

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting
June 2019

2018-2019 Annual Report
CT STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Keri Hagness, Chair

The Connecticut Student Activities Conference (CSAC) saw impressive participation rates, with many of its programs selling out during 2018-19! In spite of the internal pressures (test scores) within classrooms at the school level, and the problematic winter weather, this was, indeed, a pleasant surprise! The overall objective for CSAC in 2018-19 was to link activities to 21st century leadership skills, diversity awareness, and school climate initiatives. The following is a brief summary of CAS Student Activities.

Student Leadership Conferences

Elementary Level Leadership Conferences - The Elementary Student Leadership conferences were held at four college sites with the following participation numbers:

- Sacred Heart University 225
- Asnuntuck Community College 215
- Three Rivers Community College 175
- Naugatuck Valley Community College 349

Each site was a sell-out! Students had a great time building leadership skills and participating in anti-bullying activities to bring back to schools.

Middle Level Leadership Conferences - The middle school student leadership conference was held at two locations this year - Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT, featuring 190 students; and, Trinity College in Hartford, CT, featuring 305 students and advisors. Students and advisors participated in extensive leadership training, fun anti-bullying activities and ended the day with a presentation on the importance of community service in leadership from Jonathan Winer, Director of Athletics for CREC schools.

“Arts in the Middle” - Held on May 22nd at the University of Hartford, this conference provided nearly 200 middle school students with opportunities to engage in thirteen different art workshops.

High School Level Leadership Conference - Eighty-five high school student leaders, along with their advisors, attended the “UN-Conference” November 9th - November 10th. After having to postpone the event twice due to weather related issues, students were finally able to come together for intense leadership training and fun! Participants engaged in workshops geared toward 21st century skill development and learned a variety of ways to improve collaboration and communication strategies. In addition, North Haven’s Diversity Team collaborated with CAS to present issues on diversity to student leaders and advisors.

“Generation Leadership” has been successfully implemented in five high schools – Morgan (Clinton), Kaynor Tech (Waterbury), Windham Tech (Willimantic), Bullard Havens (Bridgeport), and Enfield.

National/Regional Leadership Conferences - Two summer high school leadership conferences are planned for July

2019. The first will offer CT student leaders a chance to improve their leadership skills at Worcester State University, MA. A second, national student leadership event sponsored by NFHS at the headquarters in Indiana, will conclude our expanded summer programs. CT student leaders will be represented at both events.

National Honors Society Statewide Advisors Conference - In January 2019, 25 advisers got together at the CAS headquarters to plan the spring statewide conference for students and advisers. Advisers also had the chance to meet each other and share great ideas to bring back to schools. In addition, advisers made a plan of action to collect books to donate to Connecticut students in need.

National Honors Society Statewide Conference High School/Middle School Level- On May 30th, 70 NHS/NJHS students and 15 advisers gathered together at the Sheraton Hotel in Rocky Hill for a day of intense leadership training and student elections for the 2020 school year. This year's theme was, Fostering Student Voice for Leadership and Social Change. Guest speakers included Don Gates, former CANHS Director and pioneer in the history of CANHS; Director of Athletics for CREC schools, Jonathan Winer, bringing a message to students about the importance of community service in student leadership; and Elancia Felder, NHS Program Manager for the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Elancia presented to advisers and addressed all questions and concerns regarding the Connecticut National Honors Society.

Student Council Statewide Adviser Conference- In February 2019, over 50 student council advisers from across the state gathered together to meet and greet and plan the leadership conference for the statewide student council conference. Advisers were also able to share ideas to bring back to their respective schools.

Student Council Adventures in Leadership Conference - This year, new student council directors Russell Crist and Christopher Tomlin took leadership to a whole new level with the Adventures in Leadership conference located at Winding Trails in Farmington, CT. The program concentrated on group skill development activity that involved physical and emotional risk and the opportunity to succeed within a supportive group atmosphere. The Low Ropes Course was comprised of over 30 different elements including a series of challenges using props designed for group participation regardless of physical limitation and ability level. Students and advisers developed skills in problem solving, communication, decision making, trust, as well as a strong sense of self-worth and accomplishment.

