



Erie County Association of School Boards

*Where professional development,  
leadership & advocacy meet.*

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#### SWEET HOME CSD

Attention: Peter Bellanti, President  
1901 Sweet Home Road  
Amherst, New York 14228

Dear Mr. Bellanti,

When I was appointed as the Executive Director for ECASB, I had as one of my goals to reach out and visit a Board of Education meeting in each one of our member district. I am serving in my 8<sup>th</sup> year, and still visit 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.

By attending the member district meetings, I hope to be a resource to the Board of Education trustees within the ECASB membership and the NYSSBA Area 1. I hope to better understand how I can serve our members and advocate for them with our legislators both in Albany and Washington.

I went to the Sweet Home CSD website and reviewed the meeting agenda after deciding that I would be attending the March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Board of Education.

First, thank you for acknowledging that I was in the audience visiting the Sweet Home CSD. I arrived early, and picked up the Sweet Home Source official magazine. I read it cover to cover. I learn so much about the district when reading the district magazines. Too many districts in the area have discontinued a district wide magazine or newsletter. Yes, it can be costly, but I believe it truly can bring the entire community together. I applaud you and your Board for making sure that this stays as a priority.

I enjoyed watching and listening to the recognitions to Sofia Guadagana, a student wrestler, and to ECIC Coach of the Year Brandon Woods. I particularly like that Coach Woods took time to address the Board and thank his family members, assistants, the administration, the Board of Education, the Superintendent, and his team. He appears to be a remarkable coach, mentor, counselor and community member.

I was impressed with the information presented on the Dollars for Scholars, and

with the amount of money that is distributed to students in the form of scholarships on behalf of district and the alumni.

In regards to the agenda, I like the fact that you have all upcoming meeting and district events built right into a chart in the agenda. As a Board Member myself, it can be difficult trying to keep all the dates organized, but this method works out great.

The use of the consent agenda is always a great way to move along routine business. Obviously if there was an issue or a question about an item in the consent agenda, a Board Member would just need to make a motion to vote on it separately.

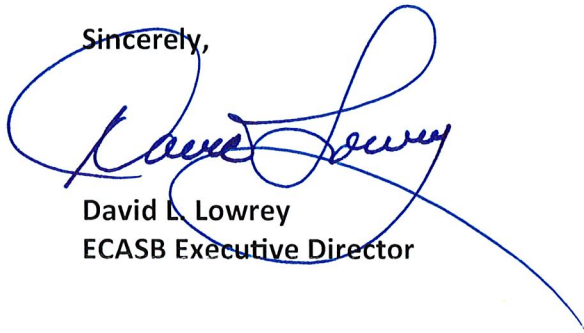
I enjoyed the Student Ex Officio report as well as he shared information about what was taking place in the school with the many different grade levels. I found his report on the Peer Mentoring Program that connects high school students to middle school students to be unique and beneficial. The one comment that the Student Board Member made that really resonated with me was when he said, "We are already seeing improvement", thus demonstrating a buy in by those participating in the program.

Additionally, the student body at the high school is connecting with the Elementary students as they prepare for their upcoming Leadership Day at the elementary buildings in the district. The students at the high school also take time out for themselves as they prepare for a 'Spring Pep Rally' to celebrate and pay tribute to the athletes.

Overall, I enjoyed my visit to the Sweet Home CSD and spending the evening with your Board of Education.

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](mailto:dlowrey@e1b.org).

Sincerely,



David L. Lowrey  
ECASB Executive Director