



UPDATE FROM REGINA BIRSELL/ELEMENTARY DIVISION March 2015

CAS Elementary Level

Our CAS Elementary Board meeting has been cancelled three times, we are looking forward to our conference call meeting Thursday, March 5th.

Three Elementary principals attended the NAESP National Leaders Conference in DC last week, Roxanne Augelli, Victoria Reed and Michael Litke. They met with our CT representatives in DC and shared the concerns for ESEA reauthorization. We will be giving Karen info to go out in Blast that comes from NAESP & NASSP.

Early Childhood

I am participated in a National Webinar March 2nd focusing on the Pre-K-3 continuum. Also participating was Andrea Brinnel from the CT Office of Early Childhood. I was proud to represent Connecticut as a member of the committee developing the guide for Elementary Principals: Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice. CAS will hold two sessions this spring for elementary principals and school leaders: Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice.

CAS Celebrations

The CAS Volunteer Recognition Banquet was held Wednesday, March 4th. We were fortunate to have good weather and the 450 attending, enjoyed a wonderful celebration of the volunteers at their schools.

Common Core

Please see Earle's report

UConn

I am a member of the developing a new course for UConn: Not a certification, for principals: Pre-K-3 that is a one year course.

We plan to have applications (who will be invited this first year) by April, and the courses to begin in July. There is an impressive advisory of National experts in the field consisting of 15 noted experts.

Other

As a member of the CSDE Paraprofessional Committee... it is busy preparing for the National Paraprofessional Convention to be held in Hartford CT this April 16-18

Also they are focusing on: on Raised Bill 972 : AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PROGRAM REVIEW AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE CONCERNING SCHOOL PARAPROFESSIONAL STAFFING. Here is a link to the agenda and to the Bill.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/PRIdata/pha/2015pha00227-R001300PRI-pha.htm>



UPDATE FROM EARLE BIDWELL/MIDDLE LEVEL DIVISION
March 2015

- Connecticut Core Community of Practice session on *Formative Assessment and Digital Library* was well received. The next session is *A Guide to Vertical Alignment* on March 23, 2015. It is a half-day session and registration is free. [Link to registration](#)
- Work has begun on a Common Core Leadership tool-kit for the CAS website. Lynn Wallick and Renata Lantos are spearheading the effort. Karen Packtor will post submissions after they are approved by Regina and Earle.
- Hall of Honor nominations vetted by the Middle Level Board have passed the next level and have gone on to the final selection committee.
- The revised Middle Level Athletic Guidelines have been posted on the CAS-CIAC website
- Mandy Ryan and Al Sackey presented the first draft of a *Exemplary Middle School Advisory Programs Rubric*. They welcome reflection and comments. The draft will be posted as a Google Doc and the link sent to all committee members.
- Board members participated in an online English Learners survey to support the work of the SDE.
- The Scholar Leader banquet will be held on THURSDAY, May 28, 2015. Scott Gray will be the Master of Ceremonies and the committee has selected their choice of speaker. I will name that person after she/he accepts. The Board has determined that the 2016 banquet should be on a Sunday. We are confirmed for Sunday, May 22, 2016 at the Aqua-Turf.
- Earle will be going to New Fairfield Middle School tomorrow with Ian Hockley to introduce the principal to the Wingman Program.



UPDATE FROM TIM BRESLIN/HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION MARCH 2015

- Redesigned SAT and PSAT's. The High School Board of Control has sponsored four presentations by Alan Bernstein of the College Board on the topic, "The Redesigned SAT and PSAT/NMSQT: What School Administrators Need to Know." The next session is Thursday, March 12. In these sessions, Alan discusses how the revised SAT and PSAT/NMSQT tests will be closely linked to rigorous college readiness standards, such as the Common Core State Standards.
- NEASC Workshop. This year's second NEASC workshop, which is designed to help high school teams prepare for their high school's decennial self-study, is scheduled for April 30 and May 1.
- Principals' Leadership Series. The Principals' Leadership Series will have the fifth of eight workshops on Tuesday, March 17. The presenter for that workshop, *Creating High Performance School Culture*, is Bob McCain, principal of Two-Rivers Magnet High School.
- Governor's Scholars. The Governor's Scholars luncheon is scheduled for May 21, 2015, at the Aqua Turf.
- Scholar Artist Banquet. The Scholar Artist Banquet is scheduled for Monday, April 6, at the Aqua Turf. The guest speaker will be radio personality Jerry Kristafer.

Other Activities

- Summer Leadership Institute. This year's summer leadership institute, which is scheduled for June 25 & 26 at the Heritage Inn in Southbury, will focus on ways to engage students more deeply in learning.
- Coherence Community of Practice. An outgrowth of the 2014 Summer Leadership Institute has been a six-session community of practice on *Coherence* led by Jonathan Costa of Education Connection. The final session is scheduled for March 23.
- League of Innovative Schools. There are now more than 20 Connecticut high schools and middle schools that are either participating in the work of League of Innovative Schools, an initiative designed to bring personalized learning to Connecticut's students.