Student Athletic Advisory Board - This year for the first time ever, CAS-CIAC created a new Student Athletic Advisory Board. An offshoot of the successful "Class Act Schools" initiative, the statewide advisory board empowered students to promote good sportsmanship within their leagues and to address other issues regarding athletics. Students met three times throughout the school year and were able to share their respective experiences and highlights, plan and implement community service actions plans, and come together to have a voice in promoting respect, teamwork, and character in all of our "Class Act" schools and beyond.

BOTF Competition - BOTF stands for Battle of the Fans, a video-based school spirit competition designed to find the CT high school with the very best examples of spirit and sportsmanship. Modeled after the Michigan program, the CSAC sponsored our version for 2018-19 at the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference on November 15th. Norwich Free Academy had a stand-out entry and was selected as the 2018 BOTF winner. The 2019 BOTF winner was Brookfield High School. A news release, featuring a video of the Brookfield High School production team, was prepared by CIAC Staff member, Joel Cookson, and posted on our site during the state basketball tourney. The BOTF Award was presented to Brookfield High School at the Mohegan Sun Arena before a huge crowd during the state basketball championship weekend in March.

KiDSMARATHON - Working with the Rod Dixon Foundation in New Zealand & Los Angeles, CSAC sponsored KiDSMARATHON for the tenth consecutive year. KiDSMARATHON is an amazing life fitness program for students ages 7-12 that features an 8-10 week program of running with nutritional guidelines. Celebrations were held in Cheshire,

Waterbury, Torrington, Danbury, Storrs, Trumbull, Branford, Glastonbury and Old Lyme as over 4,000 runners completed the last mile of their marathon before cheering family and friends.

High School Dance Championships - The 13th annual state dance championship was held at Hamden High School on February 23rd. A record number of dance team entries – over 51 - competed in the event witnessed by a standing room only crowd. The choreography, costumes, music and synchronization delighted all in attendance at this popular event. Teams were crowned champs in the following categories: Large Hip Hop - Fairfield Warde; Small Hip Hop - Branford High; Kickline- Hamden High; Large Jazz - Newtown High School; Small Jazz - Branford High; Pom - Hamden High. Connecticut high school dance also represented the state in fine fashion at the New England championships held in Braintree, MA, on March 9th.

High School Cheerleading Championships - More than 100 schools participated in the state competition which drew large, spirited crowds on Sunday, March 3rd. The event was held all on one day. Due to inclement weather Saturday, March 2nd, we postponed to Sunday, March 3rd. Champions were crowned in the following divisions:

- LL - Danbury High School
- L - North Haven High School
- M - Wolcott High School
- S - Oxford High School
- Co-ed - Plainville High School

A unified cheerleading exhibition was added to the competition and it was outstanding. Teams received a standing ovation from the crowd. Connecticut high school cheerleading also represented the state in fine fashion at the New England championships held in MA on March 16th.

Esports - Esports has taken off rapidly in the state of Connecticut. In January 2019, Connecticut held the first esports state championship ever at Maloney High School in Meriden, CT. Manchester High School and Woodstock Academy came to battle it out in the game League of Legends. After a close competition, Woodstock Academy won the championship for Season Zero of esports. In Season One, another exciting game was added as well as 10 more schools. On May 9th, viewers watched Xavier High School and Woodstock Academy battle it out in Rocket League with Xavier taking the championship home after a very close game. In League of Legends, Woodstock vs. Manchester High School in a rematch came to defend its title winning against Manchester High School again in a very close battle. Manchester came back ready for victory and earned state championship title for the spring 2019 Season One.

Robotics - CSAC continued its partnership with CT FIRST, an organization that sponsors robotics tournaments for elementary, middle and high school teams. CT FIRST's goal is to inspire in students an appreciation of science, technology, engineering and mathematics and to show them how an understanding of these fields can enrich their lives. The CT High School Robotics Championship was held on May 11th at The Hartford Armory. Thirty-five teams competed for the coveted state robotics champion.

Connecticut Debate Association High School Debating - The CDA season ended with its championship tournament on March 23rd at Joel Barlow High School. One-hundred seventy-eight debaters from thirty-seven schools who qualified at 10 previous regular season competitions debated at the state finals. Champions were crowned in the following divisions: Varsity Championship-Weston High School and Novice Division Championship- Westhill High School.

