



Erie County Association of School Boards

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Sweet Home Central School District
Attention: Amy Battaglia, President
70 Bucyrus Drive
Amherst, NY 4228

Dear Ms Battaglia,

When I was appointed as the Executive Director for ECASB, I had as one of my goals to reach out and visit each & every member district Board of Education meeting. I am now completing my 6th year of visiting school boards during their meetings. It is one of the best parts of my job – traveling to districts and watching dedicated volunteers making a difference in their communities for children and families.

If I expect Board of Education members to attend events at ECASB, I should be invested enough to attend their meetings. Through the visitations, I have been able to observe best practices and observe unique ways in which the boards conduct their business and interact with the community.

By attending the member district meetings, I hope to be a resource to the Board of Education trustees within the ECASB membership. I hope to better understand how ECASB can serve our members and advocate for them on their behalf with our legislators both in Albany and Washington.

Thank you for acknowledging that I was in the audience and all the work that ECASB does on behalf of our member districts.

Under informational items, I thought the Student Representative report about the National Honor Society tutoring during Regents week was an ingenious idea. The idea that students are involved with a Technology Committee as well as a Nutrition Committee shows how the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education truly values student input.

As a Graphic Art major in college and former Art Teacher, I think it is exciting for the district to be going through a redesign of the Sweet Home Panther logo. It will be exciting to see the final entries. I also think it is great that students are involved in the process.

Under the Superintendent report, I enjoyed listening to all the work and the process that was used to overcome the transportation issue and develop a new time schedule throughout the district. Change is always hard. At Iroquois, we have for many years had our 4th – 12th grade students riding the bus together and there have never been issues. Many of the high school students are on their phones, the elementary students and middle school students sit towards the middle and front of the bus, and they will act older and more responsible with the high school students on the bus. Because there are more students within a concentrated area, many of the students are all from the same neighborhood. Many of the older students at one time or another had babysat the younger students. It seems that there are many

issues with the current schedule. I hope whatever the decision is that the school board makes that it will be fully supported by the district. If the district should change, I would bet that in three years, the schedule change would be a moot point.

In the agenda, under the various policies, I like the fact that there is a simple chart that has all of the policies listed and the reason that policies are being deleted, revised, or introduced.

Scott Johnson's report on the ECASB Legislative Committee was very thorough and informative. Not all Board of Education members are able to take part in the meeting, so including that information could be extremely helpful to the rest of the Board of Education. It was a very interesting presentation by the Black Passport Group on school safety that we hope other Boards Members will be able to hear so that they can help support the initiative to make schools safer.

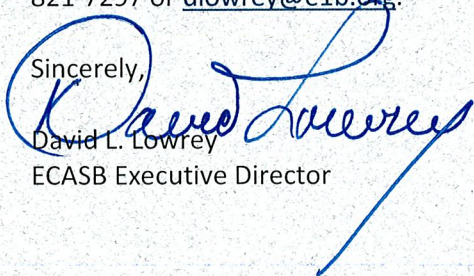
I also enjoyed listening to other Board Members provided additional information about the different activities and meetings they have attended and reporting back about, musicals, PTA meetings, committee meetings and sporting events.

Before the meeting started, I picked up several resources that I have been reviewing including the district calendar, the Sweet Home Source, The Sweet Home Foundation, and a brochure on the Sweet Home Family Support Center.

Overall, I enjoyed spending the meeting at the Sweet Home CSD Board of Education meeting and was thankful that the snow had ended, and the roads were clear for my drive home.

Should you have any questions or concerns, or if ECASB can be of further service to you or your Board of Education, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I can be reached at (716) 821-7297 or dlowrey@e1b.org.

Sincerely,


David L. Lowrey

ECASB Executive Director