



Erie County Association of School Boards

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Delegate Assembly Meeting AGENDA (MINUTES)

Thurs., January 14, 2021, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Erie 1 BOCES, Virtual Meeting

Presiding: Renee Wilson (Cheektowaga / Erie 1 BOCES), ECASB *President*

Purpose of ECASB:

- To coordinate board development services,
- To serve as a resource to member Boards on educational issues,
- To advance the mutual objectives of organizations dedicated to public education,
- To advocate Association positions to policy-makers.

Attendance: Lorry Goldhawk (Amherst CSD); Dr. Ann Rivera (Buffalo PSD); Denise McCowan (Cheektowaga-Sloan UFSD); Tricia Andrews (Clarence CSD); Amy Doody (Depew UFSD); Terri Ohweiler (East Aurora UFSD); Andrew Loeb (Erie 1 BOCES); Davis Podkulksi (Frontier CSD); Robbin List (Hamburg CSD); Jane Sullivan (Iroquois CSD); Christopher Binder (Lake Shore CSD); Shannon Cohen (Lancaster CSD); Jennifer Pilarski (Maryvale UFSD); Christine Gray-Tinnesz (Orchard Park CSD), Dwight Eagan (Orchard Park CSD & Erie 2 CC BOCES); Nadine Ocasio (Sweet Home CSD); Marianne Jasen (Sweet Home CSD); Mary Busse (West Seneca CSD & Erie 1 BOCES); Shawn Lemay (Williamsville CSD); Linda Hoffman (Erie 2 CC BOCES, & Area 1 Director); Dr. Jill O'Malley, ECASB Associate Director; David Lowrey, ECASB Executive Director.

6:30 Pledge of Allegiance and Welcome

6:33 Adopt Agenda – 1/14/2021 1st Mary Busse, 2nd Jane Sullivan. MCU

6:35 Approve September 2020 Minutes previously sent out.

6:40 ECASB President Report: No President Reports at this time.

6:50 Committee Chair Reports:

Awards Committee: Andy Loeb indicated that the committee had met and would be meeting in the future to finalize a few issues.

7:10 Executive Director Report:

- **Program Update** - Dave says programs are online moving forward and we are not charging for the online programs. We also have more programs than we had scheduled on the original calendar as it is much easier to schedule for a virtual program.
- **Law Conference Update** - Met this week about the law conference...attorneys want to move forward and have a virtual event. Dave has also contacted Eventmobi and will meet with them next Tues. We would have to work with Webex or Zoom. He is meeting again in a few weeks with the committee. There are some issues that WNYESC and ECASB would have to iron out in order for the program to move forward. We are in the exploratory stage at this point. No final decision as to whether we will have the law conference has been made. A lot will rest with how much support we can get via either the private law firms or through our partnership with Erie 1 and Erie 2 CC BOCES.

- **By-Laws Committee Update – Bylaws committee met...did not get far.** There are not as many changes in the Bylaws and Constitution as there are in the policies. In some cases, there are missing or incomplete policies. In addition, policies never took into account how it would be affected with a pandemic or shut down of virtually the entire organization. Question that comes up ...what is the difference between Bylaws and Constitution. Another question that came up was can we have just one document that has the Constitution, Bylaws and policies all in one document?
- **Preliminary Calendar Discussion / Update Budget and Finance committee met earlier in the month.** Part of the discussion was to have mini workshops relative to school district finances. The Workshops would be like a “mini FORT” program, however various sessions would be more targeted to specific topics. This could be done virtually through several 45-minute sessions. Andy Loeb suggested reaching out to Wayne Drescher. Dave mentioned that Wayne Drescher is already part of the FORT training and is always willing to assist. Dave mentioned he would reach out to Jamie Phillips from Lancaster to help with this as well since she is the President of New York State Association of Business School Officials. Dave is trying to coordinate with Chautauqua County School Boards Association to coordinate Timbs/Little type programs or similar programs.
- **Preliminary Budget Discussion / Update Preliminary Budget was presented to the Budget committee.** Another year with no dues increase. Switched to new payroll...cut costs in half and staff can check hours and information on-line.
- **Staffing Discussion – Update Staff update:** Jill is leaving to be a councilwoman on the Town of Tonawanda Board. Sue is being paid an additional stipend to pick up some of Hannah’s duties. Ryan (bookkeeper) is hourly. Part-time hostess position added to budget to help set up and clean up for events should we get back to in person events. Dave will be discussing various options regarding the Associate Director/Advocacy Coordinator with the Executive Board at the end of the month on January 28th.

