



This Week At ECASB ...

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

September 12, 2025

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ECASB OFFICE IS CLOSED 9/12/2025: We will reopen on Monday, September 15th.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: ECASB and Chautauqua County School Boards Association (CCSBA) will be co sponsoring an added SPECIAL EVENT on October 7th. SED Commissioner Dr. Betty A. Rosa will be in the area and will address a combined audience from ECASB and CCSBA. With so many changes happening in education, this is a great and rare opportunity to listen and ask questions about the future of education in New York State. There is a short window for registration, so please check your schedules and let your District Clerk know if you will be attending.

NYSSBA ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EDUCATION EXPO REGISTRATION OPENED AUGUST 12TH.

A complete schedule will be available as we get closer to the convention dates of October 23rd—October 25th. Register through your District Clerk.

ANNUAL CONVENTION DIGITAL EXPERIENCE: Can't attend the convention in New York City? You can register for the virtual version that will provide you with 35 learning and networking opportunities. Contact NYSSBA for details.

I HAD THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE CHEEKTOWAGA CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON TUESDAY NIGHT:

Thank you to President Renee Wilson, Vice President Edward Schaefer, Board Members Yvonne Douglass, Caleb Harte, Carol Kiripolsky, Holly Nowak, Lisa Sekuterski, Superintendent Scott Zipp, District Clerk Jessica Hedges and their Student Board Member Mikey. In the Superintendent's report I heard how a goose flying into an electric line created a little havoc for the district and allowed the district to put into action their safety plan. The district and their employees and students followed the action plan seamlessly without mishap and soon had everything back in control.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT I WALKED DOWN THE HALL AT WORK AND ATTENDED THE ERIE 1 BOCES BOARD MEETING:

Thank you to President John Sherman, Vice President Ed Cavan, Board Members Mary Busse, Cameron Hall, Janet MacGregor-Plarr, Mark Mecca, Renee Wilson, Student Board Members Arina and Brooke. Also thank you to Superintendent Dr. Michael Capuana and District Clerk Nancy Potter. As I was going through the agenda I noticed that the Board was approving a letter that would be sent to New Board Members in component School Districts briefly encouraging them to

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learn about BOCES and inviting them to a future meeting. In the letter, they also explained that they are very active in ECASB and encourage their involvement in the ECASB organization. That was a very pleasant surprise. Thank You Erie 1 BOCES Board.

DISTRICT CLERK FALL WORKSHOP: Is October 2, 2025. Information has been sent to District Clerks in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus, and Chautauqua counties. Details of the workshop are:

Location: Erie 1 BOCES, 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca Room B2a

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Sessions include:

12:15 p.m. - 12:55 p.m. Lunch and Roundtable Discussion

1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Impartial Hearings presented by Andrew Mark, Esq. from Bond, Schoeneck and King PLLC.

2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m. Coaching/Presentation by Kathy Goller, Teal Horizon Coaching, LLC.

3:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m. Closing and Final Thoughts

NYSSBA LAUNCHES GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: The program is designed to enhance the relationship between Board Presidents and Superintendents. The program is presented in cooperation with New York State Council of School Superintendents, local School Board Associations and Local BOCES. Information has been sent to Superintendents and Board Presidents. The program is offered only in select areas around the state. The program will be offered:

- September 26th at Onondaga-Cortland-Madison BOCES
- October 10th at Erie 1 BOCES
- October 17th at Washington-Saratoga-Warren-Hamilton-Essex BOCES
- November 6th at Eastern Suffolk BOCES
- November 7th at Western Suffolk BOCES

WE SAY GOODBYE TONAWANDA CITY SD DISTRICT CLERK MICHELLE MOORE AND WELCOME KATHRYN D'AMICO INTO THE DISTRICT CLERK POSITION. Who will start on September 22nd.

WHO ARE THE ECASB AWARDS NAMED AFTER:

- *Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award* - The award is the newest ECASB Award named after Ray Carr who served on the Cheektowaga CSD Board of Education, the Erie 1 BOCES Board and as President of ECASB. The Award is awarded to Board Members in their first TERM of service who demonstrate a commitment and dedication to Board service. The Award may or may not be given. The Award can be given to multiple ECASB Board of Education Members

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECIPIENTS OF THE ECASB RAY CARR EMERGING LEADERS AWARD AND ARE STILL ACTIVE TODAY ON A SCHOOL BOARD.

- 2025 - Brandon McGuire (Tonawanda City); Zach Nobles (Gowanda CSD), and Laura Sokol -Scott (West Seneca CSD)

SED, NYSSBA AND BOCES HOST SPECIAL EVENT FOR STUDENT EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS: Local BOCES will host a hybrid event for ex officio board members September 17. Students will either gather at their local BOCES or watch the event virtually. Districts should share the information with their Student Board Members. Please contact BOCES to arrange for the program.

CHECK OUT YOUR GARAGE AND SHEDS: Check to see if you have the “October is Board Appreciation Month.. ECASB recognizes the School Board Member who resides here” sign. The signs are put out during the month of October. If you are a Board Member and need a sign, please let us know at ECASB so that we can send you a sign via interschool mail.

