



Dear Members,

As I finalize this month's newsletter, a gentle blanket of snow is beginning to coat the trees in my yard. I am hopeful that it is an indication that we will have a magical holiday season; however with warmer temperatures predicted for the weekend, only time will tell. I know a lot of people are not fans of snow, but I find it inspiring. It makes me want to curl up next to the fire with a good book or under a fuzzy blanket on the sofa with a mug of hot chocolate and a Hallmark movie.

This month, we have a message from legislative co-chair **Scott Johnson** on page 2 and learn more about our ECASB intern in the Time to Talk column. We are featuring an article from **Davis Podkulski** about the advocacy committee at **Frontier CSD**, too.

*So find a warm fire, a fuzzy blanket, or even just a pair of cabin socks, and a few minutes to read through this month's Advocacy Alliance Monthly.*

*May you enjoy the holiday season and celebrate the start of a New Year with those you care about in love and peace.*

Sincerely,

Jane



- ⇒ ECASB Advocacy Training: Jan. 29 , 2022, 8 –10:30 a.m., RmB1
- ⇒ ECASB Local Advocacy week: Jan. 31- Feb. 4, 2022
- ⇒ Rick Timbs (Dessert Forum): Feb. 3, 2022, 6:30– 8:30 p.m., RmB1
- ⇒ NYSSBA Capitol Conference Virtual: Albany, Feb. 2, 2022
- ⇒ NYSSBA Capitol Conference: Albany, Feb. 9, 2022



- ⇒ Send a ECASB Thank You Card to your legislators for attending the Breakfast.
- ⇒ Let us know if you are going to the NYSSBA Capital Conference– Email Jane at JSullivan@e1b.org.
- ⇒ Send in your nominations for ECASB Awards beginning Jan. 3, 2022.

## A Word From Our Legislative Co-Chairs

Our recent Legislative Breakfast was a big success. I want to thank everyone who was involved in setting it up and those who attended. Moving to the fall allowed us to get our issues in front of our legislators before they return to Albany on January 5th.

We heard from many people, including our guests, who felt this was the best one yet. The format was well received and our State Representatives were very receptive and open to our questions and comments.

The breakfast is always a great event, but it can't be a one and done contact. We need everyone to be in touch with their representatives before the start of the new legislative year. Early indications are that the Governor's budget will include the next step on the way to fully funding Foundation Aid. It is extremely important that all of our electors know that this is our top priority, and we will continue to follow up with them on the progress.

Once the budget is released, we will need to make a quick analysis and be ready to follow up with them on items we support and items that need to be changed.

When you contact your representatives, always remember to include an "ask," which would be something your district or all of us are looking to get. You should also try to tie the "ask" back to a specific concern in your district. Personalizing a request makes it easier for them to remember when voting time comes. For example, if you are asking about digital equity, explain the related issues such as lack of broadband availability or affordability. Provide specific numbers if possible.

In closing, if you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to reach out to Dave Lowrey at [dlowrey@e1b.org](mailto:dlowrey@e1b.org), Jane Sullivan at [jsullivan@e1b.org](mailto:jsullivan@e1b.org), Kathleen Chiavetta at [Kathleen.chiavetta@lscsd.org](mailto:Kathleen.chiavetta@lscsd.org) or myself at [sjohnson@sweethomeschools.org](mailto:sjohnson@sweethomeschools.org) any time. Happy Holidays to all and we look forward to a productive new year!

Sincerely,

*Scott Johnson, Legislative Co-Chair, Sweet Home Central Schools*



### Comic Corner

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What do you call a bee who writes legislation?

A pollintician!



# BILL ALERT



ECASB uses **Bill Track 50** for our bill tracking and advocacy needs. If you also have an interest in tracking bills, email Jane at [JSullivan@e1b.org](mailto:JSullivan@e1b.org); she will set you up with an account umbrellaed under the ECASB Bill Track 50 subscription and send you a link to the online training recording made during our Nov. 18 legislative team training session.

**Bill S07547**– This bill relates to notifying parents of their right to refuse the inclusion of certain behavioral interventions in their children's individualized education plan or behavioral intervention plan. It was referred to the Rules committee on Nov. 24, 2021. There are no local sponsors of this bill. It is sponsored by *Peter Harckham (D)*. Read the full bill by visiting [www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S7547](http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S7547).

**Bill A08447**– This is an act to amend the public service law, in relation to enacting the "regional broadband expansion and access program act"; and to repeal subdivision 24-e of section 10 of the highway law and section 7 of the transportation corporations law, in relation to the cost of expanding broadband access. It was referred to the corporations, authorities and commissions on Nov 11. It is sponsored by *Robert Smullen (R)*, and *Matthew Simpson (R)*. There is no local sponsor. Read the full bill by visiting [www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A8447](http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A8447).

*And companion Bill*

**Bill S07557**–Enacts the regional broadband expansion and access program act; relates to the cost of expanding broadband access. Sponsored by Joseph Griffo (R), it was referred to the Rules committee on Dec. 1st.. Read the full bill by visiting [www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A7557](http://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A7557).

**Bill A02283/S01293**–This would amend the education law to require schools to implement annual dyslexia screening from pre-kindergarten through second grade. There are 21 sponsors of A02283, including local legislator *Michael Norris*. There are 12 sponsors of S01293, including local legislators *Patrick Galivan* and *Tim Kennedy*. Visit <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A2283> and <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S1293> for more information.

**Bill J01395**–This would recognize January 24, 2022, as International Day of Education. Visit <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/resolutions/2021/J1395> for more on this bill.

