are in the process of finalizing details. Please note that the dinner will be at Kloc's in West Seneca. We will have our traditional ECASB Basket Raffle and Split Club which benefits that Lorie Sabo Advocacy Scholarship fund. Baskets should be donated by individuals or ECASB members. More details will be sent out in the weeks ahead.

**VISIT TO WILLIAMSVILLE CSD:** I traveled to Williamsville CSD on Tuesday. I was able to observe the Williamsville CSD Budget presentation and then stay for the Community Forum sponsored by the Williamsville Board of Education. There were about 15 people in attendance at the meeting. The Board structured the Community Forum whereby those wishing to speak would introduce themselves, discuss one strength of the district, and then discuss the issue that they wanted to address to the Board of Education. Various topics raised by parents included: the science of reading, high school start times, healthy cooking classes, to air conditioning in the schools. The Board and Superintendent responded with their thoughts on the various topics. Thank you to Board President Dr. Swaroop Singh, Vice President Crystal Kaczmarek-Bogner, and Board Members Christina Bleckinger, Stuart Bulan, Michael Buscaglia, Dr. Michael Littman, Mark Manna, Maureen Poulin, and Dr. Kerry Spicer. Special Thank You to Superintendent Dr. Darren Brown-Hall and District Clerk Lynn Carey.

**ONE HOUSE BUDGETS HAVE BEEN RELEASED:** Please continue to advocate and let your legislators know where you stand on Save Harmless, Foundation Aid, Social/Emotional Health, School Safety, and any other issues that of concern to your Board of Education.

**ECASB IS IN THE PROCESS OF FINALIZING THE 2024-2025 ACTIVITY AND MEETING CALENDAR.** Once the calendar is complete, we will send out so that any returning Board Members will be able to place events on their calendars. Final printed versions will be sent out after reorganization meetings.

**CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY SCHOOL BOARDS:** The CCSBA hosted David Little last week at a Legislative Dinner Update. You can listen to the report, as well as any other presenters via their website. Their website is: [www.ccsba.org/meeting-presentations](http://www.ccsba.org/meeting-presentations).

**APPR UPDATE:** The NYS Educational Conference Board in partnership with SED announced an agreement on legislation to reform the New York's teacher and principal evaluation. You can read more about the agreement by visiting the NYSSBA website. The NYS Educational Conference Board is a collaborative group comprised of Association of School Business Officials, Conference of Big 5 School District, the New York State School Board Association, New York State PTA, New York State United Teachers, and School Administrators Association of New York State.

**SUMMER HAPPENINGS:** Spring has just, but summer programs are already starting to appear on the calendar.

- Grand Island CSD will be hosting a second Lunch and Learn event sponsored by ZeroEyes on July 25, 2024 at Grand Island High School in the Auditorium 1100 Ransom Road, Grand Island, NY 14072. [CLICK HERE TO RSVP](#) The ZeroEyes team will be conducting testing and offering a brief overview of their software at 11:00 am. The Lunch and Learn will end around 12:30 pm. ZeroEyes is

a human-verified proactive gun detection and situational awareness software that integrates into existing digital security cameras with a mission to stop mass shootings and gun-related violence.

**6 HOUR MANDATED GOVERNANCE TRAINING AND 6 HOUR MANDATED FISCAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

- Governance Training - Part I - May 28th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  
Part II - June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- \* A light dinner will be served during the 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. sessions.
- \* A continental breakfast will be served during the Saturday morning sessions.
- \* All sessions are In Person.
- \* Must attend both parts of a session to receive credit.
- \* Member District cost is \$100 per course; Non Member District cost is \$250.
- \* Certificates will be provided.
- \* All sessions will be held at Erie 1 BOCES; 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, Building B
- \* Participants must register with their district clerk the Thursday before the training sessions.

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

- April 11th - ECASB Spring Speed Boarding
- April 18th - Legislative Team Meeting 6:30 p.m./ B1
- April 27th - 2nd Annual ECASB Road Rally 8:30 a.m. start time (Location will be announced).
- May 9th - Delegate Assembly Meeting 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.; B1
- May 11th - Legislative Wrap Up Breakfast @ The Columns - Transit Road, Elma 9:00 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
- May 28th / June 1st - Governance Training
- June 6th - ECASB Annual Awards Dinner/Meeting 5:30 p.m. Registration; Kloc's - Seneca Creek Road
- June 11th/15th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training

**SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:**

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
  - March 28th - Legal Issues in Recruiting and Hiring Employees webinar 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
  - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
  - June 27th - Workplace Leave Laws webinar 8:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

**POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:**

None Listed

**NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:**

- May 8th - Artificial Intelligence: A New Frontier for School District Policy. Join live or watch the recording at your convenience. 8:30 a.m. - 11:45. \$140 for members / \$280 for non-members
- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event

**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... "With Budget Presenta-*

*tions taking place at most Board of Education meetings, what is the best way to respond when a question is asked of me about the budget while I am shopping at Wegmans, walking my dog in the neighborhood, attending a high school sporting event or a middle school concert?" The School Business Official has all of the facts and figures. They are best suited to answer the initial question, as well as answer any additional questions that may develop. Refer the individual to the Superintendent or the Business Official. It is a good practice to give the Superintendent or the Business Official a heads up that a call may be coming their way so that they are prepared for the phone call or email.*

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

*This week I ventured east and attended the Batavia City School District Board of Education meeting. It is interesting to see how each Board is just a little different in their traditions.*

*Please note that NYSSBA has many great resources from brochures to full length books on a variety of topics. They have a "2024 Running for School Board-What all prospective School Board Members should know" pamphlet available that you can refer potential School Board candidates to if they want more information about the job of a School Board member.*

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