



This Week At ECASB ...

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

Week Ending February 5, 2021

ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN: All applications are due to David Lowrey by Wednesday, March 3, 2021. (less than 1 month left to nominate individuals from your district that have helped to make an incredible difference during this Covid Pandemic).

ECASB ADVOCACY TRAINING TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 2021: The training was conducted virtually by Dr. Jill O'Malley, Associate Director of ECASB and Co Chair of the Legislative Committee Kathleen Chiavetta (Lake Shore CSD). Thank you to those Board Members that were in attendance. Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst CSD); Ann Rivera (Buffalo Public School District); Renee Wilson (Cheektowaga CSD); Tricia Andrews, Dennis Priore and Dawn Snyder (Clarence CSD); Bonnie Vest (Cleveland Hill UFSD); Davis Podkulski (Frontier CSD); Lesley Battaglia and Jennifer Morrow (Ken-Ton) UFSD; Michael Franey (Lake Shore CSD); Ann Kennedy (Newfane CSD); Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda City School District); Diane Beres and Jan Dalbo (West Seneca CSD); and District Clerk from Erie 2 CC BOCES Trisha Degraff, and Ken Ton UFSD Superintendent Sabatino Cimato. *The sponsors of the event were Gold Level Sponsors NYSIR and C & S Companies; and Silver Level Sponsors Greco Trapp PLLC and Gordon Jones Associates Architects. (If we left you off the list - our apologies. Please call our office so that we can correct our attendance records).*

SED: SED will seek a [federal waiver](#) of grades 3-8 and high school testing requirements amid the challenges related to the pandemic. The survey link was obtained from NYSUT, who has been fighting for this. They are urging their members to [take the SED survey](#), through Feb. 5. (Survey is **ONLY OPEN until February 5, 2021**).

BY-LAWS NEWS: The By Laws proposed changes passed the Executive Board at the meeting of January 28th. They will now move onto the Delegate Assembly. Information will be sent out shortly in anticipation that we will vote on the amendments to the by laws at the April meeting. Most of the changes involved cleaning up the existing language. One change that was made will be asking members to approve the shortening of the amount of time needed to bring about changes to the by laws.

NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARDS ASSOCIATION CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS: The deadline to submit presentations for the 2021 Annual Convention which will be held in New York City October 24th - 26th is FEBRUARY 26, 2021. The theme of this years convention will be "Coming of Age". The presentations should fit into one of the following formats: Learning Lab, Student Town Hall or a 20 minute TED – style talk that explores one topic, tells one story and asks one question about a major relevant issue that affects your school/district type. This presentation allows for only ONE presenter. The Student Town Hall should incorporate one facilitator and not more than 5 students. Visit the NYSSBA Website for more information.

SELF SURVEILLANCE: A new word that we learned from the Digi Stream program. The definition is "When there is a greater need to promote ones personal self/brand than there is to protect ones privacy". Also....the average age of the most active Social Media users.....Age 48!

ECASB ON TARGET DIGI - STREAM: On Monday, February 1, 2021, ECASB held the second ON-TARGET Virtual Program from 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm presented by Digi Stream. The Presenter was Cassidy Gertis. I thank the following Board Members for attending the first ON-TARGET PROGRAM: Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD); Ed Cavan, and Renee Wilson (Erie 1 BOCES); Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 BOCES), Patrick Boyle (Frontier CSD); Matt Chimera (Ken-Ton UFSD); Carla Thompson (Lake Shore CSD); Scott Johnson and Nadine Ocasio (Sweet Home CSD); Kristin Schmutzler (Tonawanda City SD); Shawn Lemay (Williamsville CSD); and Brian Zolnowski who is the Director of IT and Communication Services at North Collins CSD and Superintendent Sabatino Cimato from Ken Ton UFSD). [My apologies to anyone that I may have

left off the list above. If you attended and do not see your name above, please let Sue Summers in our office know so that we can record your attendance in the ECASB participation book].

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. TOM REIGSTAD FROM KEN-TON UFSD: Who has been selected to serve on the new 2021 NYSSBA DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE.

SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERKS: Webster Szanyi, and sponsor of the ECASB District Clerk Award will be hosting a spring virtual workshop on Budget Votes. We are currently looking at possible dates for the workshop. We will keep you posted.

