

ECASB

Erie County Association of School Boards

Vol. 1; Issue 7; March 2022

ADVOCACY ALLIANCE MONTHLY

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE FROM YOUR LEGISLATIVE TEAM AND ECASB COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Members,

Other than the legislative sessions occurring in Albany, there is very little new to report to the membership this month. Now we see the advocacy work of the past few months reaching a pinnacle and we patiently await the outcome of this year's legislative debates and decisions. Now is your last opportunity to reach out to your legislators before the budget is adopted.

The last AAM newsletter of this school year will be in April. The next few months, I will focus on advocacy and legislative alerts that lead us to next fall's priorities and the work still ahead. We will take the results of this year and form the new and continued priorities for the next legislative session in late summer.

As this legislative season winds down, perhaps this respite will give you a little more time in your gardens, on your spring cleaning, or cleaning up the yard.

In the meantime, I have a few events I will be attending in the next few weeks to share in April.

Until then, have a green beverage and see if you can find a pot 'o gold at the end of the next rainbow. May the road rise up to meet you and you find the wind at your back,

Jane



The NYS Legislative Session Calendar is now available!

[sessioncalendar_2022.pdf \(nyassembly.gov\)](#)

Important Dates

- ⇒ Legislative Team Meeting, **NEW DATE:** March 24, 6:30-8:30, A3
- ⇒ Prospective School Board, March 26, 8-10:30 a.m., B1
- ⇒ Budget Vote and School Board Elections, May 17

Important Tasks

- ⇒ Send an ECASB post card to your legislators advocating for your district's needs.
- ⇒ Read your Advocacy Monthly Alliance and respond to Tell Us What You Think.
- ⇒ Register for ECASB Events



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; 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 the November 2021 legislative team training session.

Bill S08416—This bill would allow school districts to permit home-schooled students to participate in district interscholastic sports. It was sent to the Education committee on Feb. 28. It is sponsored by Peter Oberacker (R), **George Borrello** (R), Daphne Jordan (R), **Robert Ortt** (R), Anthony Palumo (R), Patricia Ritchie (R) and James Tedisco (R). Read the full bill by visiting <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S8416>. *This bill has a companion bill in the Assembly. See next.*

Bill A04775—This is the companion bill to S08416. It is sponsored by **Stephen Hawley** (R), Phil Ramos (D), Phillip Steck (D), Albert Stirpe (D), Chris Tague (R), Jake Ashby (R), William Barclay (R), Brian Barnwell (D), Charles Barron (D), Michael Benedetto (D), Ken Blankenbush (R), Karl Brabenec (R), Marjorie Byrnes (R), Vivian Cook (D), Catalina Cruz (D), Michael Cusick (D), Joseph De Stefano (R), Inez Dickens (D), Charles Fall (D), Michael Fitzpatrick (R), **Joseph Giglio** (R), **Andrew Goodell** (R), Pam Hunter (D), Kieran Lalor (R), Donna Lupardo (D), Brian Manktelow (R), David McDonough (R), John Mikulin (R), Brian Miller (R), Melissa Miller (R), **Angelo Morinello** (R), **Crystal Peoples-Stokes** (D), Edward Ra (R), David Rosenthal (D), Linda Rosenthal (D), John Salka (R), Robert Smullen (R), Alfred Taylor (D), Fred Thiele (D), Mark Walczyk (R), Mary Beth Walsh (R) and Carrie Woerner (D). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A4775>.

Bill S08392— This bill would require schools to include instruction on the prevention of co-occurring disorders as an integral part of their health education program. It was referred to Alcoholism and Substance abuse on Feb. 22. It is sponsored by Peter Harckham (D). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S8392>.

Bill A01035—This bill would authorize school districts to establish an extraordinary needs reserve fund for the expenses of providing special education. It was referred to the Education Committee on Jan. 5. It is sponsored by Marjorie Byrnes (R), Ken Blankenbush (R), Joseph De Stefano (R), Jeff Gallahan (R), **Joseph Giglio** (R), John Lemondes (R), **Angelo Morinello** (R), **Michael Norris** (R), Nader Sayegh (D), Robert Smullen (R), and Chris Tague (R). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A1035>. *This bill has a companion bill in the Senate. See next.*

Bill S02654—This bill is the companion bill to A01035. It is sponsored by **Patrick Gallivan** (R) and **George Borrello** (R). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S2654>.

Bills written in **Orange are bills that I believe would be most interesting to ECASB District members, as they would impact your districts. Local legislators are **Boldfaced in Blue**.*

Tell us what you think: Bills A04775 and S08416 are about homeschooled children participating in sports with the traditional district student at the school. What are your thoughts? Would this be good for your district? Might it hurt your district? What do you see as the debate?

