

**THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS**  
*The 63rd Annual Meeting*

2014-2015 Annual Report  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION**

*Submitted by Roxanne Augelli, Chair, Elementary Board of Control*

The 2014-2015 school year has continued to be a year with many programs and workshops for elementary schools in Connecticut. The goal and focus has been on Pre-K-Grade 3 in collaboration with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and the Connecticut State Department of Education. Other areas of focus also included the new teacher & administrator evaluations and Connecticut Core.

- **Elementary Board of Control:** The Elementary Board of Control is chaired by Roxanne Augelli, principal of Washington Elementary School in Waterbury. The vice-chair is Laurie Boske, principal of Brownstone Intermediate School in Portland.

- **Annual Recognition & Awards:** Awards given by the elementary division annually are the National Distinguished Principal Award (a/k/a Elementary Principal of the Year), Educator of the Year Award, School of the Year Award, William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award, John Wallace Awards, and Thomas R. Flanagan Student Activity Memorial Grants. Also available are the School Climate recognitions.

- **CAS Volunteer Recognition Banquet:** (Chair: Rick Watson, Principal, Albert D. Griswold Middle School in Rocky Hill). This event, held in March, 2015, recognized the efforts of school volunteers across the state. Each honoree received a certificate and a booklet listing all the honorees and their accomplishments. Horace Mann Insurance sponsored this special event, presenting a carnation to every honoree. There were over 500 educators and volunteers in attendance representing elementary, middle and high schools across CT. Each year this awards dinner grows as more schools feel a need to recognize volunteers.

- **CAS Annual Recognition of Excellence Celebration Banquet:** The event was held on November 19, 2015, recognizing school programs as well as the exemplary educator award winners for the elementary, middle and high school levels. This year, the two schools recognized as the school of the year were the Western Academy of International Studies in Danbury and New Fairfield Middle School. Also recognized were the CAS Outstanding First Year Principals: elementary principal Billie Shea, Norwich; middle school principal, Mandy Ryan, Old Saybrook; and high school principal Sheila Riffle of Old Saybrook. Also recognized were the CAS Exemplary Educators from the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. Additionally, staff from 45 schools were honored for excellence in education. For the first time, the Ronald McDonald House Charities joined us to present its Local Hero Awards to six CT Teachers.

- **Pre K-Grade 3:** CAS continues to collaborate with CT State Department of Education, the Office of Early Childhood and several professional associations to promote PreK-3 implementation and standards. Year 2 of the National Governor's Association Grant has fostered statewide collaboration enhancing knowledge and understanding of the Pre-K – 3rd grade standards. The CAS Early Childhood Committee continued to focus on looking at full day kindergarten. There is a need to help elementary principals understand early childhood education and Pre-K-Grade 3 alignment. CAS will continue to focus on providing professional development for elementary principals and school leaders.

CAS Assistant executive Director Regina Birdsell participated in a national webinar on March 2nd which focused on the Pre-K-3 continuum. Also participating was Andrea Brinnel from the CT Office of Early Childhood. She represented Connecticut as a member of the committee which developed the guide for elementary principals entitled *Leading Pre-K-3 Learning Communities: Competencies for Effective Principal Practice*. This important guide was published by NAESP last October. On June 4th, CAS hosted the first in a series of forums focusing on effective pre-K-3 programs and the competencies outlined in NEASP's publication.

CAS has collaborated with the University of Connecticut in developing a new program for elementary principals and school community leaders. The new PK-3 Leadership Program includes three modules: Curriculum & Instruction; Assessment & Evaluation; and, Leadership. The first cohort has been selected and will begin in July.

- **Science:** In collaboration with Elizabeth Buttner, CSDE Science Education Consultant, selected CAS elementary, middle and high school principals participated in a webinar regarding the implications, benefits and challenges of adopting Next Generation Science Standards. The purpose of this webinar was to give an overview of the NGSS standards, respond to questions, and collect feedback. Presenters highlighted how these new science learning goals would build upon Connecticut's current science standards, demonstrating how science teaching and learning will look quite different.

- **Connecticut Core:** *The Connecticut Core Standards Community of Practice Series for School Administrators*, a professional development series of eight sessions, was presented to school leaders at the elementary, middle and high school levels throughout the 2014-15 school year.

- **Legislation:** CAS keeps abreast of legislative activities and provides testimony - through staff as well as active elementary principals - to the legislature on bills affecting several areas such as entrance age for kindergarten children; schools collaborating with preschool agencies and families; 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 is staying updated and involved with teacher/principal evaluation and assessment through our lobbyist, Marshall Collins.

- **NAESP:** CAS continues to handle all NAESP mailings and renewals. Several Connecticut principals along with Regina Birdsell, Assistant Executive Director attended the NAESP convention in Nashville last June. Rosie Vojtek, Vickie Reed and Regina were presenters at various sessions. CAS again hosted the NAESP Northeast Conference at the CAS office in November for two days with leaders from Zones 1 & 2 participating. A delegation from CAS attended the NAESP February winter leadership conference in Washington, DC. This year's NAESP convention will be held in Long Beach, California, in June.

- **Looking Ahead:** In planning for 2015-16 school year, the elementary board has set a goal to bring workshops to several geographically located sites. This will help ensure the opportunity for participation from all elementary principals. Program design will be based on the results of a statewide elementary principal survey sent in June.