



This Week At ECASB ...

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

September 26, 2025

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DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR CONVERSATION AND DINNER WITH THE COMMISSIONER: Deadline to register is September 30th. SED Commissioner Dr. Betty A. Rosa will be in the area and will address a combined audience from ECASB and CCSBA. If you have questions to submit, please send them to Dave Lowrey by October 2nd.

CLARENCE CSD STUDENT BRODY KAUFMAN TO BE HONORED AT OPENING SESSION OF NYSSBA. This year, the NYSSBA Awards team will recognize Brody Kaufman who is one of the Tomorrow's Leaders Today recipients in a video at the convention. Each year, at the opening of the Convention, NYSSBA honors 3-4 award recipients. Brody was awarded the NYSSBA Award in recognition of rescuing a distressed kayaker in Florida while on vacation with his family this past spring. The session will also be featured in the Convention Digital Experience.

OCTOBER IS BOARD APPRECIATION MONTH IN NEW YORK STATE: School Board Members should put out their signs "ECASB honors the School Board Member who resides here" signs. Students signs were sent to District Clerks that requested a Student Board Sign. If anyone needs a sign, please let your District Clerk know. We will send it interschool mail. Signs should be placed on lawns during the month of October.

I HAD THE CHANCE TO VISIT THE HOLLAND CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 22ND: Thank you to President Andrew Stang, Vice President Kelleen Kensy, Board Members Russell Clothier, Jr., Paula Leach, Thomas Olszewski, Bonnie Meahl Rowe, and Mary Jo Szucs. Special thank you to Interim Superintendent Cathy Fabiatos and District Clerk Sue Radecki. In an effort to reach out to the community, the Board approved three out reach committees to help gather additional community input.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER 6TH FOR THE STUDENT/PRESIDENT/BOARD MEMBER PROGRAM ON CYBER SECURITY. Program information will be sent out next week. Watch for details.

NEW BOOK IN ECASB LIBRARY: Artificial Intelligence To Streamline Your Teacher Life—The Chat

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GPT Guide for Educators by Mary Howard. Mary is a teacher in the Grand Island CSD specializing in ELA and Science. She is a NYS Master Teacher and has written many Ed Tech articles.

WE WELCOME DANIEL WEINSTEIN TO THE AMHERST CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION. Daniel was appointed to the Amherst Board of Education on Thursday September 18th to replace Paul Steimle. Daniel will remain in the position until the budget vote and elections in May.

I VISITED WEST SENECA CSD BOARD WORK SESSION TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD: Thank you to President Edmund Bedient, Vice President Marla Greenberg, Board Members Zach Armstrong, Lorene Barulich, Jeremy Maloney, Sara Piwowarczyk and Laura Sokol-Scott. Thank you to Superintendent Dr. Lisa Krueger and District Clerk Melissa Schutrum. The last two years I have attended the West Seneca CSD Board of Education meetings I was able to listen to different consultants talk about redistricting and reorganizing. Several different options have been provided to the Board of Education from rezoning, to reconfiguring, and everything in between over the last two years. After spending the summer spending a great deal of time taking a deep dive into data and possibilities, the Board was able to realistically look at and discuss options and look at pros and cons of each of the plans. It was a great work session with a lot of discussion taking place.

DISTRICT CLERK FALL WORKSHOP: Is October 2, 2025.

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

STUDENT EX OFFICIO BOARD MEMBER APPRECIATION SIGNS:

- ECASB has lawn signs available for all Student Ex Officio Board Members. ECASB has sent out signs to 14 districts. If a District Clerk needs any lawn signs for students, please let us know and we will send them interschool mail.

- ECASB now has Student Ex Officio Board Member T-Shirts. We sent out shirts to 25 Student Ex Officio members to students in Akron, Alden, Amherst, Cleve Hill, Cheektowaga, Frontier, Gowanda, Hamburg, Lake Shore, North Collins, Springville Griffith, Tonawanda, Williamsville and Pioneer. If a District clerk needs any shirts, please contact our office. They are available in sizes

small-xx large.

- Watson's Candies is in the process of incorporating the ECASB Ex Officio Student Board Member logo onto a Chocolate sucker. They will be sent out once they are available to celebrate Board Appreciation Month.

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.

OTHER COLSBA INFORMATION:

- Monroe County School Board Association will hold a mandated Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training on October 4th from 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at the Strathallan Hotel at 550 East Avenue.

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).

- 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
- November 6 - Student Focused Dinner - Location to be determined

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: At the West Seneca CSD Board Workshop, the West Seneca Bee came to interview the Student Ex Officio Members. Also sitting in on the interview was the Superintendent Dr. Lisa Krueger. Because the Student Ex Officio Members may not have the experience answering questions from a reporter, it might make sense to have guidelines for Student Ex Officio Members when speaking with the press. Guidelines could include everything from having the Superintendent present, the Board President present, or preparing students for interviews and only allowing interviews with a set of pre-established questions.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

If you are unable to attend the NYSSBA Convention in person in New York City, you can register for the Convention Digital Experience and have access to materials up to a month after the convention.

Additionally, I will need to appoint a member to the NYSSBA Resolutions Committee. If you are interested in serving, please let me know. A brief explanation of the committee is listed below.

The Resolutions Committee shall review the proposed resolutions and bylaw amendments

prior to the deadline established by Article 9 of the bylaws. Prior to taking a position on any resolutions, the committee shall have the authority to work with member boards submitting the resolutions to determine whether changes should be made. The committee shall meet again prior to the Annual meeting to discuss any issues that may have risen since the prior meeting to determine if the committee wishes to alter its previous positions. The committee prepares a final report which is presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Leslie Tobin (Lockport) has served 2023, 2024, and 2025). This seat will be up for appointment in January. Under Linda Hoffmans' leadership, there was an unwritten rule that the position would rotate between Erie and Niagara County.

IN SPORTS: