



This Week At ECASB ...

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

March 8, 2024

Executive Director Cell Phone: (716) 867-3531

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ECASB AWARD NOMINATIONS CLOSED MARCH 4TH. Thank you to those groups and individuals that submitted nominations. The Awards committee consisting of Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst), Dawn Snyder (Clarence), Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda), Renee Wilson (Erie 1 BOCES/Cheektowaga), and Sherry Steffans (Grand Island) met on Wednesday March 6th to review all the applications and determine award recipients. Award recipients names will be released over the next few weeks. We will, as in the past, release the names of the award recipients over a period of a few weeks. Rising Star and Shining Star Award recipients will not be announced until a later date as there are still a few meetings and programs that have not yet occurred that are counted toward the award attendance.

SAVE THE DATE: AUGUST 7, 2024. THE WESTERN NEW YORK EDUCATIONAL SERVICE COUNCIL AND ECASB WILL BE HOLDING THEIR ANNUAL WNY LAW CONFERENCE. Deputy Executive Director and General Counsel for New York State School Boards Association, Mr. Jay Worona, Esq. will be the keynote speaker. The program will be held at Salvatore's Banquet facility in Depew.

REGIONAL MAKER FAIRE: The event will take place on Saturday March 9th from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Lake Shore High School at 959 Beach Road, Angola, New York. Programs are free and a few have a small activity fee. To obtain free tickets please contact: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-western-new-york-regional-maker-faire-tickets-824376701907> ; to obtain more information you can go to : <https://wnyregion.makerfaire.com/about/>

RURAL SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION SUMMER CONFERENCE: Will be held at Lake Placid this year July 14th - 16th. This will be a new location for the Rural Schools Association's Summer Conference. Registration is now open. Hotel registrations must be made by June 17th at 4:00 p.m. Room blocks are available at: Best Western Adirondack Inn, Bluebird Lake Plaza, Crowne Plaza, Grand Adirondack Hotel, High Peaks Resort and Mirror Lake Inn. Requests for proposals is open through March 8th. Have additional questions, please contact RSA at 518-750-4223 or email rsa@rsany.org.

VISIT TO AMHERST CSD: I had the opportunity to visit the Amherst CSD Board of Education meeting on Monday evening. I observed a presentation from the Middle School Administrative team on how the school is reaching out and making connections to all students attending the school. Connections are made through sending out post cards and making phone calls home in an effort to make connections to with all students and families. Thank you to Board President Paul Steimle, Vice President Jessica McLaughlin, Board of Education members Jeanne Ernst, Lynn Errington, Lorry Goldhawk, Maryjane Metzen and Dominic Vivolo. Special Thank you to Superintendent Anthony Panella, and District Clerk Deborah Custodi.

PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER WORKSHOP: ECASB will hold their annual Prospective

School Board Workshop on Saturday, March 23rd, from 8:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. The first part of the program will be presented by Hodgson Russ LLP attorneys Karl Kristoff, Esq. and Jeffrey Swiatek, Esq. The second part will include a panel discussion comprised of experienced School Board Members. If you are an experienced School Board Member with at least 1 year of service, and want to participate in the panel, please email Dave Lowrey at dlowrey@e1b.org to be considered to serve on the panel.

NYSSBA SURVEYS: You will be receiving a 2024 Resolutions Survey which will help to gauge member sentiments on a variety of issues. Your input is extremely important. Please complete the survey by March 22nd. Additionally, NYSSBA has a Membership Survey that will be sent out soon. The survey will be sent to Board of Education members, a different survey for Superintendents, and a survey for District Clerks. Please complete these surveys when you receive them. The surveys are sent every three years and provide NYSSBA with valuable information on serving their members.

CONGRATULATIONS TO KIM JONES FROM THE BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT: Kim was the recipient of the Social Worker of the Year by the New York State Social Worker Association. For the last couple of years, Kim has organized an October School Carnival that brings to the school therapy goats, a mobile exhibit, art activities, an ice cream truck and midway snacks. She has spearheaded a winter coat giveaway, a holiday adopt a student program, introduced kindness projects to reduce bullying, provides school-break to-go bags for students experiencing food insecurity and even works the community on sourcing of appliances and furniture for families in need.

6 HOUR MANDATED GOVERNANCE TRAINING AND 6 HOUR MANDATED FISCAL OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE HELD THIS YEAR ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- Governance Training - Part I - May 28th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Part II - June 1st 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- Fiscal Oversight Responsibility Training -
Part I - June 11th 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
Part II - June 15th 8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
- * A light dinner will be served during the 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. sessions.
- * A continental breakfast will be served during the Saturday morning sessions.
- * All sessions are In Person.
- * Must attend both parts of a session to receive credit.
- * Member District cost is \$100 per course; Non Member District cost is \$250.
- * Certificates will be provided.
- * All sessions will be held at Erie 1 BOCES; 355 Harlem Road, West Seneca, Building B
- * Participants must register with their district clerk the Thursday before the training sessions.

NIAGARA ORLEANS SCHOOL BOARD ASSOCIATION: Will hold their Prospective School Board Member Workshop on March 16th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:a.m. at North Tonawanda High School Library 405 Meadow Drive, North Tonawanda. To register for NOSBA Workshop please call 716-731-6800 ext. 2211 or email dstamp@onboces.org by Wednesday, March 13th.

CIDEL: Committee For Identifying and Developing Educational Leadership program will be held on March 9th at Erie 1 BOCES 355 Harlem Road. Registration, Donut Holes and Coffee will be 8:00 a.m.- 8:30 a.m. Keynote speaker is Superintendent Kevin McGowan. His presentation will be on "The Joy in Leadership: Supporting the Whole Administrator". The program is designed for educational leaders in a school. To register call 716-923-6514 or email wnyesc222@gmail.com

ECASB BUDGET IS ADOPTED: The ECASB Budget was adopted and approved an in person Executive Board budget vote and on-line voting by both the Budget and Finance Committee and the Delegate Assembly. The adopted budget will result in no dues increase for ECASB members for the 10th year in a row. Thank you to those that attended the meeting and weighed in on a vote. Note that there must have been a glitch in the email system as I did not receive several responses from the Delegate Assembly, and thank those individuals who followed up a second time.

2024-2025 PROGRAM CALENDAR APPROVED: The Executive Board reviewed the calendar for the 2024-2025 school year. The work will now begin securing presenters, and meeting space for the events. One of the first events for the 2024-2025 year will be the ECASB Board and Brews Summer Mixer. The event will be at the Hamburg Brew Pub on July 11th. You do not need to drink beer in or-

der to attend. The venue has a wonderful buffet, an ice cream sundae bar, and you can challenge your neighboring district to a friendly game of Corn Hole on a summer evening. This will be the third time the event is held. We have generally 95+ people in attendance.

TWO RESOURCES: At the NYSSBA Board of Director Meeting, one of the Area Directors passed along two resources which I found interesting and informative. You may find them useful for use in you district as well. Please check them out. The Dignity Index is based on an 8 point scale where individuals are able to score distinct phrases. Lower scores reflect divisive language, while higher scores represent values grounded in dignity. [The Index — The Dignity Index](#) . The second resource is the History Makers. The History Makers feature bios and film clips of Black History Makers in areas of art, business, education, sports, science, and many other areas. [Homepage | The HistoryMakers](#)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS: (Upcoming ECASB Events).

- March 14th - Legislative Team 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., B1

SPONSOR WORKSHOPS:

- **Harris Beach PLLC**
 - March 23rd - Updates on Current Legal Issues Facing Employers
 - June 22nd - Practical Employee Considerations in Managing Your Workforce

POLITICAL FUNDRAISERS:

None Listed

NYSSBA'S PROGRAMS:

- July 18th - NYSSBA Summer Law Conference in Albany
- July 19th - 20th NYSSBA's Leadership in Education Event

NSBA'S (NATIONAL SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION) PROGRAMS:

- 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 School Board Members want to know... "What are some ways that a School Board can prepare for a Superintendent Search?". School Boards can best prepare for the search by reaching out to the District Superintendent initially. They will help guide the School Board through a process. Schools can have the District Superintendent conduct the search, or they can reach out to a Search Consultant. It can be a lengthy process to conduct a Superintendent Search. Boards can prepare by attending conferences and workshops specifically designed to conducting Superintendent Searches, discussing amongst the Board Members the qualifications they are looking fo in a new superintendent, reviewing their mission statements and vision statements, determining what their short and long term goals are for the district and reaching out to the school employees and community. The search process should be fairly transparent so that all stake holders are aware of the process and the progress. ECASB has a few articles on hand that may be useful. Other resources include NYSSBA, The Western New York Leadership Group, The Western New York Educational Service Council and your school attorney.*

NYSSBA AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS AND NOTES:

At the NYSSBA Board of Directors meeting on March 2nd/3rd in Albany directors were provided with preliminary information about the Annual Convention and Expo that will take place in New York City

in October. The Sunday keynote speaker will be Sophia. Check out the video clip about Sophia
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5t6K9iwcdw>



Sophia is a social humanoid robot developed by the Hong Kong -based company [Hanson Robotics](#). Sophia was activated on February 14, 2016, and made its first public appearance in mid-March 2016. United States. Sophia is marketed as a "social robot" that can mimic social behavior and induce feelings of love in humans. Sophia has been covered by media around the globe, and has participated in many high-profile interviews. In October 2017, Sophia was granted Saudi Arabian citizenship becoming the first robot to receive legal personhood in any country. According to founder David Hanson, Sophia's source code is about 70% open source.

Advocating Early: At Clarence Middle School, students and Board of Education Members met with Senator Gallivan and Assemblyman Norris. Pictured to the left are Senator Patrick Gallivan, several Clarence Middle School students, Board Members Tricia Andrews, Dawn Snyder, Dennis Priore, and Student Board Representative Louis Mancuso.



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