

ATTENTION: ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS' COMMITTEE*

Meeting – Monday, October 27, 2003

3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

South Windsor High School**

Dinner to follow at Mill on the River

Agenda:

1. Focus Topic: **Community Building at the Elementary, Middle, and High Schools in South Windsor** This topic extends the theme of positive school climate that emerged at the September meeting. Asked to bring *one great idea to share that a colleague might replicate to his or her benefit*, the AP's who gathered on September 22nd talked almost exclusively about climate enhancing activities underway in their schools. Formal programs that were touted included *Private Wisdom, Character Counts, Second Step, Capturing Kids' Hearts, Don't Laugh At Me, Respect Me!, Project Discovery*, and *A World of Difference*. Informal initiatives described included *interdisciplinary teams, smaller learning communities, mentoring, faculty study groups, mixed-grade homeroom groups, whole-school advisory, alternatives to suspension, during-the-day activity programs, positive talk (staff-student), de-tracking with support, mediation logs, quiet zones, community outreach*, etc., etc., etc.. Isn't it interesting that, on the threshold of NCLB, it's community building programs and initiatives that are talked about first (and with great enthusiasm!) and not AYP. And these school leaders have it right because they recognize that academic performance builds on climate. Students who are connected to adults in positive ways, who feel secure and cared about, who find meaning within their school environment, simply perform better.

2. Report of Conference Planning Committee – Kathy Barmak, Sally Biggs, Elaine Mierzejewski.

3. Report of Committee/Board Liaisons

4. Other

*The Assistant Principals Committee is open to all assistant principals in CAS member schools. The committee meets six times a year, always with a focus topic, and organizes a state-wide conference in the spring. This is a great place to network, bring an issue to discuss, and find support as you meet the challenges of the AP role.

Meeting Dates for 2003-2004: 9/22, 10/27, 11/17, 1/12, 2/9, 5/17. Focus topics for the November and January meetings are:

- November 17 – **Legal Issues with Attorney Susan Freedman** of Shipman and Goodwin LLP – she will address a variety of legal issues including IDEA, 504, discipline, and NCLB. Like all of our committee meetings, this session will be interactive so bring your questions.
- January 12 – **Welcome to the Trenches** – a panel of first-year assistant principals will talk about lessons learned so far and the highs and lows associated with this first administrative position. This is an excellent forum for other beginning AP's as well as teachers thinking about such a career move.

****Directions to South Windsor High School:**

From I 91 South (Coming from Springfield, MA or North) Take exit 44, US 5 South, East Windsor. Continue on US 5 for approximately 3 miles. At the stop light go left onto Sullivan Avenue (Route 194). Follow Route 194 (Sullivan Avenue for about 3 miles. At the third traffic light on Route 194, make a left turn onto Ayers Road. Cross Graham Road at the stop sign. The main entrance to SWHS is on the right just past Wapping School.

From I 91 North (Coming from New Haven/Middletown, Meriden or South) Take I 84 East at East Hartford and follow directions immediately below.

From I 84 East (Coming from Hartford or West) Take exit 62, Buckland Street. Turn left onto Buckland Road and go 2 miles to a four-way intersection. Go straight through, you are now on Route 194 Sullivan Ave. At the second traffic light turn right onto Sand Hill Road. Take first left (Nevers Road – Police Station will be on your right) Main entrance to SWHS is on the left, across from the South Windsor Community Center.

From I 84 West (Coming from Boston, Worcester or Sturbridge) Take Exit 63, South Windsor/Manchester. At stop light at the end of the ramp, turn left and follow Route 30 for 2 miles. At four-way intersection, turn right onto Route 194 (Sullivan Ave) and follow Route 194 to second traffic light. Turn right onto Sand Hill Road. Take first left onto Nevers Road – Police station will be on your right) Main entrance to South Windsor High School is on the left, across from the South Windsor Community Center.

From Windsor/Bloomfield Take the Bissell Bridge to US5. Turn left on US 5 and go approximately 4 miles and take right onto Route 194 (Sullivan Avenue). Follow Route 194 (Sullivan) Avenue for about 3 miles. At the third traffic light on Route 194, make a left turn onto Ayers Road. Cross Graham Road at the stop sign. The main entrance to SWHS is on the right just past Wapping School.

