



This Week At ECASB ...

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

September 19, 2025

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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GLOBAL INSIGHTS IN A CONNECTED WORLD

DEADLINE TO REGISTER FOR CONVERSATION AND DINNER WITH THE COMMISSIONER: ECASB and Chautauqua County School Boards Association (CCSBA) will be co sponsoring an added SPECIAL EVENT on October 7th. **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. 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 EDEN CSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING ON MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15TH: Thank you to President Donald Sutfin, Vice President Jennifer Horschel, Board Members Cheryl Carpenter, Jack Cuddihy, Jen DellaPenta and Marlene Grunder. Special thank you to Superintendent Jeffrey Sortisio and new District Clerk Amanda Pachucinski. I was able to listen about the amazing Friday night football game win 63-62, where quarterback Brad Waring set a New York State record. Mr. Waring was in attendance to talk about what participating in sports at Eden High School means.

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LISTEN TO THE STUDENT BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER TRAINING: Sponsored by the State Education Department. Guests included NYS Senator Shelley Mayer who sponsored a bill to have Student Ex Officio Members, NYS Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner, SED Commissioner Betty A. Rosa, Regent Chancellor Lester Young, Jr., NYSSBA President Sandra Ruffo, NYSSBA Legal Counsel Jay Worona, Esq., and former Orchard Park CSD Student Ex Officio member Luke Lippett. Serving as the emcee and host of the program was NYSSBA Executive Director Robert Schneider. The webinar was available at 37 BOCES around the state as well as in individual schools. If you have any feedback on the session, please feel free to reach out to me at dlow-

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rey@e1b.org so I can share the information.

I VISITED DEPEW UFSD BOARD MEETING TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH: Thank you to President Bart McGloin, Vice President Patrick Law, Board Members Amy Doody, Kerisha Hawthorne-Greer, Nicholas LaMarca, Jeffrey Ordon, and John Spencer. Thank you to Superintendent Katie Smith and District Clerk Jessica Neischel. I learned about their Middle School Club WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) and the many activities that they do at the beginning of the year to welcome students back to school.

I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE CLEVELAND HILL UFSD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING WEDNESDAY EVENING. Thank you to Board President Robert Polino, Vice President Paul Kunkel, Board Members Julie McNeil, Michael Montoro and Dr. Bonnie Vest. Thank you to Superintendent David Evans and District Clerk Wendy Limardi. I heard about a new program that involves 2 student athletes getting together on a monthly basis to discuss sports and culture at Cleveland Hill High School. I will be reaching out to their Athletic Director to get additional information.

DISTRICT CLERK FALL WORKSHOP: Is October 2, 2025. Information on ordering lunch will be sent out soon. 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 AMHERST CSD BOARD MEMBER PAUL STEIMLE AND EDEN CSD BOARD MEMBER ALLAN SILVER, WHO BOTH RESIGNED RECENTLY.

ECASB AWARDS - FRIEND(S) OF ECASB:

- The Friend (s) of ECASB Award was first awarded in 2021 to recognize individuals who contributed to the betterment of ECASB and Public Education. In 2021, ECASB lacked a bookkeeper. Kathy Queeno, who was a past East Aurora UFSD Board Member and an Erie 2 CC

BOCES Board of Education member volunteered her time to help get us organized and reconcile our books and accounts after the departure of the ECASB Executive Assistant. It was at that time that the Executive Board developed the Friend (s) of ECASB Award. Kathy is an accountant and helped us organize the accounts into a quick book format. She worked with our current bookkeeper Ryan DiPasquale to get him up and running.

THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS WERE RECIPIENTS OF THE FRIEND (S) OF ECASB AWARD.

- 2021 - Kathy Queeno
- 2022 - Dr. Rick Timbs - has been presenting for many, many years and educating School Board Members not only in Erie County, but around the state on school related financial matters.
- 2023 - Wayne Drescher - Shared business manager at Erie 1 BOCES/Cheektowaga Sloan UFSD has presented at the ECASB Board Mandated Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training.
- 2024 - Senator Patrick Gallivan
- 2024 - Assemblyman William Conrad
- 2025 - Dr. Heather Lyon, Superintendent of Lyndonville CSD has been the keynote speaker at ECASBs' Board Mandated Governance Training.

NYSSBA RECENT AWARD RECOGNITIONS/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS: NYSSBA has a Champions of Change Recognition Award and a Tomorrow's Leaders Today Award. The following ECASB districts were recently provided or will be provided the award at an upcoming meeting.

Tomorrow's Leaders Today:

- *Honor Smoke (Akron CSD) - Tomorrow's Leaders Today Award* - A 10 year old wrestler from the Tonawanda Reservation in New York made history as the youngest athlete on a Sports Illustrated Cover, appearing on the first edition of "Sports re-Illustrated" in February 2025. The special issue, in collaboration with Dove, highlights young female athletes breaking barriers and aims to inspire more girls to participate in sports.

- *Brody Kaufman (Clarence CSD) - Tomorrow's Leaders Today Award* - A junior at Clarence CSD helped save a life of a kayaker in Florida while on vacation with his family this past spring. Using several ropes, he helped pull him to safety. However, he story does not stop there. While at the Atlanta airport, Brody provided first aid to an individual who had fainted in airport before paramedics could respond.

- *Champions of Change Award—Clarence Family Support Center (Clarence CSD)* - A banner is presented to the district that they can display on behalf of a successful program making an impact on others.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION: The following information was shared by Rosalba Corrado DelVecchio who serves on the NYSSBA Board of Directors representing the Conference of Big 5 School Districts. The Conference of Big 5 includes Buffalo, New York City, Rochester, Syracuse, and Albany. Additionally they represent Yonkers, Mount Vernon and Utica.

- Urban school districts enroll 45% of the New York State's public school students.
- 65% of the State's English Language Learner students are educated in Conference of Big 5-Member school districts.
- 50% of the State's special education students (ages 5-21) are education in city school districts.
- 57% of New York State's prekindergartners are educated in city school districts.
- The percentages of students with extraordinary needs are: Buffalo - 84%; NYC - 73%; Rochester - 90%; Syracuse 89%; Yonkers - 69%; Albany - 72%; Mount Vernon - 63%; and Utica - 85%.

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 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 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
- 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 Cleveland Hill UFSD Board of Education, all Building Principals, and Directors of all the departments have an opportunity to provide the Board of Education with any news and information pertinent to their area at the end of the meeting. It is a great roundtable format.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

As the NYSSBA Area 1 Director, part of my responsibilities is to name a Board Member from Area 1 to serve on the Awards Committee, The DEI Committee, and the Resolutions Committee. Committee members may serve up to three years. They would then need to take a year off before they would be able to serve another three year term. Committee assignments run from January 1st to December 31st. A brief description of the committees are listed below:

Awards Committee (Distinguished Service Award and the Champion of Change banner).

- The committee convenes to review the submitted award nominations and to select a winner. The committee typically meets by conference call or virtually.

Tricia Andrews (Clarence CSD) is the current representative for Area 1. She has served in 2024 and 2025. She has expressed an interest to serve for one more year in 2026. Committee assignments officially

The DEI Committee provides advice and counsel to NYSSBA's Board of Directors and NYSSBA's staff related to the types of supports and services the Association can and should provide to its members in the area of Differentiation-Equity-Inclusion. The Committee will position itself to provide its own suggestions for the best DEI programs and services that the Association can offer its member board as well as provide its reaction to programs and services which the Association is considering to propose.

Swaroop Singh (Williamsville) has served 2022-2025.

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. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please let Dave Lowrey know ASAP.

IN SPORTS: