



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

May 2, 2025

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

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**ECASB OFFICE CLOSED:** The ECASB office will be closed Friday, May 2nd due to use of vacation time.

**ECASB ROAD RALLY RESULTS:** The 2025 ECASB Road Rally took place in the Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD.

**2025 Best Time Winner** - Tonawanda City SD (Kristin Schmutzler & Brandon McGuire)

**2025 Most Points Winner** - Holland CSD/Iroquois CSD Combined team (Mary Jo Szucs, Andrew Stang, Heather Becker and Heather Jacobs)

Teams traveled through the Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD District and visited JFK High School, the Middle School, Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt schools within the district. Door prize winners were Heather Jacobs and Brandon McGuire. Best Photo Winner was the Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD.

Best Time Winner and Most Points Winner receive \$75 Gift Cards to Wegmans/Tops for food at their next Board of Education gathering. The Road Rally was sponsored by Diamond Level Sponsor Black Passport Group. The winner of the Best Photo was Karen Whitelaw and the Ken Ton UFSD for their picture entitled "Hearts for the Homeless".

**2025 ECASB MILESTONE AWARDS:** The following milestone awards will be recognized at the ECASB Annual Dinner on June 12th.

**15 years of service:**

- Jill Hopcia (Alden CSD)
- Paul Steimle (Amherst CSD)
- Jessica Armbrust (East Aurora UFSD)

**20 years of service:**

- Julie McNeil (Cleveland Hill UFSD)
- Renee Wilson (Cheektowaga CSD and Erie 1 BOCES)

**25 years of service:**

- Paul Kunkel (Cleveland Hill UFSD)

**40 years of service:**

- Ed Cavan (Erie 1 BOCES/Sweet Home CSD)

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**ANNUAL DINNER EMCEE THIS YEAR WILL BE:** Luke Lippitt, Ex Officio Student Board Member for the Orchard Park CSD. Luke also serves as the North East Vice President of the National Students Board Members Association and is founder and Executive Director of a 501(c)4 organization, Students Protecting Education ([www.studentsproed.org](http://www.studentsproed.org)).

**NYSUT IS HOSTING A RALLY TO FIX TIER 6:** The rally will be held on Tuesday, May 6th from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Niagara Square; 65 Niagara Square, Buffalo, New York. ECASB has identified Fixing Tier 6 as an issue that will assist with staffing many of our schools. Please feel free to join NYSUT at the rally.

**ECASB ANNUAL DINNER:** Will again be held at Kloc's Grove in West Seneca on June 12th. Registration forms and information will be sent out next week. When I contacted Kevin at Kloc's he informed me that the prices remained the same from last year, hence we will be able to keep the same pricing as last years dinner. That was a pleasant surprise!

**GOVERNANCE TRAINING:** Is scheduled for June 3rd and 7th. June 3rd will be from 6:00 p.m.— 8:00 p.m. with dinner provided. June 7th will be from 8:00 a.m.— 12:00 noon with a continental breakfast. The program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is May 29th.

**FISCAL OVERSIGHT TRAINING:** Is scheduled for June 24th and 28th. June 24th will be from 5:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m. with dinner provided. June 28th will be from 8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. with a continental breakfast. The program is in person and will be held at Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road. Deadline to register is June 19th.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO RECIPIENTS OF THE WESTERN NEW YORK EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COUNCIL ANNUAL AWARDS.** WNYESC honors outstanding leaders and staff from school districts. Five categories are recognized: Board of Education Members, Superintendents, Administrators, Teachers, and Support Staff. Criteria used include: Making a Difference for Kids. Longevity and Leadership. Dedication/Going "Above and Beyond". Personal Characteristics. 2025 Award Recipients from ECASB Districts include:

- Superintendent	Brian Russ, East Aurora UFSD
- Board of Education	Cal Harte, Cheektowaga CSD
- Administration	Kia Evans, Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD
- Teaching	Mary Bieger, Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD
	Michele Pava, West Seneca CSD
	Christopher Simpson, Grand Island CSD
- Support Staff Services	Kathy Mason, District Clerk & Superintendent Secretary from
North Collins CSD	
	Molly Stoll, Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD
	Mary Ungaro, Grand Island CSD

**SPEAKING OF AWARDS...NYSSBA'S EVERTT R. DYER AWARD.** NYSSBA will recognize a current or former School Board Member who has made outstanding contributions to public education. Nominees for the award should have demonstrated the following:

- Gone above and beyond the call of duty and achieved ground-breaking results on behalf

of children.

- Possess selfless devotion that has inspired you, other Board Members or the community.
- Make an ideal role model for future generations.

Deadline for nominations is June 20, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Visit [nyssba.org/dsa](http://nyssba.org/dsa) for online nomination form and award guidelines. Please look around your Board table. It would be great to have an award winner from ECASB.