7:50 - **Associate Director Update – Jill discussed the next steps for advocacy.** Also gave advocacy training to North Tonawanda CSD last night. Will be presenting to ASBO next month. Reviewed committee assignments: Senator Ryan and Bill Conrad both on respective Education committees.

7:55 - **Area 1 Director Report NYSSBA is establishing an Equity and Diversity Issue committees.** Email Linda Hoffman if you’re interested. Jane Sullivan is the alternate to NYSSBA resolutions committee. Need people on awards committee. Andy Loeb and Mary Busse volunteered.

8:05 “**Round Robin Minute Updates**” ... Please introduce yourself and give a brief “**ONE Minute Update**” on any UNIQUE OR DIFFERENT ISSUE within your district. Please limit to one minute only!

- **Ann Rivera: The Buffalo Public Schools reopening February 1st, honored for equity and diversity.** The Buffalo Public Schools was recently notified by SED that they have made significant increases in student graduation rates.
- **Shannon Cohen: Lancaster music teacher nominated for Grammy.**
- **Jennifer Pilarski: Maryvale UFSD is in hybrid model like many other schools in Western New York.**

- **Davis Podkulski:** Frontier appointed Dr. Doug Whalen as Interim. Planning on hiring superintendent this summer. Dr. Whalen served as an Interim Superintendent before for the district.
- **Tricia Andrews:** Clarence parents are evaluating how they want the instruction of their children to take place ie...hybrid, in person, or virtual. In addition, there are parents that are working on year end activities for students.
- **Chris Binder:** Lake Shore is hybrid model and things are moving along smoothly.
- **Nadine Ocasio:** Sweet Home K- 5 is 5 days a week. Have a re-opening committee that they have been using to help with decision making. Initially the committee was quite large, but over the course of time, they have reduced the size of the committee to a more manageable number.
- **Amy Doody:** Depew is using a puppet to orient kids to school and present various programs. The puppet is used to present lessons as well as present mini sessions on various values such as “kindness”. Amy also said that they have been doing the COVID Testing as a drive thru model. They use the bus garage for this purpose.
- **Dwight Egan:** OP is also conducting Superintendent search through the use of the Erie 2 CC BOCES District Superintendent.
- **Shawn Lemay:** Williamsville is conducting Superintendent search. They have selected E1B to do the search. They have started looking at the overall budget process. If they just roll over a year to year budget – already they would be looking at a \$20 million dollar deficit. Hence it will be important for the district to ensure that they are active with advocacy, particularly with the federal dollars.
- **Linda Hoffman – NYSSBA Area 1 Director / E2 CC BOCES – Stay Safe. Wear a Mask!**
- **Terri Ohlweiler:** East Aurora will begin the process of interviewing for a Director of Pupil Services. The current director will be retiring.
- **Robbin List:** Some of Hamburg’s schools are in yellow while others are in the orange zone. Asked question about election. Jill said that we are also waiting to see if primary petition dates will change. Robbin was concerned about School Board members obtaining signatures and having to go door to door.
- **Christine Gray-Tinnez:** Superintendent search happening in Orchard Park. E2B has been hired.
- **Lorry Goldhawk:** Amherst is looking at students that are struggling in the online environment and how to better support them. They are looking at how to creatively utilize existing staff to ensure students have as much contact as possible with staff members.
- **Mary Busse:** Hybrid started on Monday in West Seneca. Looking at opportunities for students and facility utilization with a community based group that also involves administrators.

- **Jane Sullivan:** Involving students in meeting. Capital project passed. Iroquois will be getting turf fields, updating classrooms. They have a new agenda format that they are working with. They looked at ECASB resources and examined what other schools in Western New York utilized for their meeting agendas.
- **Andy Loeb:** Will be scheduling awards committee meeting. From E1B: looking at learning at the eAcademy. The board had received a presentation at their last board meeting. The program will help meet the need of primarily middle school students who may struggle with traditional school programs.
- **Denise McCowan:** Cheektowaga Sloan: No positive cases. The board did allow for the sport of Bowling to move forward since they felt that they could offer the sport and adhere to guidelines of safe social distancing.

8:30 Motion to Adjourn 1st Lorry Goldhawk, 2nd: Dwight Eagan, MCU Adjourned at 7:34

Future Meeting: Thursday, April 15, 2021