## ***We want to hear from you!***

*Wednesday, February 9, 2022, is the NYSSBA Capital Conference in Albany. ECASB will be setting up meetings with our local legislators in their Albany offices. We need to know who is planning on attending so we can include you. Email Jane Sullivan at [JSullivan@e1b.org](mailto:JSullivan@e1b.org) by noon on January 3, 2022 to let us know.*

# Meet the New York State Senate Committee on Education Members



Each month, ECASB highlights one member from the New York State Senate Committee on Education. This month ECASB introduces you to the Honorable Joseph A. Griffo

**NEW YORK STATE SENATOR**  
**JOSEPH A. GRIFFO**  
**(R) 47TH SENATE DISTRICT**

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Senator *Joseph A. Griffo* is from Rome, and represents parts of Oneida, Lewis and St. Lawrence counties in the New York State Senate, a position he's held since 2007.

He currently is the Assistant Minority Leader and is a member of the Senate's Transportation, Finance, Higher Education, Education, Rules and Cities 2 committees.

Senator Griffo previously served as chairman of the Senate Energy & Telecommunications Committee, which oversees the development of legislation and policies related to the energy and communications sectors. One of its priorities includes expanding high-speed broadband and other new communication technologies to underserved areas of the state.

Prior to his election, Senator Griffo was Oneida County Executive from 2003 to 2006. He was also elected three times as mayor of Rome, starting in 1991. His public service career started with an internship in Assemblyman James Hurley's office. In each role, he has an impressive list of accolades and accomplishments. Learn more about Senator Griffo by visiting his web page at [www.nysenate.gov/senators/joseph-griffo](http://www.nysenate.gov/senators/joseph-griffo)

Senator Griffo is a graduate of both Rome Free Academy and SUNY Brockport, where he earned magna cum laude distinction while receiving a bachelor's degree in political science.

He and his wife, Lorraine, an elementary teacher in Camden, reside in Rome.



# Meet the New York State Assembly Committee on Education Members



Each month, ECASB highlight's one member from the New York State Assembly Committee on Education. This month we introduce a Assembly Member, the Honorable Amanda Septimo.

**NEW YORK STATE ASSEMBLY**  
**MEMBER AMANDA SEPTIMO**  
**ASSEMBLY DISTRICT 84**  
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Assembly member Amanda Septimo is a lifelong Bronx resident. Visiting her website, one learns she has “a long, rich history of service to the community. Her spirit of activism and community leadership began in her adolescence and can be traced through the entirety of her career.” At just 12 years old, she became aware of the “prevailing social, economic, and environmental injustices within her community, and soon began to organize around these causes throughout the South Bronx.”

Assemblywoman Septimo worked with The Point Community Development Corporation in its teen activist program, A.C.T.I.O.N., helping her gain the understanding of what advocacy means and exposing her to the power of community activism, and the power of a dedication to change.

Assemblywoman Septimo has volunteered with various local and international groups. During her involvement with the New York City Parks Department, she concentrated her efforts on tutoring local youth: teaching them to read, write, and offering vital mentorship and guidance. Her efforts in multiple venues would gain her the recognition of Community Board 2 and the New York Yankees, who awarded her the 2005 Youth Leadership Award.

Assemblywoman Septimo’s website states she “went on to receive the prestigious Posse Scholarship, which earned her a full-tuition scholarship to Vanderbilt University. There, she remained actively involved on campus and used the skills and knowledge that she learned at home in The Bronx towards correcting the injustices within her surrounding community.”

After college, Assemblywoman Septimo went on to work with Congressman Jose 47 84th Assembly District E. Serrano as a Community Liaison. She went on to work with the Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA) to ensure that school leaders and students have the resources they need to transform every school into a thriving learning environment.



# Advocacy At Frontier CSD

By Davis Podkulski

The Frontier CSD Advocacy Committee was created in 2014. The newly appointed Superintendent brought the idea forward and the board also was supportive. The worsening impact of the Gap Elimination Adjustment was definitely on the forefront of everyone's minds when it began. At first, 2 Board Members would meet with the Superintendent to discuss advocacy issues and information we were receiving from ECASB, NYSSBA, & NYSCOSS. However, the committee was soon expanded to be open to all stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, and staff. Committee meetings and most of the activities the committee does are advertised as open to the public.

Over the years, the committee participated in ECASB events like legislative breakfasts, workshops, and rallies. The committee also organized a few small group meetings with legislators before and after the GEA was eliminated, with the conversation shifting to fully funding Foundation Aid and fixing the formula that was not appropriately funding Frontier and other Western New York schools. In 2016, the committee hosted a candidates forum with Chris Jacobs and Amber Small who were both running for State Senate at the time. The committee put together a presentation to keep the conversation focused on educational issues. It was a great opportunity to educate both candidates on these issues. In 2017, the committee collaborated with other administrators, teachers, and students at Frontier to organize a public forum

with then State Senator Chris Jacobs, and State Assembly Member Sean Ryan. The team did a presentation on and asked for budget aid to be used for STEAM equipment and tools for a new Academic Learning Center. While the committee did not get the full amount requested, Frontier did receive a portion of the amount to make some of the proposed purchases to expand learning opportunities for Frontier students. In 2018, the committee also helped organize a field trip for Student Government and AP US History students to visit both Senator Jacobs and Assembly Member Ryan in their Albany offices, and to see both legislative bodies in action.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors, the committee was inactive for a period of time. In the Spring of 2021, the committee began to meet again via Google Meets. Using this format created the opportunity for Dave Lowrey and/or Jane Sullivan to attend to inform the group about ECASB and what it does. Additionally, after connecting with the Chief of Staff for our current Assemblyperson, Jon Rivera, at the Legislative Breakfast, the committee was able to get a different staff member from Assemblyperson Rivera's office to attend our upcoming committee meeting on December 15.





Erie County Association of School Boards

2022



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- ⇒ Rural Districts
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- ⇒ Large Suburban Districts
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