



Erie County Association of School Boards

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ADVOCACY ALLIANCE MONTHLY

YOUR MONTHLY UPDATE

Dear Friends,

It has been a pleasure bringing you the advocacy news from the office of ECASB for the past school year. The School Year is beginning to wind down.

That doesn't mean advocacy ends for the summer; it just means updates will come in a memo form as needed. We will return with volume four in September 2024.

The ECASB Legislative Wrap-up Breakfast is on Saturday, May 11 at the Columns, Transit Road in Elma. Senator Patrick Gallivan and Assemblyman William Conrad will be our speakers. In the fall of the year, ECASB presented our asks for the legislative year. Now, the Wrap Up event is designed to have the Legislators provide an update on the year, let us know what they were able to accomplish, and where stumbling blocks occurred. I hope you have registered to attend, as registration is now closed.

Over the summer, we will keep a watchful eye on Albany, and I hope to participate in an advocacy program with our federal legislators, sponsored by NYSSBA. If you have specific federal level issues you would like for me to address, please email them to me at jsullivan@e1b.org.

Have a great summer

Yours in Advocacy,

~Jane

Take Note...

- ⇒ Legislative Wrap-up Breakfast is Sat., May 11, from 8:30 a.m. (registration); 8:45 Breakfast –10:30 a.m., at The Columns, 2221 Transit Road, Elma. Save the date and register with your district clerk.
- ⇒ Mark you calendar and invite your newly elected members: Board & Brews is on July 11 at the Hamburg Brewery. Details to follow in "This Week at ECASB" soon.
- ⇒ Encourage your newly elected board members to attend the Governance and FOR Training offered at ECASB. See the "This Week at ECASB" for details. All trainings are in person at Erie One BOCES in the B building.
- ⇒ ECASB Annual Awards Dinner will be held at Klocs beginning with registration at 5:00. The Lorie Sabo Advocacy award will be presented at this dinner. Please rsvp through your district clerk. Executive David Lowrey has emailed details.

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IN THE NEWS

Articles that may interest you

School Districts Weary of Electric Bus Deadlines– Buffalo News, May 6, 2024

Eleven-Year Old Raises Money to Pay Off Classmate's Lunch Debt– Buffalo News, May 4, 2024

And while not local, this is an interesting debate happening at a large city district in Minnesota. It demonstrates what happens when a school board is not in agreement with an even number of trustees. Anoka-Hennepin School Board Member Threatens budget Standoff Over Racial Gender Equity Efforts– Sahan Journal, April 17, 2024



Time to Take Action

During the summer months, take some time to learn about advocacy in your district. What specific needs does your district have and how can you play a part in helping advocate for those needs?

One way to get involved with your district and your board is to write a resolution for NYSSBA. The NYSSBA Resolution Kit was emailed out this past week, and copies are on file here at ECASB. All resolutions and proposed bylaw amendments must be received at NYSSBA by 5 p.m. on July 12, 2024. Sample resolutions and advice on writing one are all included in the kit published by NYSSBA. I would love to see some resolutions from ECASB component districts! Let me know if I can help in any way. If your district writes a resolution, ask other School Boards to sign on and support the resolution. I would be happy to coordinate such a venture.

Also during the summer months, take some time to visit with legislators. Invite them to summer events in your district. Use this time to give them a “quiet” tour of the building and grounds, especially if legislators want to see the impact legislation has on school environment issues and building aid.

Again, I am happy to facilitate arranging meetings, and I would even join you if I am available.

Use summertime to establish and reach an advocacy goal!

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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. Support is provided.

New Bills:

A10116 (School Board Governance) - Protects students from being bullied, harassed or discriminated against by school board members and school trustees. It was introduced on May 6 and has no local sponsor.

A10121 (School Athletics) -An act to amend the education law, in relation to separating interscholastic athletic championships between public and non-public schools. It was introduced on May 6 and has no local sponsor.

A10123 (Transportation) -An act to amend the education law, in relation to reserve funds for pupil transportation costs. It was introduced on May 6 and has no local sponsor.

A09972 /S01924 (Teacher Training)- Relates to mandatory continuing education for teachers relating to mental health issues. Introduced in the assembly on May 1, there are no local sponsors.

A09983/S02272 (Parent Information)- Directs the division of criminal justice services to develop information on the safe storage of firearms to be provided to parents of school children. It was sent to the assembly education committee on May 1 and has no local sponsors.

A09855/S09018 (School Board Governance) - Allows for the designation of students as ex officio members of school boards; clarifies what such ex officio members are permitted to do. Introduced on April 24, there are no local sponsors.

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