



This Week At ECASB ...

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

November 1, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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BLACK PASSPORT GROUP

GLOBAL INSIGHTS IN A CONNECTED WORLD

NEW YORK STATE RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION WINTER CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS OPEN:

The theme this year is 'Building a Bridge Over Troubled Water - Making the Most of a Good Crisis'. Highlights of the conference include:

- Presentation of the Leader of the Year Award to Education Commissioner Rosa.
- Rockefeller Institute presentations on recommendations on Foundation Aid Reform
- Roundtable with NYSSBA Governmental Relations and NYSSCOS
- New Negotiations for a New Era
- Workshop to provide attendees with the skills and tools they need to manage change, involve their communities, and excel in a challenging environment.

Registration closes November 15th. The program takes place at the Excelsior Spring Event Center and Courtyard Saratoga Springs December 4th & 5th.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: The deadline for registering for the Legislative Breakfast is **TODAY - Friday November 1st**. In the past we have had upwards of 150 attendees to the Legislative Breakfast. Legislators will take notice of their Districts that are in attendance. This is an opportunity to speak with Legislators before they head to Albany. In the past we used to have our Legislative Breakfast in February. Different Legislators have told us that February is too late to address concerns. Once the Governor's Budget is released, they are basically in a negotiations period. Thus, if you want to advocate for any causes NOW is the time to reach out Legislators.

CONGRATULATIONS TO FRONTIER CSD DISTRICT CLERK SHANNON CROSS. Shannon identified the 2024 Great Pumpkin after only three clues. Shannon was the recipient of the \$100 gift card to Wegman's. Shannon was the first person to identify the Great Pumpkin. Brandon McGuire from Tonawanda City School District was the recipient of the random drawing for a \$50 gift card to Wegman's. All correct answers were placed into the hopper. Brandon's name was drawn.

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO SUE SUMMERS WHO CREATED THE FIRST DISTRICT CLERK DIRECTORY. The directory has all district clerks in Erie, Niagara, Cattaraugus and Chautauqua Counties

ECASB DIRECTORY: Is currently at the printer. We have a limited number of directories that will be printed. All Presidents and New Members will receive a copy. Copies will be sent via interschool

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mail. If any other ECASB members want a hard copy, please let us know.

FALL SPEEDBOARDING NOVEMBER 21ST. Three topics will be presented. Each topic will be presented in 1/2 hour or less (hence Speed Boarding). The first presenter will be Lackawanna Superintendent Nadia Nashir who will speak about their new cell phone policy. The second speaker will be Cheektowaga Sloan UFSD School Superintendent Andrea Galenski and Assistant Superintendent Janelle Finn who will speak about Restorative Justice. The district presented at the NYSSBA convention to a packed room. I along with many other ECASB members attended the event and found the presentation to be interesting and innovative. Data was presented that demonstrated that there were less suspensions and less Superintendent hearings. The third presenter will be Lake Shore Superintendent Dan Pacos and their Transportation Supervisor Perry Oddi who will speak about Zero Emission Buses and their experience. I was able to hear a very thorough Transportation Report at one of their fall Board of Education meetings and was impressed with the information and the details. This is a free event and will be a Dessert Forum. Registration is required. Register via your District Clerk. This will be the last Professional Development program for the 2024 calendar year.

OCTOBER IS OVER. School Board recognition month comes to a close. Please save your lawn signs for next year.

THE COLSBA MEETING WAS HELD AT THE ANNUAL CONVENTION AND EXPO. I will send out a brief report in the coming weeks. Also attending the meeting with me was ECASB President Patrick Boyle and ECASB Program Services Manager Jane Sullivan.

PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE NYSSBA CAPITAL CONFERENCE IN ALBANY IN FEBRUARY? ECASB will be securing a block of rooms for those planning on attending. Watch for details.

WE SAY GOOD BYE TO LACKAWANNA CSD BOARD MEMBER ANTHONY CATUZZA. Mr. Catuzza recently resigned from the Board of Education. We thank Anthony for his service.

THE DRAWING FOR THE FREE BOARD DINNER WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FALL SPEED BOARDING EVENT. Any Board Members that submitted photos of them with ECASB sponsors at the Annual NYSSBA Convention and Expo are eligible. We also extended the invitation to have pictures taken with ECASB sponsors at the Dr. Rick Timbs Program and at the Legislative Breakfast for those districts that were unable to attend the convention. All pictures should be submitted to Dave Lowrey by the end of the day Monday, November 18th. This will be the third year ECASB has the drawing. The first year Iroquois was the recipient and used the dinner to resurrect an old tradition of a Holiday Board/Administration Get Together. Last year, Cheektowaga-Sloan was the recipient and had the catered dinner brought to their Mid Year Board/Administration retreat.