BILL ALERT Continued

Bill S08520– This bill would authorize exemptions for certain residential properties with conservation easement agreements located in certain counties; authorizes cities, towns, villages or school districts within certain counties to adopt a resolution to grant a partial exemption from taxation and special ad valorem levies. It was referred to Local Government on March 8. It is sponsored by Peter Oberacker (R). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S8520>.

Bill A09432– This bill establishes the New York state school resource officer program in detail. It was referred to Education on March 7, and is sponsored by Marjorie Byrnes (R). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A9432>. It also has a companion bill in the Senate: **Bill- S04286**. The Senate bill is sponsored by **Patrick Gullivan** (R), Fred Akshar (R). The last action take was giving it Print Number 4286A on March 1.

Bill A09452– This bill would require instruction in Asian American and Pacific Islander history. Referred to Education on March 7, it is sponsored by William Colton (D). Read the full bill is <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A9452>.

Bill A09460– This bill would establishes an annual continuing education fund for educators worth fifty million dollars to provide public school teachers that are nominated by public school districts with financial assistance to pursue additional certifications or degrees. It was referred to Education on March 7 and is sponsored by Michael Lawler (R). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A9460>.

Bill A09463-This bill relates to the school district internal audit function; requiring a biennial review and update of the risk assessment of district operations. It was referred to Education on March 7 and is sponsored by Fred Thiele (D) and Amy Paulin (D). It has a companion bill in the Senate: **Bill-S01369**, sponsored by John Brooks (D), referred to Education on Jan. 5. Read about both bills at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S1369> and <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A9463>.

Bill A09468-This bill would require public and private schools to have portable anti-choking devices in cafeterias, nurse's offices, and other similar locations. It was referred to Education on March 7 and is sponsored by Edward Ra (R). It has a companion bill in the Senate: **Bill-S08536**, sponsored by Kevin Thomas (D). Read the full bills at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/S8536> and <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A9468>

Bill A09486– This bill would require school districts to complete an analysis to determine learning loss and delayed educational progress for students who participated in an individualized learning plan and did not receive in-person learning due to the COVID-19 state disaster emergency; requires such analysis to be submitted to the commissioner. Referred to Education on March 7, it is sponsored by Mathylde Frontus (D). Read the full bill at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/A9486>.

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When you have a moment, take a look at **Bill A09417 and **Bill S07809**. In the Next AAM issue, I will be reflecting on some of the insights I have had over the last nine months about public school legislation in NYS.**

I recently went to a fundraiser for William Conrad (D), and will be attending another for Patrick Gullivan (R) today. As I continue to meet with legislators, let me know the concerns you would like me to address when I have the opportunity. Email them to me at jsullivan@e1b.org.

Meet the New York State Senate Committee on Education Members



Each month, ECASB highlights a member from the New York State Senate Committee on Education. This month ECASB introduces you to the Honorable Toby Ann Stavisky.

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Senator Toby Ann Stavisky is the first woman from Queens County elected to the State Senate and the first woman to chair the Senate Committee on Higher Education. She is a native New Yorker, born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. She graduated from Bronx High School of Science and Syracuse University. She continued her education, completing graduate school at Hunter and Queens Colleges. She worked in the actuarial department of a major insurance company, and taught social studies in the New York City high schools.

She currently serves as Vice Chairwoman of the Democratic Majority Conference and Chairwoman of the Senate's Committee on Higher Education, and is a member of the Senate Education Committee.

First elected in 1999, she has been re-elected eleven times. The Senator resides in Forest Hills. She was married to Dr. Leonard Stavisky, a university professor who served in the Assembly as Chair of the Education Committee and in the Senate until his death in June of 1999. She has one son, Evan.



Meet the New York State Assembly Committee on Education Members



Each month, ECASB highlights one member from the New York State Assembly Committee on Education. This month we introduce Assembly Member, the Honorable Mike Lawler.

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Assemblyman Mike Lawler, representing the southern portion of Rockland County, was elected to the New York State Assembly in November of 2020, and he is a member of the Assembly's Education Committee.

Mr. Lawler's webpage vows he will, "work to reduce the state's onerous tax burden, bring fiscal discipline to its budget, provide law enforcement with the resources needed to do its work, and craft legislation to improve public safety."

He is a lifelong Rockland County resident. He graduated from Suffern High School. In 2009, he earned a degree in Business Administration with a double major in Accounting and Finance from Manhattan College. His hard work earned him the distinction of Valedictorian of his graduating class.

Prior to being elected to the Assembly, Mr. Lawler served as Deputy Town Supervisor in Orangetown and previously worked in the Westchester County Executive's Office as an advisor to Rob Astorino.

Previously, Mr. Lawler served as Executive Director of the State Republican Party and has helped secure the election of candidates at federal, state, and local levels.

In addition to his distinguished public service career, Mr. Lawler is also a successful small-business owner.

He and his wife, Doina, live in Pearl River.

