



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

### Week Ending January 15, 2021

**ECASB WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2021:** In observance of the Martin Luther King Holiday. We will be back in the office on Tuesday, January 19, 2021.

**DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR ONE OF THE TWO VIRTUAL PROGRAMS:** Super Eval will be presenting on Wed. January 27, 2021 on Board Self Evaluations, and DigiStream will present on Monday, February 1st. PLEASE REGISTER THROUGH YOUR DISTRICT CLERK. There is no cost for either program, however we will need to know who is registered so that we can send out a link to the program. No need to venture out into the winter weather.....you can enjoy both programs from the comfort of your home. The DigiStream flyer and registration information has been sent to the ECASB membership.

**ANNUAL ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS ARE NOW OPEN:** PLEASE CONSIDER NOMINATING A SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER/STAFF MEMBER FROM YOUR DISTRICT for one of the awards: The Diana R. Miller Service to Education Award, the Laura M. Burns Advocacy for Children Award, the Hodgson Russ Excellence in Collaboration Award, the Wayne Schlifke Lifetime Achievement Award, the Webster Szanyi District Clerk Award, and the Friends of ECASB Award. Award descriptions can be found on the ECASB web page. A listing of previous recipients was sent out earlier this week. All applications are due to David Lowrey by Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

**COMMITTEE TO IDENTIFY EMERGING LEADERS (CIDEL):** Will be hosting their event virtually this year. It will be held on March 6th. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Leslie Small, the Superintendent of the Rochester City School District. Other speakers include Dr. Cassandra Wright who is the Senior Associate Superintendent for School Leadership for the Buffalo Public Schools and the Chief Accountability Information Officer for the Buffalo District. The program will begin about 8:30 AM. The program will be free and is designed for future administrators both at the building level and district level.

**WESTERN NEW YORK ANNUAL LAW CONFERENCE:** The planning team met to discuss the possibility of having a virtual law conference. The first step will be to look at various platforms that are available. Once we know if the platform is practical and affordable, we will then conduct a survey among our membership on various different topics to be discussed as well as the length of time for meetings. The committee will meet again, after researching various issues to make a final determination.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO C. DOUGLAS WHELAN:** Who will start at Frontier Central School District around January 25, 2021 as the Interim Superintendent. Mr. Whelan is a former Starpoint Central Superintendent who served at the district for nearly 20 years. I had the pleasure of having Mr. Whelan as an instructor at Canisius College when I was obtaining my Administrative Degree. I found Mr. Whelan to be very knowledgeable and professional individual. I found his class to be very enjoyable and learned a great deal. We wish Mr. Whelan much success in his Interim position. Dr. Whelan returns to Frontier, having served as an Interim Superintendent for the district at one other time.

**RICK TIMBS PROGRAM FEBRUARY 4TH:** Dr. Timbs presentation will take place on February 4th and will be a virtual program. Information has already been sent out to the ECASB membership.

**REGENTS:** The Regents have selected Lester W. Young Jr. as the next Chancellor. Mr. Young is from Brooklyn and has served as a regent since 2008. Mr. Young served as a teacher, guidance counselor, supervisor of special ed services and a principal within the New York City School District. He later went on to work for the Department of Education as an assistant and associate commissioner with SED.

**ECASB ADVOCACY TRAINING:** The annual ECASB Advocacy training will be taking place on Saturday, January 30th from 8:00 am - 11:30 am. The training will be conducted virtually. Attendees must pre-register for the event. The event will be presented by Dr. Jill O'Malley, Associate Director of ECASB. This is a great opportunity to learn key points prior to kicking off your board's advocacy efforts with your elected officials. To register for the event, you can click on the following link. **Advocacy Training Registration - Use this link to register for the Advocacy Training (we will send the Zoom link through email the week of the event).** : <https://forms.gle/m5ijcnjguLVfqGqq6> *The sponsors of the event include Gold Level Sponsors NYSIR and C & S Companies; and Silver Level Sponsors Greco Trapp PLLC and Gordon Jones Associates Architects.*

**SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS:** As an identified group are NOT on the "priority" lists to be vaccinated. If an individual board member is over the age of 75 or meets one of the other qualifiers, that individual would be eligible for the vaccination. I did reach out to both the Erie County Health Department and the New York State Health Department for clarification. In addition I did reach out to New York State School Boards Association. The New York State School Boards Association has contacted the governors office already, but will reach out once again to see if School Board Members can be part of one of the higher priority groups. In the mean time, School Boards can meet virtually through an Executive Order. The Executive Order has a shelf life of 30 days. It is our understanding that the Governor will continue to allow school boards to meet virtually until the pandemic is over and will continue to renew the Executive Order allowing for virtual meetings. This information was provided by NYSSBA.