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK THIS WEEKEND.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- November 1st - Deadline to Register for Legislative Breakfast
- November 16th - Legislative Breakfast at Resurgence Brewing Company
- November 14th - Deadline to Register for Fall Speed Boarding
- November 21st - Fall Speed Boarding / Dessert Forum
- December 1st - Elf on a Shelf Promotion Begins

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- Mark your calendar. 2025 NYSSBA Convention and Expo will be October 23d-25th.
- Live Virtual School Board Mandated training. If you have not completed your training, NYSSBA will hold a Live Virtual meeting for Governance on November 8th. Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training will be November 15th and 16th.
- November 20th - Executive Director's Complimentary Lunchtime Webinar on School Budgeting November 20, 2024.
- December 3rd—Legislative and State Budget Preview Complimentary Webinar

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE:

- December 4th and 5th - Winter Conference 2024 at Saratoga Springs. Registration close November 15th.

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- 2025 National School Boards Conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia April 4th-6th.

AFFILIATE NEWS AND INFORMATION:

- Erie Niagara School Superintendents has a list of all of their podcasts over the last three years. If you are interested in subscribing or following the E-NSSA podcast you can search for "Achieving Joy and Mastery in Public Schools" within your favorite podcast platform. (Apple, Spotify, Audacy, Amazon Music etc.). For further information, please contact Grand Island Superintendent Dr. Brian Graham.

Season 1

Episode 1 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Youth Mental Health First Aid - Michael Cornell)

Episode 2 [CLICK HERE](#) - (How the Niagara Falls City Schools Created a Partnership with Local Trade Unions - Mark Laurrie)

Episode 3 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Innovative and Authentic Learning Opportunities at Springville High School - James Bi-
- alasik)

Episode 4 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Niagara Wheatfield Cares - Daniel Ljiljanich)

Episode 5 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Newfane - One Newfane! The Journey for Technological and Capital Improvements.
- Michael Baumann)

Episode 6 [CLICK HERE](#) - (A School Within a School - West Seneca's Approach to High School Academy Offerings - Matt By-
- strak)

Episode 7 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Student, Staff and Family Solutions in Orchard Park Schools - David Lilleck)

Episode 8 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Lake Shore Schools Lead The Way With a Zero Emissions School Bus - Daniel Pacos)

Episode 9 [CLICK HERE](#) - (KenTon Supports! - Sabatino Cimato)

Episode 10 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Cleve-Hill - Leading the Way with DEI - Jon MacSwan)

Episode 11 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Alden - Student Run Bulldog Manufacturing Company - Adam Stoltman)

Episode 12 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Full STEAM ahead at Tonawanda City Schools Tim Oldenburg)

Episode 13 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Erie 1 BOCES - Business and Higher Education Partnerships Benefitting Students - Mike Cap-
- uana)

Episode 14 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Lew-Port - Working to Resume Educational Exchange Opportunities for Students - Paul Cas-
- seri)

Episode 15 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Sweet Home - Using our Stories to Inform Diversity, Equity and Inclusive Practices. - Mike Ginestrie)

Episode 16 [CLICK HERE](#) - (North Tonawanda - REACHING all Students - Gregory Woytila)

Episode 17 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Williamsville - Better Together - Celebrating the Joy in Unified Sports - Darren Brown-Hall)

Episode 18 [CLICK HERE](#) - (One Starpoint - A RTI Bridge Program for 9th Graders - Dr. Sean Croft)

Episode 19 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Buffalo Public Schools - "I am Them and They are Me" - Dr. Tonja Williams)

Episode 20 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Akron's Market on Main- Real World and Authentic Learning!" Superintendent Patrick McCabe)

Episode 21 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Erie 2 BOCES - Pathways to Early College - High School Programs - David O'Rourke)

Episode 22 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Clarence CSD - Caring About Culture - Matt Frahm)

Episode 23 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Lyndonville - Tremendous Success from 3-years old through High School - Mrs. Sharon Smith)

- Episode 24 [CLICK HERE](#) (Eden - Exceptional Early Childhood Education - Jeff Sortisio)
 Episode 25 [CLICK HERE](#) (NYSCOSS - Dr. Darrin Peppard - Road to Awesome: The Journey of a Leader)
 Episode 26 [CLICK HERE](#) (Barker CSD - The Unique Student Mentor and Mentee (M&M's) Program - Jake Reimer)
 Episode 27 [CLICK HERE](#) - (East Aurora - The Leadership, Empowerment, Achievement and Passion program for 8th Graders - Brian Russ)
 Episode 28 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Wilson - Be Your Best Self - Tim Carter)
 Episode 29 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Depew - Using Student Voice to Shape Culture and Climate - Hank Stopinski)
 Episode 30 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Medina - Celebrating their Championship Marching Band - Mark Kruzynski)
 Episode 31 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Gowanda - Measuring Student Success - Bob Anderson)
 Episode 32 [CLICK HERE](#) - (North Collins - We are all here for each other. - Scott Taylor)
 Episode 33 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Orleans-Niagara BOCES - The Role of the District - Clark Godshall)
 Episode 34 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Grand Island Schools - Using Floreo Virtual Reality to Improve Life Skills - Brian Graham)
 Episode 35 [CLICK HERE](#) - (University at Buffalo's new National Artificial Intelligence Institute for Exceptional Education)

