

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The 62nd Annual Meeting

2013-2014 Annual Report ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOARD OF CONTROL *Submitted by Karen Fitzsimmons, Chair*

The 2013-2014 school year continued to be a year with many programs and workshops for elementary schools in Connecticut. Working in collaboration with the CSDE and various agencies, we have sponsored workshops, conferences, symposiums and discussions on teacher/principal evaluations, school climate, and early childhood education.

The Elementary Board of Control (Chaired by Karen Fitzsimmons, Principal, Duffy School, West Hartford; Assistant Chair: Roxanne Augelli, Washington Elementary School in Waterbury): A delegation from CAS attended the NAESP leadership conference in Washington, DC, in February, and hosted the NAESP Northeast Conference in November.

Early Childhood Committee: CAS continues to work with CT ST Department of Education and several early childhood associations to promote PreK-3 discussions and standards and in presentation of several early childhood focused workshops. Eight districts were selected last year to work on age 3 to grade 3 implementation and evaluation using the Framework designed by Kristie Kauertz out of the University of Washington.

Connecticut was one of six states selected by the National Governor's Association to work with PreK – 3rd grades. In April CAS and the NGA committee sponsored The Governor's Pre-K-3rd Grade Policy Symposium at the Mark Twain House in Hartford, with three national speakers.

The CAS Early Childhood Committee continues to focus on supporting full day kindergarten. A Full day Kindergarten workshop was held May 28th, and several more are planned for the fall. There is a need to help elementary principals understand early childhood education and PreK – 3 alignment.

CAS has been involved in editing and developing the new 2014 edition of "Leading Early Childhood Learning Communities: What Principals should Know and be able to Do" The publication will be available at the July NAESP Convention in Nashville.

Legislation: CAS, along with selected elementary principals, has been active with the legislature, testifying on bills affecting several areas including; supporting the new Office of Early Childhood, entrance age for kindergarten children, schools collaborating with preschool agencies and families, and extending half day kindergarten to full day kindergarten, and school security & safety. There are several bills on early childhood in the legislative hopper and CAS, with support from elementary principals, has been instrumental in speaking on these bills. CAS continues to be involved with teacher/principal evaluation.

CAS Arts Committee: (Chair: Maureen Berescik, Bethel Middle School) The task of the committee is to give public recognition to the arts in general and to students and teachers who excel in the visual and performing arts. This was the thirteenth year that CAS sponsored the elementary arts festival where two elementary students from each school are recognized for excelling in either the visual or performing arts. Two evenings had to be devoted to the event because of the large number of schools participating.

National Distinguished Principal Selection Committee: (chaired by Andrienne Longobucco, Retired Principal) The six member selection committee reviewed applications and portfolios and then visited the schools of two finalists before making their selection. Michael Gray, principal of Race Brook School in Orange, was selected as Connecticut's 2014 NDP.

The Annual Celebration of the Arts Banquet: The 15h Annual Elementary Arts Banquets sponsored by Liberty Mutual was held on February 4th and March 17th, 2014. Two students from each of the 180 elementary schools in attendance were honored at the Aqua Turf Club this past February. Over 1400 students, teachers, administrators and parents were treated to an interactive night of art activities. Members of the CAS staff and planning committee provided congratulatory remarks as did a member from the state department of education.

Annual Recognition Awards: Awards given by the elementary division annually are: The National Distinguished Principals, The Exemplary Elementary Educator of the Year, School of the Year, The William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award, The Exemplary School Climate Award, The John Wallace Awards, and Thomas R. Flanagan Student Activity Memorial Grants.

KIDSMARATHON: Working with the Rod Dixon Foundation in Los Angeles, CSAC has hosted KIDSMARATHON, an amazing life fitness program for students ages 7-12 that features an 8-10 week program of running with nutritional guidelines. Final celebrations are set for late spring at Waterbury, Cheshire, Litchfield, Danbury and Norwich as over 4,000 runners are set to complete their last mile of a marathon in front of cheering family and friends. The mantra of the program is "finishing is winning and winning is finishing".

Marine Science Day: The Long Island Sound Foundation in conjunction with CAS presents the 10th Annual Marine Science Day for students in grades 4 through 8 on Wednesday, May 14, 2014 in five locations: Avery Point in Groton; CT River Museum in Essex; Sound School in New Haven; Sound Waters in Stamford; and New England Sailing School in Stonington. The purpose of this conference is to promote greater awareness of Long Island Sound and marine science.

Unified Sports Program: The Unified Sports programs sponsored by CAS/CIAC are divided into two categories. Students in pre-k through grade two participate in the Young Athlete Program and the students in grades 3-5 take part in the Elementary Sports Skill Developmental Program. The programs operate throughout the school year and closely follow the school calendar. All schools are invited to participate. The students engage in non-competitive athletic activities designed to develop skills in a variety of sports. Our Young Athlete program includes schools from Derby, Canton, Southington, Milford, Middletown, Clinton, Darien, Avon Waterbury, Colchester, Essex, Deep River, New Haven, Wethersfield, Westbrook, Wallingford and Stonington.