



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

December 13, 2024

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

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### PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE IN ALBANY IN FEBRUARY?

ECASB will be securing a block of rooms for those planning on attending. Please let us know if you are planning on attending.

**ECASB ELF ON A SHELF UPDATE:** The last clue will be sent out today at 9:00 a.m. A drawing for the winners will be held on Monday. Erie 1 BOCES staff down the hall will assist in pulling the tickets from all entries on Monday and we will announce winners next week.

**WE WELCOME NEW LANCASTER SUPERINTENDENT:** We welcome Dr. Andrew Kufel as the new Superintendent at Lancaster CSD.

**VISIT WITH DR. BRUCE FRASER:** Past Executive Director of ECASB is now serving on the Orleans Niagara BOCES Board of Education. He was also attending the Rural Schools Conference in Saratoga Springs last week. Dr. Fraser and I were talking about the Rockefeller's Institute report. One of the comments that Dr. Fraser made was that many politicians will acknowledge that New York State spends a great deal of money on education. His comment was that New York State also spends a great deal of money in funding roads, prisons, and health care as well. He also pointed out that there has been an increase in spending in education over the years. He pointed out that the New York State budget has increased dramatically over the years. Education's piece of the pie is getting smaller and smaller with spending going to other areas of the budget.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO YVETTE OSMAN, GADE 12** - student at Leonardo Da Vinci High School, Buffalo Public Schools, her artwork appears on the Happy Holidays card sent out this year from New York State School Boards Association. The card is also on the NYSSBA Website.

**THE ECASB EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING WAS CANCELED/POSTPONED:** The meeting was scheduled meeting was Thursday December 12th, however with the pending snow storm and the timing of some of the reports, we decided to have the meeting in January.

**JANE SULLIVAN HAS MEETINGS WITH LEGISLTORS SET UP AT THEIR LOCAL OFFICE DUING THE MONTH OF DECEMBER.** Please contact Jane if you are interested in attending the meetings and she

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can let you know when they are. Out Legislative Advocacy is an ongoing process and not a one shot deal.

- Summer - We attend Legislators fund raising events
- November - We have our Legislative Event where we discuss our wants and needs.
- December - Local Advocacy Month where we meet with Legislators in their local office.
- February - We attend the Capital Conference and visit Legislators at their Albany office.
- May - Legislative Event where we listen to legislators and find out what they were able to accomplish and what they were not able to accomplish. We learn what we need to improve in our advocacy methods.
- Ongoing - We contact legislators when we learn about new bills, we review Bill Track 50, we send faxes, ECASB postcards and call legislators.

**VISIT TO GRAND ISLAND CSD:** I had the opportunity to attend the Grand Island CSD Board of Education meeting on December 9th. Thank you to President Dr. Ashli Dreher, Vice President Sue Marston, Board Members Roger Broeker, Danielle Bruno, Jay Gover, Joy LaMarca, and Sherry Steffans. Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Brian Graham and District Clerk Jude Kuehne. I was able to see a brief video and recognition of student for their involvement and support of the recent Polar Plunge to raise money for Special Olympics in the area.

**VISIT TO KEN TON UFSD:** I had the opportunity to attend the Ken Ton UFSD Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, December 10th. Thank you to Board President Matt Chimera, Vice President Paul Spors, and Board Members Fred Floss, Lee Ann Vogt, and Karen Whitelaw. Special Thanks to Superintendent Sabatino Cimato and District Clerk Gina Santa Maria. At each meeting, the Board recognizes a student, a staff member and a teacher from a particular building. The focus of the meeting was on Lindbergh Elementary building. In addition there was performance by the chorus singing the National Anthem. The Physical Education staff at Lindbergh Elementary school provided information on the Physical Education and Wellness programs that are offered at the school 3 times per week. Additionally, there was a report from the Food Service Department who discussed their Farm to School Initiative and their Tasting Program.

**ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS OPEN ON JANUARY 3RD, 2025:** The awards are listed below. Award nominations come usually from Boards of Education, but they can be made by individual Board Members, Superintendents and District Clerks as well. ECASB does not allow for self-nominations. The full descriptions are on the ECASB website and will be sent out in January.

- Diana Miller Leadership in Education Award
- Laura Burns Advocacy for Children Award
- Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award
- Hodgson Russ Collaboration Award
- Webster Szanyi District Clerk Award
- Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award
- Lori Sabo Advocacy Award

We also have the ECASB Rising Star and Shinning Star Awards which are given based on participation at meetings, events and program. In 2026, we will have a new award, "The Linda Hoffman Do More Award" that will be awarded to a Board Member that goes above and beyond Board Member service and volunteers and makes significant contributions to organizations beyond their Local School Board.

**[WATCH FOR A UNIQUE PROMOTION FOR STUDENT BOARD REPS TO GET INVOLVED AND PRO-](#)**

**MOTE THEIR SCHOOL.** Details will be sent out in the next few weeks

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

- December 13th - Elf on a Shelf Promotion ends.
- January 1st - ECASB Award Nominations Open

**POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:**

None Listed

**NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:**

- Become an Advocacy Liaison - NYSSBA encourages each district to appoint an Advocacy Liaison.

**RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:**

**NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:**

- 2025 National School Boards Conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia April 4th-6th.
- NSBA's Advocacy and Equity Institute will be held in Washington D.C. February 2nd-4th.

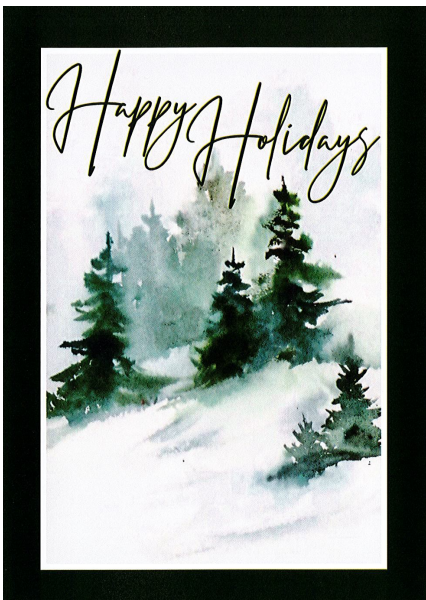
**AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:**

Erie Niagara School Superintendents has a list of all of their podcasts over the last three years. If you are interested in subscribing or following the E-NSSA podcast you can search for "Achieving Joy and Mastery in Public Schools" within your favorite podcast platform.

**BEST PRACTICES:** In one district the Board has a section on the agenda where they report out on the various committees including Safety and Wellness, Policy, Code of Conduct, and Audit Committee to name a few. It is at this point in the agenda, when the Board will also report on ECASB committee meetings they recently attended including Budget and Finance, Legislative Committee and Delegate Assembly Committee.

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

*The presenter at Saturday morning's session was Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy (P-12 and Higher Education) spoke about the history of BOCES, roles within BOCES, and the structure of BOCES. .*



*The artwork to the left is the artwork that appears on the NYSSBA Holiday Card. The artwork was created by a Buffalo Public School High School student.*

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The Clarence CSD took part in the Polar Plunge this past weekend to raise money for Special Olympics at Woodlawn Beach. Pictured with the Polar Bears are Clarence CSD Board Members Cindy Magera, Tricia Andrews, and Adrienne Costello-Sulik. In the next picture, Superintendent Dr. Matt Frahm is added to the group. The third picture is a group shot of the Clarence CSD participants that braved the cold weather to participate in the Polar Plunge. The Clarence Unified club bet the Administrators and School Board if they raised at least \$5,000 that they would all have to take part in the Plunge. Not only did they raise \$5,000 they exceeded the target and raised \$34,000 to be the top fundraising school and broke the all time fundraising goal of \$31,000. Mack Hollins from the Buffalo Bills took the Plunge with Clarence CSD for being the winning team in this year's Polar Plunge.