Season 2

- Episode 1 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Dr. Kevin McGowan - Intentionality as an Educational Leader)
 Episode 2 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Hamburg - Athlete Talks on Mental Wellness - Michael Cornell)
 Episode 3 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Dr. Jason Andrews - NYSCOSS President - Leading through the lens of Professional Learning Communities)
 Episode 4 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Niagara Falls - The power of his home grown PTECH pathway programs - Mark Laurie)
 Episode 5 [CLICK HERE](#) - (NYSCOSS - Keynote Speakers)
 Episode 6 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Orchard Park - Students Protecting Education)
 Episode 7 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Sweet Home - Zero Emission Electric Bus Purchases)
 Episode 8 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Alden - Student Led WACS News, WACS Video and WACS Social Media)
 Episode 9 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Clarence - The Power of Moments)
 Episode 10 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Lake Shore - The Growth of a Successful eSports Program)
 Episode 11 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Springville: There New 9th Grade Intervention Program)
 Episode 12 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Grand Island Teacher/Author Mary Howard - Using ChatGPT for Educators - AI to Streamline Teacher Life)
 Episode 13 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Niagara Wheatfield - Eco-Campus Revitalization Project)
 Episode 14 [CLICK HERE](#) - (Williamsville - New Religious and Cultural Holidays Adopted)
 Episode 15 [CLICK HERE](#) - Tonawanda City Schools - The Brilliant Warrior Academy
 Episode 16 [CLICK HERE](#) - West Seneca - Comprehensive Music Education Program
 Episode 17 [CLICK HERE](#) - Wilson CSD - Kindness and Sunshine
 Episode 18 [CLICK HERE](#) - NYSCOSS - Messages from the Ignite Keynote Speakers at the Winter Institute
 Episode 19 [CLICK HERE](#) - Randolph - Soaring Cardinal PBIS Program
 Episode 20 [CLICK HERE](#) - North Tonawanda STEM Students - Mission 18 - International Space Station Experiment
 Episode 21 [CLICK HERE](#) - Olean City Schools - Strategic Planning and the Power of Belonging
 Episode 22 [CLICK HERE](#) - Barker - All Things Electric
 Episode 23 [CLICK HERE](#) - Cleveland Hill - Literacy Skill Development & Student Achievement
 Episode 24 [CLICK HERE](#) - Cheektowaga CSD - Rocket Drones
 Episode 25 [CLICK HERE](#) - Buffalo Public Schools - Amplifying Women in Sports

Season 3

- Episode 1 [CLICK HERE](#) - Grand Island - ZeroEyes
 Episode 2 [CLICK HERE](#) - Honest Game - One System to Navigate College Sports Opportunities.
 Episode 3 [CLICK HERE](#) - Khan Academy & Khanmigo (AI Student Tutor and AI Assistant to Teachers)
 Episode 4 [CLICK HERE](#) - Lockport City Schools - We are all Lions... We all belong.
 Episode 5 [CLICK HERE](#) - Niagara Falls City Schools - Say Yes to Niagara Falls.
 Episode 6 [CLICK HERE](#) - Erich Reiter - Say it Labs and Stutter Stars
 Episode 7 [CLICK HERE](#) - Hamburg CSD - Joy, Value and Connection.
 Episode 8 [CLICK HERE](#) - NYSCOSS - Mr. Michael Bennett, Dr. Darren Brown-Hall, Jared T. Bloom, Mr. Matthew Gaven, & Dr. Kusum Sinha
 Episode 9 [CLICK HERE](#) - Silver Creek CSD - Avoiding Burnout Through Self-Care
 Episode 10 [CLICK HERE](#) - "Springville CSD: "Fun-tastic Fourth Grade Sellers"
 Episode 11 [CLICK HERE](#) - "Dunkirk City Schools: Celebrating Cultural and Linguistic Diversity, through Bilingual Education K-2

BEST PRACTICES: I attended the East Aurora UFSD Board Meeting a few weeks ago. When returning from Executive Session, the Board President gave the specific reasons why the Board was in Executive Session. Many times the Board President will read the entire laundry list of “why the Board went into Executive Session”. According to Attorneys that speak at ECASB Governance Trainings, the specific reason should be listed without providing specific details.

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

The next NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting will be held the first part of December. If you have any issues or concerns you would like me to address, please let me know. The 2025 NYSSBA Convention and Expo will be October 23rd-25th.

NYSSBA over the next month has many Live Virtual Workshops and Presentations. Please be sure to check them out.



Pictured with Sophia at the NYSSBA Annual Convention and Expo are members of the Clarence CSD. Pictured left to right are Board Members Tricia Andrews, Superintendent Dr. Matt Frahm, and Board Member Dennis Priore.