

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Fifty-Ninth Annual Meeting

May 12, 2011

2010-2011 Annual Report MIDDLE LEVEL BOARD OF CONTROL

Submitted by Joseph Scheideler, Chair

The Middle Level Board of Control viewed this year as a transition year with the direction for the Board not extremely clear. The reasons for this are obvious. The state leadership changed and the new governor has not selected his candidate for the Commissioner of Education. CAS as well is now under new leadership. The Middle Level Board had invested a good deal of time and energy into Secondary School reform under Commissioner McQuillan. The future of secondary school reform and the direction that the state department will take is far from certain. As a result, the Middle Level Board was not as active as it has been in recent years. This is not to say that the Board and its Middle Level committees were not involved in a variety of areas. Issues from athletics to student leadership to impending state legislation dominated the board's efforts.

- **Middle Level Athletic Guidelines Adopted** – After several months of work a committee chaired by Sally Biggs, Hartford Magnet Middle School and made up of Fred Baruzzi, Mansfield Public Schools, Storrs, Ellen Benham, Bristol Public Schools, Earle Bidwell, CT Association of School, Kevin Brough, Memorial Middle School, Middlefield, Paul Hoey, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, James O'Connor, Hamden Middle School, Hamden and Debbie Petruzello, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Middletown, sent a set of Guidelines for Middle Level Athletics to the Board. The Board welcomed these guidelines and commended the committee for its fine work. The Board did make several minor changes and unanimously adopted the Guidelines. The guidelines were sent to all member schools and will serve as support for the best practices in athletics for middle school students. The Board recommended that CAS print these Guidelines in a booklet and send them to each middle level member. The guidelines cover a wide variety of topics from *Belief Statements* to the *Role of Intramurals and Interscholastic Sports*, *Sportsmanship*, and *Recommendations for Specific Interscholastic Sports*. Middle Level Athletic Guidelines had not been updated in twenty years and the work was a welcome and necessary addition to the Middle Level.
- **Leadership Conference** – The annual Middle Level Leadership Conference moved its location from Quinnipiac University to Wesleyan University this year. (The move was due to a schedule conflict at Quinnipiac that makes the conferences impossible from them to host. It should be noted that Quinnipiac was a most gracious host for this event for many years.) The January 11 conference at Wesleyan was again an unqualified success. Enrollment was again sold out at 450 students, there were more presenters than ever before and the student and advisor response to the day was overwhelmingly positive. The theme of the conference remains *Making Acceptance Acceptable*. Workshops revolved around this theme. Students from the Wesleyan Upward Bound Program, under the direction of Jennifer Buckley, were instrumental in make the middle school students feel welcome and showing them around the campus. Wesleyan proved to be an outstanding venue for the event. The dozen committee members endorse the change as positive.
- **Honors and Awards** – This year two Middle Schools were selected as co-CAS *Middle Schools of the Year*. They were **Granby Memorial Middle School** and **Chippens Hill Middle School** in Bristol. The selection committee was so impressed with the quality of the two schools that it felt it had to select both for the honor. This was the first time that this occurred.
- **Gail Wynuk** of East Hartford Middle School was selected as the Middle School Teacher of the Year. The William Cieslukowski Outstanding First Year Principal Award was given to **Nate Quesnel** also of East Hartford Middle School.
- **Professional Studies Committee** is studying the way the honors and awards recipients are selected and the committee is considering a plan to change this process.
- **Matt Cavedon**, formerly of McGee Middle School and graduate of Harvard University will be the keynote speaker at the annual **Scholar Leader** Banquet of June 6. Despite being confined to a wheelchair, Matt has made some remarkable accomplishments in his young life including securing funding for a Boundless Playground while he was in Middle School.
- Board members and other middle level leaders volunteered to testify before the state legislature regarding upcoming legislation. **Donna Schilke** and **Rich Dellinger** testified regarding the new proposed bullying legislation.