

## **Regional Community, Agency, and School Alliance (RCASA) Minutes- May 15, 2019**

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

### **2. Presentations:**

**Emily Ratenstrauch**  
**Community Development Specialist**  
**Microsoft Stores**  
**Walden Galleria Mall**  
**Depew, New York**

Emily spoke about accessibility features in Windows 10 and Office 364, which can assist individuals with school organization. There were several features she discussed:

- One Note, which is a note taking app. One Note is much like a giant trapper keeper with tabs and pages. There is also a stylus available to assist with those who like to handwrite notes, which can be loaded into One Note.
- Immersive Reader- this feature can help implement techniques to improve reading and writing for individuals.
- Office Lens- Immersive reader is built in and can read information to you. Pictures can be taken of whiteboards and printed documents. The photo can be cropped and sharpened. For example, a picture could be taken of a restaurant menu and it can be read back to you through this technology.
- Speech recognition feature- There is a dictate button available. This is also available in PowerPoint.

There are classes available at the Microsoft Store. Look up workshops on the Microsoft Store website. (Choose Buffalo location, under events)

There are summer classes available for children and workshops for educators.

**Nicholas Azzarella**  
**Niagara Wheatfield High School**  
**Special Education teacher**  
**nazzarella@nwcsd.org**

Nicholas spoke about utilizing technology with his classroom and how his students are responding.

Nicholas utilizes technology in his life skills class room. He uses real world apps to work with his classroom students. Students are learning about everyday tasks in life such as paying rent, utilities, and keeping track of a bank account.

Students will make “phone calls” or speak to the bank manager if necessary. (Nicholas is the bank manager).

There are natural consequences to actions, such as spending too much money or not paying your rent. Families have stated that they are seeing positive changes at home with their students.

**Sara Taylor**  
**NIOGA Library System**  
**eMobile Trainer/ Librarian**  
**Btop@nioga.org**

Sarah spoke about what is available at our public libraries. She spoke about their free digital literacy classes. Free BTOP Express is available, which is their mobile computing training unit. The BTOP Express schedule is available on-line and you need to register for classes.

BTOP Express website: <http://www.btopexpress.org/schedule.php>. They follow the school cancellation schedule during bad weather.

Sara spoke about the assistance they offer people with technology. People can bring their gadgets into their library for assistance.

Sara spoke about DVD's, games, and books that can be downloaded to your devices from your library. Hoopla App available- 10 items every 30 days. If interested, you need a library card, sign up on-line and create a password.

**Updates:**

**RSE-TASC-Erie 1 BOCES**  
**Liz Loughran-Amorese**  
**[Eloughran-amorese@e1b.org](mailto:Eloughran-amorese@e1b.org)**

Liz spoke about using FTVS HD visual schedule. This app develops schedules that can include pictures and videos.

**Julia Duerr**  
**[jduerr@e1b.org](mailto:jduerr@e1b.org)**

Julia spoke about the grant ending for her community employment specialist role within NYS.

**Marilyn Patterson**  
**Niagara's Work Source One**  
**1001 Eleventh St.**  
**Niagara Falls, NY 14301**  
**(716) 278-1695**  
**[Marilyn.patterson@niagaracounty.com](mailto:Marilyn.patterson@niagaracounty.com)**

Marilyn spoke about Niagara County Summer Youth Applications, they received 280 applicants this year. They only had 150 slots. For next year, make sure applications are in early.

Marilyn also spoke about their out of school program that is year around to assist individuals with employment. This program does not provide job coaching.

Next meeting: TBA- See you next school year.

