



This Week At ECASB ...

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

January 12, 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 web page.

ECASB OFFICE CLOSED JANUARY 15TH: The ECASB office will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will reopen on Tuesday, January 16th.

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 “Let’s (Not) Freak Out About A.I. This program will be our Saturday morning breakfast session held at Erie 1 BOCES. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Mike Doughty. **Deadline to register is WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17TH. Register through your District Clerk.**

THE NEW YORK STATE EXECUTIVE BUDGET IS SET TO BE RELEASED JANUARY 16TH BY THE GOVERNOR. Once the budget is released, there will be many conversations from NYSCOSS, ASBO, NYSSBA, NYS Rural Schools Association.

GRAND ISLAND CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING: Is where I traveled to on Monday evening. The Board adopted a resolution regarding Zero Emission buses. Once I have the signed document, I will share with other ECASB members in the event they would like to adopt a similar resolution. Thank you to Board President Dr. Ashli Dreher, Vice President Susan Marston, Board Members Glen Bobeck, Danielle Bruno, Jay Gover, Joy LaMarca, and Sherry Steffans. Special Thanks to District Clerk Jude Kuehne, Superintendent Dr. Brian Graham, and administrative staff Cheryl Cardone, Michael Lauria and Dr. Robert Merkle. I was also able to reconnect with a few school administrators prior to the Board Meeting. Huth Road Elementary Principal Maxwell Pikula and several teachers from the Grand Island CSD took NYSUT Graduate classes from me when I taught them years ago. I knew back then that Max had the skills to become a great building principal. I was also able to reconnect with the Grand Island CSD Director of Instructional Technology Robin Kwiatek. Robin and I took several administrative classes together at Canisius College before it became a University.

REGISTER FOR THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE. You can register for the Virtual Capital Conference which will be on February 2nd and learn how to prepare to advocate on behalf of your school, or you can register for the In-Person Lobby Day scheduled in Albany on February 7, 2024. If you cannot attend the in person day, why not register for the Virtual portion and then meet with your legislators when they are at home in their district. There are many resources on the NYSSBA website for School Board members that are new to advocacy.

NEW BOOKS IN ECASB LIBRARY: The books below were donated by past NYSSBA Area 1 Director:

- The Key Work of School Boards (Guidebook)
- Team Leadership for Student Achievement
- Aligning Resources for Student Achievement
- The Sunshine Laws
- Threat Assessment in Schools

I WILL NO LONGER BE A CHIEF. At the end of the year, the Iroquois Chiefs will no longer exist. A new mascot has been named... Iroquois will now be known as the Iroquois Red Hawks. With this change, I wonder if my old Iroquois pendant, my high school ring, and other memorabilia will increase in value. As a former Art Teacher and a Graphic Designer maybe I will submit a logo idea if I have the time.

THANK YOU TO: Jane Sullivan (Iroquois CSD), Patrick Boyle and James Voto (Frontier CSD), Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD), and Dennis Priore (Clarence CSD) who took the time to visit with Senator Gallivan at his office in Elma on Transit Road on Thursday as part of the Local Advocacy Week.

CONGRAULATIONS TO LAKE SHORE CSD ON RECEIVING CLOSE TO \$8 MILLION FOR FUNDING 20 ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUSES: Lake Shore was one of 67 districts across the nation to receive the funds as part of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean School Bus Program Grant Competition.

ECASB FACTS AND FIGURES DOCUMENT: The electronic version of the ECASB Facts and Figures has been sent to all ECASB members. The document is also on the ECASB webpage. If you would like a hard copy of the document, please let out office know. We have a limited number printed.

I AM TAKING PART IN A BOOK STUDY AS PART OF THE BUFFALO SCHOOL BOARD PROGRAM. The book is Great On Their Behalf by Airick Journey Crabill. The Student Outcome Focused Governance Book Club is sponsored by the Implementation Committee of the Buffalo Board of Education. The Student Outcome Focused Governance Model is under the guidance of the Council of Great City Schools. The first virtual meeting will take place January 16th to discuss the first half of the book. A second session will be on February 5th to virtually meet the author of the book.