Past award recipients from Erie County Association of School Boards include:

- 1968 Marguerite Lapp (Williamsville CSD)
- 1972 Thodore Masterson (Amherst CSD)
- 1981 George Mueller (Erie 1 BOCES)
- 1987 Florence Baugh (Buffalo PS)
- 2000 Stanley Fiegel (Frontier CSD)
- 2020 Judith Katz (Erie 1 BOCES and Williamsville CSD)

**WE WELCOME INTERIM HOLLAND CSD SUPERINTENDENT:** Cathy Fabiatos who started April 12, 2025.

**NEW BOOK IN ECASB LIBRARY:** Meet their Needs and They'll Succeed by Salome Thomas-EL.

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

- June 3rd - Governance Training Part 1 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., B1; B2b
- June 7th - Governance Training Part 2 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon; B1, B2b
- June 12th - ECASB Annual Dinner and Meeting 5:30 p.m. at Kloc's
- June 24th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training Part 1; 5:15 p.m.– 8:15 p.m., B2a,B2b
- June 26th - Executive Board Retreat 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. B1
- June 28th - Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training Part 2; 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., B2a & B2b

**POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:**

- Grand Island School Board Member Sherry Steffans - will be running for Grand Island Councilperson. Her fundraiser is June 11th at Malwitz's Bowling. Cost is \$40 and includes shoes, bowling, pizza and pop.

**NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:**

- Wednesday May 7th 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. - Student Centered Policies: Recent Changes, New Opportunities (Virtual Workshop)
- Modernizing Superintendent Evaluations for Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness - Thursday May 15th 12:00—1:30 p.m. Complimentary
- Developing and Supporting Effective Superintendents: Thursday, August 21st from 8:00 a.m. - Noon. - Live Virtual
- Leadership in Education Event - August 1st and 2nd in Albany, New York (more details to follow).
- NYSSBA Summer Law Conferences:
  - July 15th - Long Island
  - July 31st—Albany
  - August 5th-6th - Live Virtual

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

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

**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:** During the Round Table discussion at Board of Education meetings, many districts have Board Members report on workshops attended at ECASB and NYSSBA, share information on district programs they have attended recently, and provide information on any meetings they recently had. This is a great way of sharing information with other School Board Members and the

community.

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

*So far, I have received the following nominations from Amherst CSD, Kenmore-Tonawanda UFSD, Lake Shore CSD, Le Roy CSD, Niagara Falls City, and Royalton Hartland CSD. Additional districts that have either passed a resolution or have one on the agenda for an upcoming meeting include Depew UFSD, Cheektowaga CSD, Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD, and Williamsville CSD. At the NYSSBA Board of Directors Virtual Check In meeting on Tuesday night, we heard updates from NYSSBA Director Bill Miller who was recently elected to the National School Boards Association Board. We had a powerpoint presentation on NYSSBA Events Data Analysis, Student Representative Information updates, updates on the Federal Government and a NYS Public Education update. The next NYSSBA meeting will be on June 14th.*

### **IN SPORTS:**

#### **BOYS HOCKEY 2024-2025 HONOR ROLL:**

##### **All Federation**

###### **Division 1**

###### **First Team:**

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| • Alex Saeli      | Orchard Park |
| • Joey Wisniewski | Lancaster    |
| • Jack Ciano      | Orchard Park |
| • Sean Robertson  | Orchard Park |

###### **Division 2**

###### **First Team**

- |                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| • Erik Freman    | Kenmore East        |
| • Shane Kneis    | Williamsville South |
| • Sam Welgoss    | Williamsville South |
| • Nick LaBella   | West Seneca West    |
| • Noah Nahrebski | Hamburg             |
| • Ian Hanno      | Grand Island        |

###### **ECIC 1**

###### **First Team**

- |                     |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Carson Oates      | Clarence                         |
| • Travis Piotrowicz | West Seneca West                 |
| • Adam Mellerski    | Sweet Home/North Tonawanda/Depew |
| • Nathan Rainero    | West Seneca West                 |
| • Logan Shelton     | Clarence                         |
| • Matt Bridges      | Frontier                         |

###### **ECIC 2**

###### **First Team**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Nick Prezioso   | Starpoint           |
| • Brady Moeller   | Starpoint           |
| • Shane Wood      | Hamburg             |
| • Will Wadlington | Williamsville South |
| • Sam Prezioso    | Starpoint           |
| • Cole Reese      |                     |

###### **Niagara Frontier**

###### **First Team**

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| • Chris Swain    | Grand Island |
| • Sully Korte    | Grand Island |
| • Troy Normandin | Kenmore East |

- Ricky Kwarciak                      Grand Island

**ALL-STATE:**

***Division 1 First Team:*** Jack Ciano, Orchard Park.

***Division 2 First Team:*** Erik Freeman, Kenmore East; Shen Kneis, Williamsville South; Noah Nahrebeski, Hamburg.



Pictured above are participants of the 2025 ECASB Road Rally. Front Row left to right: Jane Sullivan and Heather Becker (Iroquois), Lee Ann Vogt, Karen Whitlaw, Matt Chimera and Superintendent Sabatino Cimoto (Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda UFSD. Back Row left to right: Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda City SD), Mary Jo Szucs and Andrew Stang (Holland CSD), Heather Jacobs (Iroquois), and Brandon McGuire (Tonawanda City SD).