During the year, nearly 600 students from 41 schools participated either at the initial Novice Scrimmage or one or more of the regular monthly tournaments. The debate topic changed for each monthly event. Events were held at high schools across the state. The CDA is grateful to Greenwich High School, The Academy of Information Technology and Engineering, Seymour High School, Crosby High School, Westhill High School, Stamford High School, Fairfield Warde High School, Daniel Hand High School, New Canaan High School, Darien High School, Wilton High School and Joel Barlow High

School for hosting this past year.

CDA debaters also participate in events sponsored by other institutions. This year many attended high school tournaments sponsored by Yale, Vassar and Columbia. CDA debaters also serve as coaches and mentors for teams in the Connecticut Middle School Debate League, and as judges at the middle school debate tournaments.

For more information about the Connecticut Debate Association, or to get involved in high school debate, please see the CDA website, <http://ctdebate.org>.

Middle School Debating - The CTMSDL held four events this year: a scrimmage in October and tournaments in December, January and April. This was the 3rd year that we also participated in the Middle School Public Debate Program's championship tournament.

Here are the participation numbers – which represent all-time highs for the middle level!

- October — 170 debaters, 59 teams, 14 schools
- December — 218 debaters, 78 teams from 20 schools
- January — 162 debaters, 59 teams, 16 schools

Thomas Flanagan / CAS-CIAC Endowment Grant Awards - Through the generous sponsorships from many corporate partners, the CAS-CIAC / Flanagan Endowment Grants awarded just over \$16,000 to member schools this spring. The RFP provides funding to new or existing programs that are educationally sound initiatives in support of high levels of learning. The CSAC board screened, selected and announced the winners in June.

State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) - The 2018-19 State Student Advisory Council on Education (SSACE) consisted of eighteen high school students who met regularly with Dr. Dianna Wentzell, Commissioner of Education, and Cherese Miller, CAS Director of Student Activities. SSACE's number one project this year was to produce a presentation for the State Board of Education which centered on three topics: How to Cultivate Student Interest in Teaching as a Career; How to Improve Teacher Diversity in Schools; and, How to Fill Vacancies in Teacher Shortage Areas. SSACE also selected the recipients of the Governor's Challenge to Citizenship Awards that are an annual recognition of school / community service projects. In addition, SSACE selected possible candidates to serve on the State Board of Education for the 2019-2020 school year.

The Arts Committee - Over one hundred and fifty high schools were represented at this year's arts banquet. An added announcement was the recipient of the "Heart of the Arts" award given to a student who exemplifies the ideals of the positive heart of the arts that represent the core mission of the fine and practical arts. Caroline Gwara, a senior from Metropolitan Learning Center, was the 2019 recipient.

The Look for the Good Project - CSAC continued with its partnership with Anne Kubitsky, CEO and founder of the program "The Look for the Good Project." The "Look for the Good Project" is a research backed program built around the core belief that gratitude changes everything – especially in schools. The feedback that CAS has received from "The Look for the Good Project" has been sensational. We will offer more workshops on a regional basis next year and are hoping to pilot a middle level program.

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2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT
CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND INNOVATION ADVISORY BOARD
Submitted by Trevor L. Ellis, Chair

The Connecticut Association of Schools established the Center for Leadership and Innovation (formerly known as the Principals' Center) two years ago to address the professional learning and related needs of aspiring and practicing school leaders. CAS Associate Executive Director, V. Everett Lyons, is the director of the Center. The Center is served by an advisory committee of experienced principals, as well as representatives of graduate and undergraduate educational leadership and education programs.

Activities 2018-2019

In order to provide professional support for school leaders and advance the professional development of aspiring leaders, the work of the Center has been organized into three strands of action:

- Strand #1 **Future School Leaders:** Development of future educational leaders
- Strand #2 **Experienced Leaders:** Providing quality leadership development for beginning and veteran school leaders
- Strand #3 **Recognition:** Recognizing, celebrating and sharing examples of achievements and best practices

This report will share with you the primary activities within each strand.