SAD NEWS: The Father of NYS Senator Patrick Gallivan passed away recently at the age of 82. He passed away on Sunday, January 31, 2021—the date of his 44th wedding anniversary. He is survived by his wife Sally Riley Gallivan, 8 children and 17 grandchildren. Condolences may be sent to Senator Patrick (Mary Pat) Gallivan at his office at 2721 Transit Road, Suite 116, Elma, New York 14059.

NO CAPITAL CONFERENCE UPDATE: I was all set to log in and could not find a logIn email. I must have forgotten to register for the event? I was finally able to get into the program at about 10:45. I was able to hear Senator Shelly Mayer who is the Chair of the Senate Education Committee speak. She did say “There is an over reliance on federal funding for education. We have had 3 years of flat funding. There are a lot of curriculum bills being introduced. We should not be using the Covid Relief Funds as a mechanism to fund education....and she feels that we are in for a fight!” If any ECASB members attended the Virtual Capital Conference and would like to submit a a brief report to the membership, I will be happy to forward it to the membership.

AT THE FEDERAL LEVEL: The following Senators and Representative have the following committee assignments for the next session:

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand -

- Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
- Agriculture Committee
- Committee on Aging

Senator Chuck Schumer - As the Senate Majority Leader he has no committee assignments.

Representative Brian Higgins -

- House Ways and Means Committee
- Health, Social Security and Trade Committee
- House Budget Committee

Representative Tom Reed -

- House Ways and Means Committee
- Social Security Sub Committee
- Ways and Means Health Sub Committee

Representative Chris Jacobs -

- Agriculture Committee
- Budget Committee

In addition, Senator Gillibrand has unveiled the Reopen and Rebuild America’s Schools Act of 2021. The legislation would commit \$130 Billion in Federal Funding to public schools nationwide to adapt ventilation systems and make other building improvements.

CIDEL NOTES FROM FEBRUARY 4, 2021 MEETING: CIDEL met on Thursday, February 4th to finalize details for the March 6th, 2021 Virtual Program. The zoom capacity will be 300 participants. A separate part of the program will be set up so teachers that would like to explore Administrative Programs at local colleges will be able to go in and talk with College Representatives and get their questions answered. Speakers for the day include Rochester City Schools Superintendent Dr. Lesli Myer Small, Ebony Bullock, Chief Accountability and Information Officer for the Buffalo Public Schools, Dr. Cassandra Wright, Senior Associate Superintendent for School Leadership for the Buffalo Public Schools, Anthony Day, Superintendent of Sweet Home Central Schools and Scott Wolf, Principal of Curriculum and Instruction for Sweet Home Central Schools.

THE TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM IS RECOMMENDING TRS EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION RATE SHOULD BE 9.8% FOR THE 2021-2022 PAYROLL: The rate will be officially adopted at its July meeting.

IF YOU MISSED RICK TIMBS PRESENTATION LAST EVENING, YOU MISSED ONE OF HIS BEST PRESENTATIONS YET: I will provide all ECASB members copies of his power point. Simply put - "We are in trouble if we don't reach out to our elected officials NOW!". He provided us with a "To Do List" which I will put into a program summary in the next few days. Special Thanks to Sponsors that took the time to be with us on the virtual program: Sharon Sweeney from C & S Company, Nick Humphrey from Campus Construction Management Group and Dave Jager from J.W. Danforth Company.

UPCOMING ECASB DATES:

February 11, 2021 - ECASB Budget and Finance Meeting (3rd meeting) - Cancelled - No Meeting necessary as the Budget has been approved.

February 25, 2021 - New BOE Member Program - Cancelled

March 3, 2021 - ECASB Awards Nominations Close

March 11, 2021 - Executive Board, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

March 18, 2021 - Legislative Committee, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

March 25, 2021 - Get To Know BOCES - Program TBD

March 27, 2021 - Prospective School Board, 8:00 - 10:00 (Time Change); Additional details to follow

UPCOMING NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARD EVENTS: (Check www.nyssba.org for details):

- February 26th - Deadline to submit presentation proposals for Annual October Convention
- March 5th - Superintendent Evaluation Workshop (Virtual)
- April 21 - Policy Workshop (Virtual)
- May 19th - Member Relations Event (Virtual)

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