



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

### Week Ending February 19, 2021

**ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN:** All applications are due to David Lowrey by Wednesday, March 3, 2021. Only two weeks away!

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR DR. JILL O'MALLEY TODAY!**

**REMINDER WNYESC LAW CONFERENCE SURVEY:** Just a reminder we need your help. If you have not completed the survey, please do so by February 24th, so that we can move forward on a decision on the WNY Annual Law Conference.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021LawConference>

**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. Visit the NYSSBA Website for more information.

**SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERKS:** *Webster Szanyi, and sponsor of the ECASB District Clerk Award will be hosting a spring virtual workshop on Budget Votes. The date for the program will be Thursday March 4, 2021. Time will be from 10:00 am - 11:30 am. An invite link was sent out early Thursday morning to all district clerks. If you did not receive it, please contact us at our office and we will resend it. Presenters will be attorneys: Melanie Beardsley, Marnie Smith, and Angela Kutzfara. Topics on the agenda include Legal Notices, Candidate Packets, Voter Registration, and Absentee and Military Ballots.*

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BUFFALO NIAGARA:** Will be presenting one remaining free voting rights events on line via Zoom this month. "Fighting for Our Vote" roundtable discussion about voting rights for minorities and people with disabilities will be held at 7:00 pm on Feb 23rd. Events are free to the public. Reservations should be made by February 17, 2021 at LWVBN.org or calling 986-4894

**BOARD PRESIDENTS:** Watch for the NYSSBA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Survey in the coming week. Please take time to complete the survey.

**WATCHING NY SENATE BILL S04430 INTRODUCED BY SEAN RYAN(D):** Samra Brouk(D), Jim Gaugharan(D), Daphney Jordan, (Rep.) and Mario Matter (Rep.) which would change the number of votes signatures required on ballots for those running for office for either school district boards of education or library trustees to 25 signatures or 2% of the voters in the 2019 annual election. We are anticipating that a companion bill will be released in the assembly.

**FREE NYSSBA WEBINAR FOR NYSSBA MEMBERS, "BUILDING A MORE DIVERSE WORK-FORCE":** Will be held March 17, 2021 from noon - 1:30 pm. It is sponsored by Utica National Insurance Group. In addition, NYSSBA has a sample policy 0105 with accompanying regulations available.

**MORE ON-TARGET ECASB VIRTUAL PROGRAMS ON THE WAY:** .... Dean Stanfield from Solar Liberty will be presenting on March 15th at 6:30 pm. With the push on Solar Energy from the Federal Government under a new administration, find out if your district will be equipped and ready for the future. ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE 45 MINUTES IN LENGTH. REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS WILL OPEN ON MARCH 1ST. C & S Companies will be presenting on STEAM and STEM program, and J.W. Danforth will present on Energy Performance Contracting. Dates for these two programs are currently be established.

**PROSPECTIVE SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOP WILL BE HELD ON MARCH 27, 2021:** Jeff Swiatek from Hodgson Russ will present information on the election process and the role of the board of education. We will have a superintendent present on the dynamics of the Board / Superintendent Roles. The program will start at 8:00 am. **DISTRICT CLERKS SHOULD FORWARD THE NAMES AND EMAILS OF ANY POTENTIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS TO SUE SUMMERS at [ssummers@e1b.org](mailto:ssummers@e1b.org) no later than Wednesday March 24th.**

**NYSSBA IS ASKING GOVERNOR TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT BUDGET VOTES AND SCHOOL BOARD ELECTIONS BY MARCH 1ST:** If we have an any decisions sooner, we will make sure that we get the information out to you.

**ERIE NIAGARA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION (ENSSA) HAS SENT A LETTER TO THE SED COMMISSIONER:** Asking for clarification on documents that were sent out earlier in the year regarding safety guidelines and protocols for allowing the return of students. There are many parent groups throughout Western New York who are growing anxious and restless about getting their children back in school full time.

**HODGSON RUSS WILL BE HOSTING A DISTRICT CLERK VIRTUAL PROGRAM ON FEB. 24TH FOR THEIR CLIENTS:** The event will be from 12:00 noon - 1:00 pm. Presenters will be attorneys, Andrew Freedman, Andrew Drilling, Melissa Kathan and Lindsay Menasco. **YOU SHOULD REGISTER DIRECTLY WITH HODGSON RUSS FOR THIS EVENT.**

**SPARE TIME ... VIEWING BILL TRACK 50:** I had some spare time this week so I thought I would take a look at Bill Track 50, a resource we use at ECASB to track bills in the New York State Senate and Assembly. Just to provide you with a glimpse of the number of bills that have been introduced and sent to the education committee - there have been 609. Several may never make it out of committee, while others will move forward. I will provide an update of any bill that has been sponsored by a local elected senator or assembly person in a separate document.

#### **UPCOMING ECASB DATES:**

February 25, 2021 - New BOE Member Program - Cancelled

March 3, 2021 - ECASB Awards Nominations Close

March 4, 2021 - Webster Szanyi District Clerk Program 10 am –11:30am

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

March 15– On Target ECASB Visual Program with Solar Liberty 6:30 pm-7:15pm

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

March 25, 2021 - Get To Know BOCES - The program will be moved to April. We will send out updated information as it becomes available.

March 27, 2021 - Prospective School Board, 8:00 - 10:30 (Time Change); Additional details to follow.

#### **UPCOMING NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL BOARD EVENTS: (Check [www.nyssba.org](http://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 19 - Member Relations Event (Virtual)

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