

**E C A S B**

Erie County Association of School Boards

Where professional development,  
leadership & advocacy meet.

# Leaders in Advocacy



## Scott Johnson

ECASB Legislative  
Co-Chair

ECASB Executive Board  
Member

Sweet Home CSD  
Board President

NYSSBA Convention  
Voting Delegate

## ECASB Legislative Co-Chair - Scott Johnson

*Scott Johnson is a born leader. He has served on the Sweet Home CSD School Board for the last 15 years, 4 years as President and 4 years as Vice President. He has been advocating for the last 18 years.*

***What drove you to get involved with advocacy?***

*"I saw the crazy mandates imposed on schools by government and decided it was time to step up".*

***What has been the most frustrating moment you have encountered while advocating?***

*"Having an elected official lie to our faces and question the knowledge of board members who are subject matter experts".*

***What has been the most rewarding experience for you during your many years of advocating?***

*"Seeing laws changed on time off for voting after numerous meetings, calls, emails and even having a meeting with the Buffalo News editorial board".*

***What do you wish every Board Member know about advocacy?***

*"That we can ALL help in some way. Anyone can contact their elected representative. They can do it alone, or get others to join them".*

***What is one lesson you have learned through your years of advocacy?***

*"While advocacy may seem like we are always handling large issues, we CAN get things done with perseverance".*

***How do you stay on top of Legislative Issues? Where do you get information about what is happening?***

*"I learn through ECASB Messages, NYSSBA Advocacy Alerts, Bill Track 50, directly from Senate and Assembly websites, twitter, and social and news media."*

***Do you have any memorable moments from your many years***

**of advocacy and meeting with legislators?**

*“I was introduced on the New York State Assembly floor directly by Assemblyman Robin Schimminger and Assemblyman Ray Walter. The introduction is part of New York history now as it is part of the record of proceedings for the day”.*

**When your advocacy has been successful, how do you celebrate your success?**

*“I think all of those individuals that helped along the way”.*

**What are your favorite places to visit either in Albany, NY or Washington D.C?**

*“I find the New York State Capitol Building fascinating”.*

**Do you have any mentors that have guided you in your advocacy initiative?**

*“Mike Morrow from the Sweet Home CSD and Dr. Jill O’Malley who served on the Ken Ton UFSD School Board and served as the Associate Director of ECASB. I served with Mike for 14 years. He took me under his wing on my first year on the board and was always available to guide me as I enhanced my advocacy knowledge and skills”.*

**If you could have one wish from the New York State Legislature, what would that be?**

*“I would want the legislators to work to understand our issues. We represent the same people that they do. We are speaking for the constituents that are not only in our school district, but their legislative district”.*

**Have you had any advocacy experience prior to serving on a School Board?**

*“I was involved with PTA, I was a member of the American Federation of Teachers via my work role, and I attended 2 National Conventions”.*

**March/2021**



**Above Left:** ECASB Associate Director Dr. Jill O’Malley and ECASB Legislative Co-Chair Scott Johnson wait patiently for the meeting with Senator Gallivan to start. **Left:** ECASB Members visit with each other prior to the Capital Conference in Albany in February 2020. **Above:** ECASB Board Members, Superintendents and District Office Staff meet with Senator Gallivan in his home office in Elma, New York.