**IN ADVOCACY NEWS:** Newly elected Senator Sean Ryan (former Assemblyman) was selected to serve on the New York State Senate Education Committee. Senator Ryan represents the 60th Senate District comprising parts of the following school districts: Eden CSD, Frontier CSD, Gowanda CSD, Grand Island CSD, Hamburg CSD, Ken Ton UFSD, Lackawanna City School District, Lake Shore CSD, North Collins CSD, Orchard Park CSD, Sweet Home CSD, Tonawanda CSD, West Seneca CSD and the Buffalo City School District. Newly elected Assemblyman William Conrad representing Assembly District number 140 representing the Ken Ton UFSD, Tonawanda City School District and parts of the Buffalo and Sweet Home CSD was tapped to serve on Assembly Education Committee.

**TAX CAP IS AT 1.23%:** The Tax cap was enacted in 2011 and was made permanent in 2019. The tax cap limits the annual tax levy increase to 2% OR the rate of inflation (whichever is lower). Brian Fessler, NYSSBA'S Director of Governmental Relations states "We would like to see changes made to the law which would make the allowable levy growth a minimum of 2% regardless of inflation and ensure that a districts tax cap cannot be negative. The Tax Cap calculation should include properties under PILOT agreements, which at this time are ignored by the tax cap formula".

**AREA 1 DIRECTOR NEWS:** Linda Hoffman is looking for an individual from a Western New York school district to serve on NYSSBA's recently formed Diversity and Equity Committee. Initially the person would meet once a month. Once the committee is underway, that commitment will be about every three months. If you have an interest in serving on this committee please contact Linda ASAP for further details. She can be reached at [lhoffman@e2ccb.org](mailto:lhoffman@e2ccb.org).

- Jane Sullivan (Iroquois CSD) will serve as an alternate to the NYSSBA Resolutions Committee for the coming year.

- Andy Loeb (Erie 1 BOCES) and Mary Busse (West Seneca CSD) have both volunteered to serve on different sub committees of the NYSSBA Awards Committee.

**STATE OF THE STATE:** Governor Cuomo gave his state of the state address on Monday, January 4, 2021. Ordinarily there is one address, however due to these unprecedented times, the Governor provided an overview with specific action plans over the coming days. In his speech, he said that there are seven items that we need to focus on which include:

1. Defeat Covid.
2. Vaccinate New York State residents.
3. Deal with the short term economic crisis with a \$15 billion dollar deficit.
4. Plan an economic resurgence.

5. Make New York State a global leader in green energy.
6. Capitalize on how Covid has transformed society and the economy.
7. Address systemic injustices of inequity, racism and social abuse.

Governor Cuomo said that New York State residents needed to be diligent. He indicated that if he raised the highest income tax level on those earning over a million dollars, that would only raise \$1.5 billion. Postponing tax cuts on the middle class would only save \$500 million. Freezing labor contracts would save approximately \$1 billion dollars, and cutting education funding by 20% would save \$5.2 billion.

To offset the \$15 billion dollar deficit, he plans to:

1. Legalize adult use of recreational cannabis.
2. Legalize state sponsored mobile sports betting.
3. Become an equitable partner with Washington D.C.
4. Jumpstart the economy.
5. Increase affordable broadband across the state.

**ANSWER TO QUESTION:** Now that many of our meetings are held virtually, when the agenda and materials are sent out to the team, we are sending the materials to both the regular representative list as well as the alternate list for each district that we have on file. Unfortunately, we do not know whether it will be the regular rep or the alternate that may be attending the meeting. To ensure that whomever is attending has all the appropriate information, the information is sent to both lists.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

January 14, 2021 - Delegate Assembly, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, - VIRTUAL MEETING

January 21, 2021- Legislative Team, 6:30 - 8:30 pm - VIRTUAL MEETING

January 27, 2021 - VIRTUAL PROGRAM - Super Eval - Board Evaluation

January 28, 2021 - Executive Board, 6:00 - 8:00 pm - VIRTUAL MEETING

January 30, 2021 - Advocacy Training, 8:00 am - 11:30 am - VIRTUAL PROGRAM

February 1, 2021 - VIRTUAL PROGRAM - Digi Stream

February 3, 2021 - VIRTUAL CAPITAL CONFERENCE FOR NYSSBA

- COLSBA Meeting



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