



## This Week At ECASB ...

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

*Week Ending December 4, 2020*

**AND NOW WE WAIT:** The Governor has decided that it is now better for children to be in school as the COVID numbers tend to be fairly low in schools and experience has demonstrated that with all the stringent guidelines and protocols that districts are following - schools tend to be safer places. Because he feels that students should be in school, he has indicated that the “original testing guidelines” should schools be in a yellow zone or orange zone will be relaxed. And now we wait for final guidance.

**BUSINESS FIRST NOVEMBER 10, 2020 ISSUE:** Two local superintendents were featured in an article that appeared in Business First on November 10th. The article related to Education During Covid-19. Clarence CSD Superintendent Dr. Geoffrey Hicks was quoted in the article “These could be matters of life and death. We’re not usually used to dealing with medical concerns of that high regard. We believe in getting kids in front of teachers, but a lack of support and knowledge on medical matters is one large challenge. That requires a lot of training.” Also quoted in the article was Eden CSD Superintendent Jeffrey Sortisio who stated “Yesterday when I woke up everything was normal. Then by the end of the day we were in the orange zone. We had a plan that is now on the back burner. Going from a no designation to orange is huge. And the rules for being in an orange zone changed within a half hour”. On instruction Dr. Hicks commented that the “The creativity of staff in trying to create learning environments that really help kids learn is great. I’ve done at least 25 observations this year. They (teachers) work really hard to make students learn”. Superintendent Sortisio further commented, “A lot of these folks have been teaching for a long time and they became first year teachers overnight. You didn’t know anything - and if you thought you did, you were wrong”.

**REMINDER: NYSSBA WORKSHOPS WILL BE AVAILABLE THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020.** Workshops that were presented at the NYSSBA Virtual Convention will be able to be reviewed until December 31, 2020. You can view most of the recorded programs and print the power point notes that are provided with each presentation.

**ANNUAL ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS OPEN ON JANUARY 4TH:** The Awards team met a few weeks ago. Although they do have some work that they will be working on, their work will not affect the overall timeline for opening up the nominations. 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.

**AD HOC COMMITTEE TO REVIEW ECASB CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS:** An ad hoc committee will be meeting (most likely virtually) to begin the review of the Constitution and By-Laws. The by-laws were last reviewed in 2003. In 2009, there was a slight change in by-laws which allowed for on line voting of the delegate assembly in the event that a quorum was not present. Individuals that had originally expressed an interest in serving on the committee included ECASB Board President Renee Wilson, Area 1 Director Linda Hoffman, Amherst CSD Board Member Lorry Goldhawk, and Erie 1 BOCES Board Member Andrew Loeb. [If you are interested in serving on the committee, please let me know ASAP as we will begin setting up meetings for the review.](#)

**SANTA CLAUSE IS COMING TO TOWN, RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER, THE GRINCH WHO STOLE CHRISTMAS, AND THE CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS SPECIAL... NOW THAT THE HOLIDAY SPECIALS ARE ALL OVER, TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EASY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR BOARD MEMBERS:** Now that you have watched all the classic holiday specials why not watch the Chautauqua County School Boards programs. A few of the professional development programs for board members were in person, while others were “somewhat hybrid” this fall. You can check out the programs at [www.ccsba.org](http://www.ccsba.org). Below is a recap of the programs that you can see. **ALL PROGRAMS ARE ABOUT AN HOUR IN LENGTH**, and well worth the time to watch them. You will find them under the Events Link under “Presentations”

- September 16th: Cyber Security - This workshop was presented by Greg Cole who works for the SUNY Fredonia Department of Computer and Information Sciences, and Scott Przywara who is the Chief Data Protection Security and Compliance Officer of Erie 1 BOCES/ WNYRIC. (Greg Cole is also a Board member for the Silver Creek CSD and Erie 2 BOCES) After attending this event, we chose to have Scott present at the December Speed Boarding for ECASB. The program is postponed and will be scheduled later in the spring.

- September 23rd - Connect, Engage, Act - Presented by Brian Fessler, the Director of Governmental Relations at NYSSBA.

- October 21st - Building A Successful Relationship Between the Board and the Superintendent presented by NYSSBA’s Deputy Director of Leadership Development Jamie McPherson.

- November 18th - State Aid, Foundation Aid, State Aid Cuts, The Tax Cap, School District Budgeting - Issues and Implications by Dr. Rick Timbs, the Executive Director of the Statewide School Financial Consortium. It does not matter, how many times you hear Dr. Timbs present - He is always a wealth of information. In fact, the more you hear him, the easier it is to comprehend and take in all the information. Dr. Timbs is scheduled to present to ECASB February 4th.

#### **UPCOMING DATES:**

January 4, 2021 - ECASB Awards Nominations Open

January 7, 2021 - Budget/Finance Team, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, B1

January 14, 2021 - Delegate Assembly, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, B1

January 21, 2021- Legislative Team, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, B1

January 28, 2021 - Executive Board, 6:00 - 8:00 pm, B1

January 30, 2021 - Advocacy Training, 8:00 am - 11:30 am, B1

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