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 key note speaker. The program will be held at Salvatore's Banquet facility in Depew.

BILL A8076 INTRODUCED BY ASSEMBLYMAN BILL CONRAD: Would create a school budget tax cap exemption for expenditures resulting from settlements or jury awards for civil actions brought against school districts under the Child Victims Act. The Bill now has a sponsor in the New York State Assembly. Bill no. S8123 is sponsored by NYS Senator Tim Kennedy.

FOOTBALL ALL STATE HONOREES: Class AA and A will be announced next week. First team in Class B First Team Offense includes Noah Willoughby (South Park) and Antwan Ceaser (Health Sciences). First Team Defense is Montrice Webster (Health Sciences) and Sam Ikegwonu (Lackawanna).

ECASB FEBRUARY 8TH COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP EVENT IS CANCELED. The ECASB was going to host a new event that brought in community partners and sponsors in a ‘trade-show’ atmosphere where ECASB members would be able to learn from our sponsors and other community organizations such as zero emission bus companies, mental health care providers and security organization. We will look at possibly having a similar event next year.

2024 ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION TIMELINES (FEBRUARY-APRIL):

- **February 15th** - Commissioner of Taxation and Finance calculates tax base growth factor for school districts and notifies those with positive quantity change factor so that they can include information in their calculation of the tax levy limit for the coming budget year.

- **March 1st** - School districts submit information necessary for the calculation of the tax levy limit to the State Comptroller, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Taxation and Commissioner of Finance.

- **April 2nd—6th** - Districts must publish first of four legal notices of the budget vote and board election (i.e. 4 times during the 7 weeks (49 days) preceding the date of the election; the first notice being published not 45 days before the election. * The 45th day before the election is Saturday, April 6th. If the general circulation newspaper prints on Saturday, the deadline is met; otherwise district would publish on or before April 5, 2024 - but not before April 2nd.

- **April 22nd** - School board candidate nominating petitions due to the office of the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. 30 days before the election (except in small city school districts). Also - voter submitted petitions for propositions other than those required to be included in the notice of annual meeting must be submitted not later than 30 days before the vote.

- **April 26th** - Districts (other than small city cities) should distribute military ballots.

- **April 29th** - Districts must transmit “property tax report card” to SED by the end of the next business day following the approval by the school board, but not later than the 24th day before the budget vote. (This year the 24th day falls on Saturday April 27th, so ideally, the report could be submitted on Friday, April 26, 2024).

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 18th - Legislative Team 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., B1
- January 24th - District Clerk Workshop, 11:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.; 355 Harlem Road; Room A-4
- January 27th - “Lets (Not) Freak Out About A.I.” - 355 Harlem Road, Rooms B2A and B2B

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:

- **NYS SENATOR PATRICK GALLIVAN:** will host a fundraiser at Russell’s Steaks at 6675 Transit Road Thursday January 18th. Deadline to register is January 11th (so if you missed it - call ASAP). Cost is \$99 per person from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Contact Eileen@senatorgallivan.com or call 716-432-7003.

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

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... "When a School Board Member writes, supports and adopts a resolution, where should the resolution be sent?" Answer: The Board can send the resolution to neighboring school districts, send to the local media, send to the local elected officials, send to ECASB and NYSSBA, and send to other agencies such as NYSUT, ENSSA, BOCES, NYSCOSS, NYSASBO and others.*

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

1. *NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting January 31st at 5:00 p.m.*
2. *Scott Johnson (Sweet Home CSD) will be named to a NYSSBA task force to discuss the Annual Business Meeting and any possible changes that may be recommended. Part of the guidelines was that the individual needed to have served as a Resolutions Committee, served as a Voting Delegate, and is currently serving on a School Board.*
3. **Committee Appointments:**
 - *Leslie Tobin (Lockport City SD Board Member) will serve as the Area 1 NYSSBA Resolutions member.*
 - *Tricia Andrews (Clarence CSD Board Member) will serve as the Area 1 NYSSBA Awards and Recognition Committee member.*

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