**UPDATE FROM EVERETT LYONS/PRINCIPAL CENTER REPORT
MARCH 2015**

The following activities have been underway during the first quarter of 2015.

1. Our three Leadership Academies (Meriden, East Harford, CAS) which target teacher leadership skill development have continued with positive commentaries from the participants. It is anticipated that these will continue for SY 2015-2016.
2. Mike Galluzzo and Ev Lyons participated in the February CSDE Coherence Conference around the various themes of educator evaluation and support. Mike presented on central office adaptations and Ev teamed-up with ReVision Learning regarding collegial calibrations.
3. With ReVision Learning, CAS has hosted a number of workshops for the facilitators and building administrators from the 20-plus districts involved in the calibration work. Two workshops leading participants through the DISC leadership and communication assessment. It is anticipated that this work will be expanded during SY 2015-16 with CSDE support to districts who did not participate this year.
4. As part of our CSDE contract, CAS has placed Complementary Managers with ten principals/assistant principals in a time study exercise. The study is a comparison of the use of administrator time with respect to teacher evaluation when administrative assistance is available (Manager) and when the administrator is solo. Results will be analyzed in April. CAS offers the Complementary manager assistance to any member school supported by district funding.
5. While the weather cancelled our mid-year Administrator Evaluation workshop in February, it is on track to be held next week with Rich Gusenburg as our presenter.
6. CAS will be involved with the CSDE in redesigning a number of educator evaluation trainings and creating a number of new offerings. Much of this work will occur this spring and summer.



CAS STUDENT ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

MARCH 2015

Elementary Leadership Conferences January 9 – 13 <i>118 Schools 900 Students</i>	Asnuntuck, Three Rivers, Naugatuck Community Colleges, Sacred Heart University
Middle Leadership Conference January 7 <i>400 Students 47 Schools</i>	Trinity College
High School Debate Tournament January 10 <i>462 Students</i>	Masuk & Trumbull High Schools
March 21	High School State Championship
Middle Level Debate Tournament January 24 <i>100 Students 10 Schools – FIRST ONE!</i>	Wamogo
B.O.T.F. Video Contest Bring On The Fans	High School Spirit and Sportsmanship Video Contest – Sacred Heart, Waterbury, Simsbury, Thomaston named finalists
Heart of the Arts Award <i>Award goes to a student with exemplary performance / service in the arts Recipient is Justin Fargiano, Bethel High School</i>	High School Art Banquet – April 6
Mental Health Student Ambassador <i>Training teams recognize signs and symptoms of mental health challenges and learn how to help Second session in Trumbull – May 6th</i>	Farmington High School
KiDSMARATHON (Added New Sites)	Cheshire, Danbury, Trumbull, Glastonbury South Windsor, Waterford, Waterbury, Litchfield

*Produced new video from Waterbury 2014. Registration open.
Goal for 2015 is 5000 participants. Program has grown for 5 consecutive years.*

Dance Championship
February 28
Hamden High School
34 Schools – 56 Routines – Best event in the nine year history!

Cheerleading Championship
March 6 & 7
New Haven Athletic Center
100 Schools

High School Summit for Young Men
Of Color (*NEW*)
Trinity College
March 16 – 240 registrations with time to grow

State Student Advisory Council
On Education
CSDE
Students researching overabundance of K-12 tests, revised start times, and service learning high School graduation requirement.

“Improving Frosh Orientation”
April 8th
A half-day workshop featuring ‘best practice panels’ from Fermi, Wamogo, and Cheshire High Presenting what they’ve done to improve the transition process for entering 8th graders.

Administrative Assistant Conference
April 24th
The annual celebration of the great work that administrative assistants do in our schools. Tom Mooney’s Legal Update and Sheryl Sprague’s ‘Positive Steps for Managing Stress and Health And Wellness’ in the workplace highlight the day at the Aquaturf Club.



**UPDATE FROM STEVE WYSOWSKI/CIAC DIVISION
MARCH 2015**

- Fall Championships were overall successful- attendance was down but It appears that all but two sports came out with more income than expense. Yet, projected budget figures were slightly down, (3%). Weather played a vital role in keeping people away for the semi-final games of the Football Tournament this year. The sport generates the largest revenue and has the greatest potential for profit or loss. Overall, the projection in football was down but boys' soccer, cross country and a few other fall sports minimized the projected deficit.
- To date, winter tournaments have gone off despite the bad weather. Wrestling and indoor track tournaments have concluded and we are in the early stages of the girls basketball tournament; weather conditions have caused us to postpone a few games but we are moving forward. We are entering the period of boys basketball as well as boys swimming tournaments. Financially we have yet to determine their success.
- The Board of Control has heard several cases of coaching out of season violations (5). Because of that, discussions have started to look at the current rule. In meetings with League athletic directors around the state, there are strong feelings on the side for “change” as well as “no change” of the current policy. Historically, the Board of Control for the CIAC has always looked at its by-laws when multiple violations or exceptions occur.

