



This Week At ECASB ...

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

Week Ending February 26, 2021

ECASB ANNUAL AWARDS NOMINATIONS CLOSE MARCH 3RD END OF DAY: All applications are due to David Lowrey by Wednesday, less than one week away!

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. 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. Register directly with Harris Beach Attorneys.*

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. ALL PROGRAMS WILL BE 45 MINUTES IN LENGTH AND WILL START PROMPTLY AT 6:30 pm. **REGISTRATION FOR PROGRAMS WILL OPEN ON MARCH 1ST.** J.W. Danforth will present on Energy Performance Contracting on April 26, 2021. C & S Companies will be presenting on Business and STEM Education Partnerships on April 27, 2021.

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. ENSSA President and Hamburg CSD Superintendent, Michael Cornell will 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 no later than Tuesday, March 23, 2021.**

INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT CLERKS: Justin Rooney, Office Manager at the Erie County Board of Elections reminds School District Clerks that the ECBOE will provide poll books, voting machines, ballots, and absentee voter lists UPON REQUEST as you prepare for upcoming district elections. Office will be staffed until 9:30 pm on election day. You may contact Justin at Justin.Rooney@erie.gov or (716) 858-7843.

ADDITION TO ECASB LIBRARY: Giving Students A Say - Smarter Assessment Practices to Empower and Engage by Myron Dueck classified as Education / School Improvement.

LOCAL VIRTUAL VISITS WITH ELECTED OFFICIALS: Dr. Jill O'Malley's last day in the office was this past Tuesday. She has turned over to me all the emails regarding setting up virtual visits with elected officials. I will be working through the emails and following up with legislators and working through Legislative Committee Members from each district as well as Board Presidents.

NYSSBA ADVOCACY: PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, Take the time to complete the Advocacy Link and TAKE ACTION and send and email your elected officials. There are two links, one that will be sent to your Federal Legislators on the Federal Stimulus and one that will be sent to your New York State Legislators on the State Budget. If you click on the box at the bottom, the site will remember you in the future, and next time, it will take less time to send a quick email. **NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE ACTION.** If you have already taken action - please encourage your fellow school board members to take action.

ALL STATES REQUIRED TO ADMINISTER TEST REQUIRED BY FEDERAL LAW: President Biden did indicate that states would be able to shorten tests, delay them and apply waivers on accountability designations based on them. Tests will be able to be administered remotely or in-person. In further explanation, Acting U.S. Education Secretary, Ian Rosenblum said “To be successful once schools have re-opened, we need to understand the impact of COVID-19 had on learning and identify what resources and supports students need”. *(My thought...for what it’s worth... as long as districts will be able to apply for waivers on the accountability designations, and schools “really will not be held accountable”, this will give us an opportunity to determine what affect virtual learning has had on students. In addition, Rosenblum indicates that once they know where the deficits are, they will be able to target those areas. There will either be good news or bad news. If the news is good and there is no significant drop in student learning due to the virtual learning - that was great. If the news is not so good and there is a significant drop, we will realize how valuable in person instruction is. The positive side is if the federal government knows that there are deficits - it should be up to them to fund schools appropriately to fix the deficit in learning. And if the funding is not there - we will have to point out that the federal government knew there was a problem and they did nothing to address it). Hence, we will have to wait until we see the data, and then take it from there. The Legislative Committee will be discussing in detail at their next meeting on the 18th of March.*

NYSUT IS ALSO ADVOCATING LEGISLATORS TO REJECT PROPOSED CHANGES TO BOCES AID : Their rationale is that it would threaten programs that ensure that our children are well prepared and qualified to enter the 21st century. Without these skilled tradespeople entering the workforce, businesses will also need to leave the Empire State...instead we will be known as the Expire State!

FRONTIER CSD - ADVOCACY COMMITTEE CHARTER: I had the opportunity to take place in a virtual meeting with Interim Superintendent Dr. C. Douglas Whelan, Board President Davis Podkulski, the FTA Union President, President of the Frontier PTA and a few students for the first meeting to discuss how we can achieve the District’s Advocacy MISSION of advocating in an effective, energetic, and focused means for the 4,600+ students. There are many initiatives which the committee will be putting in place including: lobbying; friend-making efforts; collaborations between organizations; engaging the community; holding community forums; developing email, social media and outreach campaigns; student trips to Albany; and creating an awareness in the Frontier District community. The committee is working on developing a “student voice” through various methods including short videos and a poetry contest.

NEW EXECUTIVE ORDER: Feb. 23rd the Governor issued Executive Order 202.95 (“EO 202.95”) requiring that all teachers employed by P-12 schools (public or non-public) or school districts must report whether they have received a COVID-19 vaccination to their employing school or school district. Beginning on 2/24/2021 and every Friday, every school district and BOCES must report to the Department of Health, on a weekly basis, the number of completed COVID-19 vaccinations reported in the prior week, as well as the number and percentage of teachers instructing students in-person during the prior week.

SECTION VI ALLOWS HOME SPECTATORS: Section IV now allows home school districts to allow for two spectators per player for their home team only, provided that social distancing guidelines are in effect. Allowing home spectators is at the discretion on the host school pending their ability to be able to host spectators. This only applies to Basketball and Swimming at the current time. Hockey and Bowling are not covered in this new guideline as they are held at venues that are not run by the district. The venues have their own guidelines in place that may fall under guidelines of the either the state or county guidelines.

WNY LAW CONFERENCE SURVEY: Thank you to the 55 ECASB members that responded to the survey. The information will be helpful in helping to determine how we would run this years law conference. The committee will meet again March 1st to make a determination on a direction regarding the Law Conference.

- 44% would prefer one full day; while 55% would prefer multiple shorter days if held virtually.
- 69% prefer mornings, 12% prefer afternoon, and 18% would prefer both morning and afternoon.
- Very Likely or Likely to attend held in person 62%; Unlikely or Very Unlikely if held in person 80%
- Very Likely or Likely to attend virtually 84%; Unlikely or Very Unlikely if held virtually 12%
- If held virtually would attend at reduced rate of \$100—72%

HEADLINES AROUND THE COUNTRY:

- California School District's Board Resigns After Members Caught Bashing Parents During Virtual Meeting. (San Francisco Chronicle)
- Survey: Stress is Causing More Teachers to Quit. (Education Week)
- Educators Warn Learning Gap Widening As Millions of Children Skip Kindergarten. (USA Today)
- California Gov. Newsom Suggests He May Veto School Reopening Bill. (San Francisco Chronicle).
- Minnesota Public School Enrollment Drops Amid Pandemic. (AP)
- Report Suggests Chronic Absenteeism in Detroit Schools is Caused by Transportation Struggles. (Chalkbeat)
- COVID-19 Effect on School Discipline Discussed. (Hechinger Report)
- CDC Study: Teachers May Drive Covid-19 Transmission in Schools More than Students (AP)

UPCOMING ECASB DATES:

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 Virtual 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 for details):

- March 5th - Superintendent Evaluation Workshop (Virtual)
- April 21 - Policy Workshop (Virtual)
- May 19 - Member Relations Event (Virtual)

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