STUDENT EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION SIGNS: ECASB now has signs for Board Appreciation month for Student Ex Officio Members. The signs are branded with the new Student Ex Officio logo. ECASB will send the District Clerks the appropriate number of signs depending on how many Student Ex Officio members are in a district. Please contact Dave Lowrey at ECASB to order signs. Signs are available NOW. ECASB Student Ex Officio Member T-Shirts will be available on or about September 17th. They are available in sizes small-medium-large-x large and xx large. Also a Student Ex Officio Student Member survey was sent to District Clerks to forward to their Student Board Members. Survey results to date have been tabulated.

OTHER NEWS:

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION: 24 Century Hill Drive Suite 200, Latham, New York 12110; (518) 783-0200

- Registration opened for annual Convention and Expo August 12th. Event takes place October 23rd-25th at the New York Hilton Midtown.
- Voting Delegate Registration is open. Annual Business meeting takes place virtually on Thursday, October 16th at 4:00 p.m.
- State Education Department will conduct a virtual training session for ex-officio school board members September 17th from 8:15 a.m.-9:45 a.m. SED is the lead organization with support from NYSSBA and District Superintendents. The program is designed to supplement any existing training for new student ex officio school board members that may be taking place in a region. Students may watch the program either virtually or at their local BOCES center.

OTHER COLSBA INFORMATION:

- Monroe County School Board Association will hold their Fall School Law Conference on Thursday, September 25, 2025 from 8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Country Club of Rochester, 2935 East Avenue, Rochester, New York.

NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION: 1680 Duke Street, Floor 2; Alexandria, Virginia 22314; phone (703) 838-6722.

- 2026 Annual Conference will be in San Antonio. Early registration begins August 27th at 10:00 a.m.
- Magna Award applications should be submitted by October 31, 2025
- Performing Arts Nominations Deadline is September 26, 2025

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- September 18 - Legislative Team Meeting 6:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.; B1
- September 25 - Executive Board Meeting 5:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.; B1
- Month of October - Board Appreciation Month
- October 2 - WNY District Clerk Workshop
- October 7 - Conversation with the Commissioner (Michael's Banquet Center - Southwestern Blvd.; Hamburg
- October 9 - Resolutions Dinner at ECASB 355 Harlem Road
- October 16 - Dr. Rick Timbs Program at the Columns Restaurant

SPONSOR PROGRAMS:

- HODGSON RUSS Special Education Seminar - Thursday, October 9, 2025 at Salvatore's Italian Gardens. Registration and Breakfast begins at 8:00 a.m. Contact Hodgson Russ LLP to register for the event.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:

- December 4-5th - Winter Conference “Working the Plan” in Saratoga Springs. More details in future.

BEST PRACTICES: No information at this time.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

The NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting was held September 5th and 6th. There was a recap on the Leadership in Education Event held in August. Next year the event will move to the end of July. Heidi Longton provided an update on the upcoming NYSSBA Convention and Expo. Updates were provided by Communications and Marketing Research, Legal, Information and Technology, Leadership Development, Human Resources and Operations, Governmental Relations, Member Relations, Finance, Convention and Events and Executive Updates. Member Relations is launching a new program to reach out to new Board of Education members called Accelerate. The Board of Directors reviewed staffing and compensation in Executive Session. Next meeting will be held Saturday December 6th and 7th. The Holiday Board/Staff party is Friday, December 5th at the Albany Marriott.

IN SPORTS:

High School Football Polls Week 4:

Large Schools:

- AA Lancaster (3)
- AA Bennett (4t)
- A2 Health Sciences (6)
- A2 Grand Island (7)
- A1 Clarence (8)
- A1 West Seneca West (9t)

Small Schools:

- Pioneer (1)
- Maryvale (2)
- Depew (4)
- West Seneca West (5)
- Lackawanna (9)

Additional High School Coaches Polls:

Boys Cross Country:

Large:

West Seneca West (2)
Amherst (3)
Clarence (4)
Hamburg (6)
Grand Island (8)
Iroquois (10)

Small:

East Aurora (1)
Alden (4)

Girls Cross Country:

Large:

Clarence (1)
Lancaster (2)
Williamsville East (3)
Hamburg (6)
Williamsville North (7)
Starpoint (9)
West Seneca (10)

Small:

East Aurora (1)
Eden (7)
Springville (9)

Field Hockey:

Orchard Park (1)
Iroquois (2t)
Clarence (2t)
Lancaster (3)
Williamsville North (4)
Akron (5)
Holland/East Aurora (7)
West Seneca (8)

Boys Soccer:

Large:

Clarence (1)
East Aurora (2)
Williamsville East (3)
Williamsville North (4)
Lancaster (6)
Grand Island (7t)
Hamburg (9)

Small:

Lafayette (2)
Springville (5)
Alden (10)

Girls Volleyball:

Large:

Orchard Park (1)
Lancaster (2)
Williamsville South (3)
Hamburg (4)
Williamsville North (5)
Frontier (6)
Clarence (8)
Lake Shore (9)
Starpoint (10)

Small:

Eden (6)
Depew (9)

Boys Volleyball:

Clarence (1)
Frontier (2)
Lancaster (3)
West Seneca West (5)
Eden/North Collins (6)
East Aurora/Holland (8)
Williamsville South (9)



Better late than never. West Seneca CSD Board Member Lorene Barulich submitted this photo for our ECASB Advocacy Summer Spectacular. Lorene is pictured in Gettysburg, Pa. at the monument recognizing New York State soldiers.