

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

*The 62nd Annual Meeting/Reception*

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Francis Kennedy, Principal, Berlin High School

With this being one of my last official duties in my capacity as CAS president, I wish to share some brief remarks: Our association is paramount to me. Some of my darkest times have occurred while I have been executing my duties faithfully as a principal. Conversely, some of the finest times I've ever had had been in the company of our CAS members, committees, and, of course, CAS staff. I'm not sure if we are meant to be principals as long as I have been thus far. I know that some have been in the role for multiple decades, while many others serve for shorter periods. This is my 18th year in the role, and it has not become less challenging. If anything, it's become exponentially more complex and, frankly, difficult. Nevertheless, I somehow have managed to retain a certain zeal for the role, taking pride in the challenge each year. However, I am starting to wonder about how many whirlwind years I have left in me? Three? Five? Seven? Eighteen more??? Hey, don't think I haven't noticed that, little by little, I am becoming one of the grayer ones around the boardroom table. I call this the "yikes" factor!

I never thought about this until recently, but I think I may be the poster child for why CAS is invaluable to its member principals. Everything that CAS has taught me has been directly applicable to improving the school that I serve. CAS affords me frequent opportunities to compare notes and/or solutions with colleagues and benefit from the mutual inspiration. After leaving a CAS meeting, I always feel reenergized and ready to go back in that ring the next day to fight the good fight again. In truth, there is not a chance that I would have lasted 18 years (20 if you include my assistant principal years when I was on the professional studies committee) if it were not for the oasis known to me as the Connecticut Association of Schools. Maybe someday my fellow members and I should give CAS the "association of the year award!"

So, my point in declaring myself the poster child is this: The good of the association shall remain my number one priority in anything I do with the association. As the years go on, whether I am extremely active, moderately active or just an occasional, familiar face in the crowd, CAS will always be foremost in the love that I have for our noble profession.