



This Week At ECASB ...

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

January 5, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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LOCAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS: - Senator Gallivan: Thursday, January 11th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2721 Transit Road, Elma. Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan will provide updates on the various meetings attended for those ECASB members that are unable to attend.

ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS OPENED JANUARY 2ND. Consider nominating someone from your Board of Education to receive an award and honor them for their work. Nomination forms are kept on file and reconsidered every year for a period of 5 years. Forms were sent out on January 2nd. Forms are available on the ECASB website under the Awards tab. Nominations must be postmarked by Monday, March 4, 2024. Awards include the Diana R. Miller Service to Education Award, the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award, the Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award, the Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the Lorie Sabo Advocacy Award, the ECASB District Clerk Award sponsored by Webster Szanyi LLP, the Friend(s) of ECASB Award and the Ray Carr Emerging Leaders Award.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY: Happy Anniversary to ECASB Executive Secretary and Information Specialist Sue Summers who will celebrate 18 years with ECASB on January 9th.

WELCOME TO C.DOUGLAS WHELAN,E.D.D.: Dr. Whelan will be serving as the Interim Superintendent at Depew UFSD. I had the opportunity to take two graduate level classes when I was working on my Administration Degree at Canisius College (University). Dr. Whelan was one of my favorite all time instructors. We welcome Dr. Whelan as to the ECASB family.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ATHLETIC DIRECTOR: Aubrey Lloyd, Buffalo Public Schools Athletic Director has been named Section VI Athletic Director of the Year by the New York State Athletic Administrators Association. He will formally be honored in March at their annual conference.

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE: 2023-2024 Student Video Contest 'The Miracle of Rural Education' is open now through January 12, 2024. A student or a club may submit entries. Video should be 2-3 minutes in length and should not exceed 5 minutes. Questions, please contact Andrea Durmiaki, Director of Communications and Planning at adurmiaki@rsany.org.

SATURDAY MORNING JANUARY 27TH PROGRAM. The program will be a breakfast program in conjunction with NYSSBA and the Niagara Orleans School Board Association. Please mark your calendars and watch for more information. The topic will be an “Let’s (Not) Freak Out About A.I. This program will be our Saturday morning breakfast session held at Erie 1 BOCES. Details about the program have already been sent. Start the New Year out right by attending this informative and entertaining presentation. The Keynote speaker is Dr. Mike Doughty. Dr. Doughty presented to a standing room crowd at the NYSSBA convention held in Buffalo recently. Assistant Superintendent for the Northeastern Regional Information Center, a division of the Capital Region BOCES in Albany, Dr. Doughty will provide the audience with an entertaining, informative and thought provoking topic.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS BY GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL: Governor Kathy Hochul will present her State of the State Address on January 9th at 1:00 p.m. The address will take place in the Assembly Chamber in the New York State Capital.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SHARON BELTON COTTMAN: Who has been re-elected to serve as the Board President for the Buffalo Public School. This is the second year that the Buffalo School Board begins their year (term) in January as opposed to July 1st when all other school boards begin their service. The Board Elections for the Buffalo Public Schools were moved to from May to the general election held in November. Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown will serve as Vice President of Executive Affairs and Larry Scott was re-elected to serve as Vice President Student Achievement.

THE EXECUTIVE BUDGET IS SET TO BE RELEASED JANUARY 16TH BY THE GOVERNOR. Once the budget is released, there will be many conversations from NYSCOSS, ASBO, NYSSBA, NYS Rural Association.

REGISTER FOR THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE. You can register for the Virtual Capital Conference which will be on February 2nd and learn how to prepare to advocate on behalf of your school, or you can register for the In-Person Lobby Day scheduled in Albany on February 7, 2024. If you cannot attend the in person day, why not register for the Virtual portion and then meet with your legislators when they are at home in their district. There are many resources on the NYSSBA website for School Board members that are new to advocacy.

ECASB FACTS AND FIGURES DOCUMENT: We are reviewing the final proof of the ECASB Facts and Figures Book. We will have a limited number of hard copies printed. All ECASB members will receive an electronic copy. The Facts and Figures Book will also be on the ECASB website. The Facts and Figures Book will also include Associate Members Pioneer CSD and Starpoint CSD.