Another rule that has been discussed because of an exception that has been granted and mounting questions throughout the fall has been the current policy that restricts the number of college auditions and/or tryouts that a high school athlete may attend during the season. The current policy limits the number of times that a high school student/athlete may attend to two. A small discussion group as well as a short discussion among members of the Board of Control led to the formation of a small sub-committee to bring forward a proposal that the Board can look at , edit, and eventually vote on to support going to full membership for a change.

- A proposal has come forward with unlimited numbers of visits by invitation allowed for college tryouts and is being considered for an April decision.
- Concussion legislation and concerns continue to dominate the landscape especially with the sport of football. New guidelines from the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) continue to cause CIAC to look at and revise current contact practice and game policy.

- 12 nominations have been received for the first “Hall of Honor” Induction. Several others may still be submitted.
- Next year, a new “season’s limitations” schedule will go into effect. The three high school sports seasons have been changed. The fall season starts a few days earlier but ends at the same time and allows for an equalization of contests for the girls swim program in the fall and the current boys contest limitations in the winter. The winter season starts for everyone (except wrestling) after Thanksgiving which is a change from previous years. Girls’ basketball starts on the Monday after Thanksgiving while all other sports start the second Saturday after the holiday.
- The winter season is still the longest season even though it has been shortened.
- The spring season starts two days earlier. While still the shortest season, the change does not affect the “end date” because it is very “busy” at the end of the school year in all schools throughout the state.
- The seasons changing also affect the start date of all sport contests, not just practice. A reminder that Sundays count in the 14 days of minimum practice before interscholastic competition mandated by policy.

This policy was determined after years of discussion, multiple notifications of the Connecticut Association of Athletic Directors (CAAD), and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association (CHSCA) and a delay of vote by the CIAC Board of Control to be sure that representative groups were given notice.

- The Scholar Athlete Banquet is scheduled for May 3, Donny Marshall, former UCONN Great and now sports announcer is the "slated speaker".

The CIAC Board of Control has received 3 requests from member schools to participate in sanctioned contests on a Sunday, two more are scheduled to be heard in February. To date, the Board has allowed the contests to be played. Last year, the Board decided that it wanted to hear each request and decide on an individual basis all requests for Sunday play after 12:30. The Board did not want to relax the current policy that prohibits contest play on Sunday unless it is a re-scheduled event or permission is granted by the Board of Control.

- Many tournaments run on holiday weekends when Sunday may be the last day of a tournament.
- In December, the CIAC Board of Control heard an appeal from a member school that requested a waiver of eligibility to participate in sports for an athlete who had transferred into that school from another. The student was declared ineligible by rule to participate in sports for a year because the sending principal had declared that the transfer was for athletic reasons. The Eligibility Review Board (ERB) denied an earlier request from the receiving school asking the Board to override the declaration that the transfer took place for athletic reasons and eliminate

the period of ineligibility. The request was made through a lawyer representing the student/athlete at the school she had transferred to. The Board of Control denied the request for the waiver, thus upholding the decision of the ERB. Since legal counsel was retained by the student/athlete there was an expectation that this case would be legally contested. To date, no further communication has been received and the non-eligibility of the student will continue until the end of the year. It should be noted that a decision to report a transfer for athletic reasons is one made by the principal of the sending school. It is usually an action that involves a great deal of evidence gathering, interviewing and consumes a great deal of time. It is a courageous undertaking!



UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT ADMINISTRATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (UCAPP)

UPDATE – MARCH 2015

1. UCAPP options include UCAPP General, UCAPP PLUS, and UCAPP Residency. CAS administers the clinical component of UCAPP General, providing clinical supervisors to six cohorts and securing mentors for and supervising the clinical practice of seventy-five interns. UCAPP PLUS is a cohort of eight aspiring administrators in Hartford organized on a separate contract between the city and Neag. UCAPP Residency is a one-year, residency-based program designed to prepare turnaround principals in Alliance Districts. It is organized on a separate contract between LEAD Connecticut and Neag.
2. Several other UCAPP variants are on the horizon including a new Hartford PLUS starting this summer, a New Haven PLUS starting summer 2016, a UCAPP Masters Plus for Teach for America aspirants (no starting date set), and a combined UCAPP sixth year and law degree program starting summer 2016.
3. Applications for UCAPP General and PLUS are due March 2nd. Screening will take place in March and include - in addition to the standard transcript, writing sample, recommendation review and interview – several performance stations. Of note, this revised process brings the administrators of each of the UCAPP options into the selection process for all.
4. Richard Gonzales, Neag UCAPP Director, and I conducted seven UCAPP information sessions in December and January.
5. UCAPP is up for an NCATE accreditation review in 2015-2016. All programs are accountable to both CSDE and NCATE for the same core assessments.
6. Richard Gonzales has facilitated a significant upgrade in course planning and coherence by appointing a lead instructor for each of the core courses in the program and bringing these instructors together regularly around issues of content and methodology.
7. CAS staffing for UCAPP will shift slightly next year. Regina will not continue as a clinical supervisor having stewarded successfully five cohorts over ten years and earning the clinical supervisor emeritus designation. Earle will return to the program after a year's hiatus and take over the East cohort.

Mike Buckley
CAS UCAPP Clinical Director