



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

*Week Ending November 17, 2023*

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

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**LEGISLATIVE DINNER:** The Legislative Dinner was held last evening. There were just over 100 attendees. Thank you to Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan, Legislative Co Chairs Scott Johnson, Kathleen Chiavetta, and Erik Polkowski. Special Thank you to presenters Ed Schaefer, Kristy Pingitore, Jim Michalek, Sherry Steffans, and Mike Montoro.

**ECASB OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED NEXT WEEK WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND:** The ECASB office will be closed Friday November 17th and Wednesday November 22nd due to vacations. I will be taking vacation days Mon-Wed. next week. I am available via cell phone.

**NOVEMBER 30TH SPEED BOARDING EVENT:** The November 30th ECASB Speed Boarding will be the last event of the 2023 Calendar Year. If you made a new years resolution as a Board Member to attend an event in 2023, this will be your last opportunity. We will have three unique and new speakers on three new and unique topics. Our Holiday Mug Give Away will also take place. There will be panelists from Amherst CSD, Lancaster CSD and the Buffalo Public School Music Departments as part of the BPO presentation on the importance of music in schools.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD MEMBER SARA MISLIN:** Sara was selected as the Chairperson of the City of Tonawanda Youth Bureau.

**MORE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING VISITS:** I attended the Tonawanda City School District Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, November 14th. Prior to the meeting, I attended a Board of Education team building activity where we took part in a “cupcake war”. My partner was Vice President Andrea Wisniewski....we were competitive, collaborative and creative. Thank you to Board President Kristin Schmutzler, Vice President Andrea Wisniewski, Board Members Brandon McGuire, Sara Mislin, Linsey Neal, Heather Sternin, and Jeff Thorp. Special Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Timothy Oldenburg, and District Clerk Michelle Moore. Assistant Superintendent Mary Beth Scullion, and the Director of Pupil Personnel organized and provided us pointers on our “cupcake war competition” - so thank you. I was provided with a Tonawanda City SD apron with the phrase “Tonawanda Leadership Teamwork - Coming Together is the Beginning, Keeping Together is Progress, and Working Together is Success”. With these ingredients - Tonawanda City School District is on the path to greatness.

**BUFFALO BOARD OF EDUCATION:** Was where I spent my Wednesday night, November 15th. The meeting was held at the Arthur O. Eve School of Distinction #61 at 453 Leroy Avenue. I spent probably about 45 minutes in the hallways before the meeting looking at all of the student artwork and writings - it was very impressive. Prior to the meeting a student group of 4th grade students did an outstanding rendition of a Michael Jackson song on their string instruments. Thank you to Board President Sharon Belton-Cottman, Vice President of Student Achievement Lawrence Scott, Vice President of Executive Affairs Dr. Kathy Evans Brown, and Board Members Terrance Heard, Cindi M. McEachon, Jennifer Mecozzi, Dr. Ann R. Rivera, Theresa Schuta, and Paulette Woods. Special Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Tonja Williams and District Clerk Dr. Will Keresztes. During the meeting, the Board spend quite a bit of time reviewing data related to student performance.

**NYSSBA INVITES YOU TO TAKE ACTION:**

- Urge Governor Hochul to support and sign S.1045/A.1567 which would make technical adjustments to property tax cap law by incorporating as part of the "tax base growth factor" the value of new property on the exempt side of the tax rolls due to a payment in lieu of taxes.

- Urge Governor Hochul to veto S.1039/A3748-A which would establish disciplinary process for permanent civil service employees that is similar to that which districts currently required to engage in when dealing with tenured instructional staff.

**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION RELEASED RECOMMENDATIONS ON GRADUATION MEASURES:** Eliminate three current types of diplomas (Regents, Regents with Advance Designation, and Local) to be replaced with one diploma that will have options of seals and endorsements. Also a recommendation of instead of having students pass four of five Regents exams, students will take performance based assessments. Specifically:

- Reduce and/or modify diploma assessment requirements to allow more assessment options.
- Create state developed rubrics for any performance based assessments.
- Create more specific, tailored graduation requirements to address the unique circumstances of certain groups of students.

Much work would yet need to be done regarding the implementation. One of the recommendations calls for the Regents to review and revise the New York State learning standards. Additionally, the following recommendations were made by the commission:

- Include civic responsibility, cultural competence, financial literacy education, fine and performing arts, science, technology, engineering and mathematics credits, writing, and writing skills.
- Ensure access to CTE including internships and work-based learning opportunities for all students
- Move to model and organize credit requirement.
- Provide exemptions from diploma assessment requirements for students with significant cognitive disabilities and major life events and extenuating circumstances.
- Require all New York State teacher prep programs to provide instruction in culturally responsive sustaining education practices and pedagogy.
- Pursue regulatory changes to allow the discretion to confer high school degrees posthumously.

**THE ECASB ELF ON A SHELF PROMOTION STARTS DECEMBER 1ST.** Watch for details about this unique promotion.

**WE ARE FINALIZING DETAILS FOR THE 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.

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

- November 30th - Fall Speed Boarding and Mug Give Away
- December 1st- ECASB Elf On A Shelf Promotion Starts

- January 2nd - ECASB Award Nominations Open

### 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

### POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

#### NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Save the following dates:
  - 2024 Virtual Capital Conference - February 2, 2024
  - In Person NYSSBA Lobby Day in Albany - February 7, 2024

**"THIS WEEK AT ECASB" IS  
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Pictured Left: I attended a team building activity with the Tonawanda City School Board prior to the Board of Education meeting. The “Cupcake War” competition was a great fun team building activity. Pictured left to right are: **Board Member Jeff Thorp, Board President Kristin Schmutzler, Board Member Brandon McGuire, ECASB Executive Director Dave Lowrey, Board Member Linsey Neal, and Board Vice-President Andrea Wisniewski.**

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