MORE MONEY ON THE WAY... Governor Kathy Hochul will be providing schools in New York state with \$10,000,000 to train 20,000 teachers in the “science of reading” to help improve literacy scores. In the State of the State address next week on January 9th, Governor Hochul will ask the SED to create and share standards for science-based reading instruction that need to be instituted by 2025.

2024 ANNUAL BUDGET VOTE AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION TIMELINES (FEBRUARY-APRIL):

- **February 15th** - *Commissioner of Taxation and Finance calculates tax base growth factor for school districts and notifies those with positive quantity change factor so that they can include information in their calculation of the tax levy limit for the coming budget year.*

- **March 1st** - *School districts submit information necessary for the calculation of the tax levy limit to the State Comptroller, Commissioner of Education, Commissioner of Taxation and Commissioner of Finance.*

- **April 2nd—6th** - Districts must publish first of four legal notices of the budget vote and board election (i.e. 4 times during the 7 weeks (49 days) preceding the date of the election; the first notice being published not 45 days before the election. * The 45th day before the election is Saturday, April 6th. If the general circulation newspaper prints on Saturday, the deadline is met; otherwise district would publish on or before April 5, 2024 - but not before April 2nd.

- **April 22nd** - School board candidate nominating petitions due to the office of the district clerk by 5:00 p.m. 30 days before the election (except in small city school districts). Also - voter submitted petitions for propositions other than those required to be included in the notice of annual meeting must be submitted not later than 30 days before the vote.

- **April 26th** - Districts (other than small city cities) should distribute military ballots.

- **April 29th** - Districts must transmit “property tax report card” to SED by the end of the next business day following the approval by the school board, but not later than the 24th day before the budget vote. (This year the 24th day falls on Saturday April 27th, so ideally, the report could be submitted on Friday, April 26, 2024).

GALLUP POLL RESULTS: This month, many school boards will begin discussion of their 2024-2025 budgets. It is important that factual information be shared with the public in a timely manner, not just to meet the various deadlines, but to also build trust with the community. According to a Gallup Poll conducted in 2023, several organizations showed a decrease in the level of confidence from when the poll was first taken in 1973. Below are the results of many of the various categories and the level as to whether the consumers had a great deal/quite a lot of confidence in the organization.

<u>Organization:</u>	<u>1973</u>	<u>2023</u>
Church or organized religion	65%	32%
Supreme Court	45%	27%
Newspapers	39%	26%
Congress	42%	8%
Organized Labor	30%	25%
The Presidency	52%	26%
Big Business	26%	14%
Small Business	63%	65%
Public Schools	58%	26%

* If we can look at our public schools as ‘small businesses’, we are able to boost confidence in the institution.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- Local Legislative Meetings with NYS Senators and Assemblypersons during the month of December and January.
- January 18th - Legislative Team 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., B1
- January 24th - District Clerk Workshop, 11:30 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.; 355 Harlem Road; Room A-4
- January 27th - “Lets (Not) Freak Out About A.I.” - 355 Harlem Road, Rooms B2A and B2B

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
 - February 29th—2024 Educational Institutions Conference
 - March 23rd - Updates on Current Legal Issues Facing Employers
 - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce
- **Hodgson Russ LLP**
 - January 12th - 39th Annual School Client Conference 8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.; at M Hotel Buffalo; 2040 Walden Avenue, Buffalo New York

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS: None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Save the following dates:
 - 2024 Virtual Capital Conference - February 2, 2024
 - In Person NYSSBA Lobby Day in Albany - February 7, 2024

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- Equity Symposium - January 27th in Washington D.C
- Advocacy Institute - January 28th-30th in Washington D.C.
- Annual Conference and Exposition - April 4-6 in New Orleans, Louisiana
- Rural Education Summit - April 5th in New Orleans, Louisiana

AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- **ERIE NIAGARA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT'S ASSOCIATION:** Achieving the Joy and Mastery of Learning podcast listing. [CLICK HERE](#)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: *Inquiring minds want to know... "Can individuals nominate ECASB members for ECASB awards or does the nomination need to come from the entire Board of Education?"*

ANSWER: *An entire Board of Education may nominate an individual for an ECASB award, or an individual, or a group of people may nominate an individual for an ECASB Award. The entire Board does not need to nominate. All nominations are confidential. The only individuals seeing nomination forms are the Nominations Committee.*

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