



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

December 8, 2023

*Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531*

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**ECASB MUG GIVE AWAY:** ECASB held their annual Holiday Mug Give-Away at last weeks November 30th Speed Boarding Event. Mugs were filled with hot cocoa, candy and each mug had money. Recipients were asked to email Sue Summers with the amount they received. The following are some of the winners:

**\$50 Mugs:** Stephanie Dombrowski (Cheektowaga Sloan UFSD) and Mike Capuana (Erie 1 BOCES Superintendent)

**\$20 Mugs:** Mike Montoro (Cleveland Hill UFSD)

**\$10 Mugs:** James McDermott (Maryvale UFSD)

**\$5 Mugs:** Tricia Andrews (Clarence CSD), Patrick Boyle (Frontier CSD), and Paul Spors (Ken Ton UFSD), and Edward Cavan (Erie 1 BOCES).

**\$1 Mugs:** Other attendees to the program

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS/SCHOOLS WHO HAVE GIRLS NAMED TO THE ALL-STATE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL FIRST TEAMS:** Division A: Angelina Siepierski and Sarah taggart (Williamsville South). Several schools had girls named to the second, third, fourth and fifth teams in each class.

**LOCAL LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS:** Thank you to the following ECASB members that have volunteered to attend local meeting with their legislators to discuss ECASB's legislative platform and specific school related issues with legislators in their local offices. If any other school boards would like to attend, please let Jane Sullivan know. Advocates include: ECASB Legislative Co-Chairs Scott Johnson (Sweet Home CSD), Kathleen Chiavetta (Erie 2 CC BOCES and Lake Shore CSD), and Erik Polkowski (Akron CSD); Mary Jo Szucs (Holland CSD); Dennis Priore (Clarence CSD); Mark Manna (Williamsville CSD); Kristy Pingitore (Akron CSD); Karen Whitelaw (Ken-Ton UFSD); and Kristin Schmutzler Tonawanda City). Meetings are set up as follows. :

- Senator Ryan: Thursday December 7th @ 2:30 p.m; LaRiviere Drive, Suite 121, Buffalo, NY\*
- Senator Kennedy Staff: Thursday December 14th @ 3:00 p.m. place TBD
- Assemblywoman Monica Wallace: Tuesday December 19th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2562 Walden Avenue, Suite 102 in Cheektowaga
- Senator Gallivan: Thursday, January 11th @ 3:00 p.m.; 2721 Transit Road, Elma

\* The team met with Senator Sean Ryan (Thursday). Jane indicated meeting went well, and I am sure will provide an update.

**BOARD VISIT:** I attended the West Seneca CSD Board of Education on Tuesday, December 5th. It is that time of year when districts begin their budget planning session. I was able to view the first documents on the Budget Development process. Additionally, I heard about their upcoming Capital Project vote that will help to make schools more safe and secure. Thank you to Board President Elizabeth Gates, Vice-President Molly Dana, Board Members Edmund Bedient, Trek Fulater, Sarah Piwowarczyk, Laura Sokol Scott, and Vincent Vanderlip. Special Thanks to Interim Superintendent Dr. Jeff Rabey, District Clerk Nicole Latza, and Superintendent Secretary Melissa Schutrum.

**WE WISH LINDA HOFFMAN RETIRING AS NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR:** We wish Linda Hoffman well and thank her for services as she completes her final few weeks as the NYSSBA Area 1 Director. Linda Hoffman will continue to serve on the Erie 2 CC BOCES Board of Education. Linda began her Board of Education Service on the Springville Griffith Institute CSD Board of Education in the 1980's. If you would like to drop Linda a note, her address is 11805 Snyder Road, Springville NY 14141 or [lhoffman@e2ccb.org](mailto:lhoffman@e2ccb.org).

**WE SAY GOODBYE TO DEPEW HANK STOPINSKI WHO WILL BE RETIRING JANUARY 1, 2024.** Dr. Stopinski has been a frequent attendee at many ECASB events. Dr. Stopinski has been involved in public education for over 35 years.

**ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS OPEN JANUARY 2BD.** Watch for the details of the specific ECASB awards over the next few weeks.

**ALBANY BUSINESS REVIEW:** Has named New York State School Boards Association as one of the Best Places to Work in the Capital Region in the 50-99 Employees category.

**WE WELCOME NEWEST GOWAND CSD BOARD MEMBER JENNIFER M. GERNATT.** Ms Gernatt was appointed to the Gowanda CSD Board from 12/6/2023-5/21/2024.

**SCHEDULING LOCAL LEGISLATOR VISITS.** Jane Sullivan has already started scheduling "In District Meetings" with Legislators. The following individuals have indicated that they are available for various meetings. If you would like to be added to the list. Please contact Jane at [jsullivan@e1b.org](mailto:jsullivan@e1b.org). Additionally, Jane has secured the following dates for meetings.

**THINGS ARE NOT ALWAYS AS THEY APPEAR:** It appeared that in the Elf on a Shelf promotion picture that Edward C. Asby was partaking in an adult beverage at work. My days in advertising have been beneficial. The beer glass in the picture contained hot herbal tea. The suds were created by a frothy mix of dawn dish detergent mixed up in the kitchen sink in the room next to our office carefully set on top of the tea.

**MEETING WITH NYSSBA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:** NYSSBA Executive Director Robert Schneider will be traveling to the WNY area early in 2024 to meet with me as I begin serving as the NYSSBA Area 1 Director January 1st. I had an opportunity to meet many NYSSBA staff members, NYSSBA officers, and other NYSSBA Area Directors at my recent orientation and Directors meeting.

**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 "Introduction to Artificial Intelligence.

What It Is...What It Isn't...And Is Your District Ready?" This program will be our Saturday morning breakfast session held at Erie 1 BOCES. Details will be sent out next week. Start the New Year out right by attending this informative and entertaining presentation.

**ECASB ELF ON A SHELF PROMOTION CONTINUES UNTIL DECEMBER 15TH.** Thank you to all ECASB members that are participating in this now annual tradition. On the 16th we will draw names of all the individuals that have guessed correctly at the daily clues.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- January 2nd - ECASB Award Nominations Open

**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:**

- NSBA Rural Education Virtual Summit - December 13th, 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- 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

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