Strand #1: Future/New School Leaders

Leadership Academies (Teacher Leadership)

Our Meriden Leadership Academy was conducted for the eighth year in conjunction with the Meriden Public Schools. At the request of the Meriden district leadership, participants were also welcomed from the Middletown Public Schools for the second time this year. Twenty-five teacher leaders from both districts recently completed a five session sequence related to teacher leadership skill development, and demand within the districts for this experience remains high. A ninth cohort has already been scheduled for next year.

This current school year also saw the continuation of the academy offering in the Waterford Public Schools and the continuation of the inter-district group housed at CAS for small districts (New Britain, Thomaston, New Hartford, Kent, Region 12; Hebron) that could not support a district-specific program. Waterford will take a one-year hiatus next year as we have trained about 20% of the district teachers. The CAS academy is planned to continue next year. All academy sessions this year were co-led by Ev Lyons and Mike Galluzzo who returned to replace Donna Schilke (Donna left CAS in the early fall for an interim position) with specialized support by Pat Howley in the administration of the Myers-Briggs Inventory.

Administrator Certification Program (UCAPP)

The Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) and the Department of Educational Leadership at the University of Connecticut's NEAG School of Education (NSOE) have continued a partnership which aims to provide a quality preparation, enabling qualified administrators to fill positions of leadership within Connecticut's schools. This is the thirteenth year that the partnership has been in existence and a formative year in terms of significant programmatic changes by the University. The role of CAS is now limited to providing Task Stream capabilities to support the work of both instructors and students. Our former role of providing cohort clinical supervisors has been absorbed by the University as part of their restructuring work.

CAS Leadership Series Offerings

This year the CLI staff operated from the premise that "leadership is leadership". In other words, new and veteran school leaders often face the same challenges and need similar support. This line of thinking was also extended to assistant principals and teacher-leaders. Accordingly, our former New Leaders Academy was discontinued and a full slate of CLI workshop offerings was put into place. An added adjustment to our previous work was the creation of a master catalog of offerings which was sent to member school in the spring of 2019 so that school leaders could better plan their own professional learning and that of their key leadership personnel. The result was an improved registration rate and overall attendance to the workshops offered. Evaluations of each workshop, shared with the CLI Advisory Committee, proved to be overwhelmingly positive.

This year's offerings included the subject areas (In some cases, multiple offerings): Special education, preparing difficult conversations, providing high quality feedback, legal issues and legislative updates, teacher evaluation and supervision structures, restorative justice and social media issues. In all, thirteen sessions were held at the CAS facilities.

Strand #2: Experienced Leaders

Summer Leadership Institute

The Center will again offer its popular Summer Leadership Institute on June 27 and 28, 2019 and our theme will be “21st Century Leadership: Integrating Social-Emotional and Academic Learning”. This year’s institute will expand upon the social-emotional theme of personalized learning that was the focus of the previous two year’s institute with an emphasis upon the how work with social-emotional content influences improved academic performance by students.. Similar to last year’s institute, participants will have the opportunity to hear national presenters as well as attend breakout sessions to learn about exemplary Connecticut practices. Resource providers also have been added to the program to provide ongoing assistance and support to practitioners.

CAS continues to receive requests from member schools to screen the documentary film, “Resilience”, which discussed the impact of adverse childhood experiences not only in the classroom and in adult life. Each screening has been well-received by participants.

Executive Coaching Program

We are excited to announce newly designed coaching models which will begin the summer of 2019! Our Executive Director, Glenn Lungarini has been seeking input from local superintendents and colleagues. He is committed to developing flexible models that will meet their specific needs.

Several new models will be offered. One model will be designed specifically for new principals and assistant principals. They will receive support in sessions offered at CAS beginning this summer and throughout the year. This model will also include on-site school visits with an assigned CAS coach. One area of focus will be on principal SLOs in preparation for working with their supervisors.

Another model will be developed to work with school administrators who are doing well and would like to select one specific area to continue to develop and excel. CAS will also continue to work with administrators who seek to improve their administrative skills.

The Connecticut State Department of Education is planning to continue to support the Special Education Administrator Coaching Model. This model will allow CAS to provide special education coaching support at no cost to the district. This will be the fourth year for this model.

We hope to post a competitive grant application sometime this summer. We will be sharing testimonials from administrators who have received coaching utilizing different models and have found this opportunity to be a great success. CAS is also looking into

providing sessions for educators that will support them as they are working with the changing demographic and needs of our students.

CAS Special Education Committee

The CAS Special Education Professional Learning Committee has been meeting since January at CAS and via email. The committee is developing a resource document to provide special education guidance to help ensure general education administrators are following proper special education procedures and are providing appropriate programming and supports for their students. This draft was reviewed by the committee in mid-April with the expectation that the document will be ready for dissemination for the 2019-2020 school year. Marie Salazar Glowski is the committee chair and Stephen Proffitt from SERC is the co-lead. This guidance will serve as an excellent resource for colleagues throughout the state. We have sought input from administrators on topics they believe need to be included in this resource. For more information, please contact marie.salazar.glowski@casciac.org.

Great Schools Partnership

The Great Schools Partnership continues to provide training and professional development at CAS to districts and schools that are engaged in mastery-based learning (MBL) and for those who would like to know more about MBL. Several day-long workshops were held at CAS and attendance was high for each.

Alternative Education Leaders Community of Practice

The Center continued its partnership with the CSDE to provide four opportunities throughout this school year for alternative education administrators to meet. Meetings were conducted by CSDE staff members. Reaction has been very positive from this group which is seeing an ongoing opportunity to network.

Mathematics Community of Practice for Leaders

The Center was approached by the CSDE mathematics consultant to develop a community of practice for school leaders on the content and effective teaching strategies for mathematics instruction. This first-time effort has resulted a “full house” for each of the four sessions.

Strand #3: Recognition

As cited earlier, recognition ceremonies were held for various grade levels under the auspices of the Principals’ Center. Among these celebrations were the following:

- High School Arts Banquet
- Governor's Scholars Luncheon

- Principal/Assistant Principal of the Year
- Middle Level Scholar Leader Recognition
- Middle School of the Year Recognition
- Elementary Arts Festival

Other Activities of Note

The Center was charged by the Connecticut State Department of Education with the continued training of school and district leaders on the **administrative evaluation and support** model as well as the **New Leader Rubric 2015**. Additional tutorials were given in support of the teacher evaluation model.

The Connecticut Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (CALAS)

Members represent many districts throughout the state. The mission of CALAS is to foster quality and equitable public education for Latino students. CALAS has created a position statement supporting Bilingual and English as a Second Language Education. A resource document will be created for general education educators who are working with increasing diverse populations and English learners. All interested educators are welcome to attend the membership meetings.

Center Happenings

A special electronic newsletter, Center Happenings, continued to be published the first week of each academic month to highlight the work of the Center around professional learning for school leaders and their communities

China Relationship

For the second year, CAS has hosted delegations from both Guangdong and Shandong Provinces in the People's Republic of China. School leaders and highly-rated teachers are often the members of each delegation. CAS provides a full range of experiences and topics related to the educational system of the United States as a means of extending cultural understanding between the two nations. In addition to presentations, participants also visit Connecticut schools and speak with school leaders.

I am proud to share with you the accomplishments of the Center for this year. Particular thanks are in order for all the practitioners who have supported the Center's work for their dedication and voluntary efforts. Special recognition for their contributions is extended to CAS administrative assistants Erin Guarino, Anna Flores, Noreen Liberopoulos, and Barbara O'Connor; to our administrative team CAS Executive Director Glenn Lungarini, Assistant Directors Jill Hale, John Sieller, and Marie Salazar Glowski; to consultant Pat Howley; and to CLI Director Everett Lyons.

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CIAC BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Butch Azzara, Chair

Boys/Girls Golf Committee – Unattached Athlete Participation – Last year, the Board approved for one year a proposal from the Boys/Girls Golf Committee allowing golfers the opportunity to participate in a maximum of (8) eight matches as unattached athletes during the regular season. The Board voted to adopt this change in rule on a permanent basis.

CAS Board of Directors Request for a Gender Sub-Committee – The CAS Board of Directors requested that a sub-committee of the CIAC board be formed to look at all of its policies as they relate to gender and gender identity. The CIAC Gender Sub-Committee, chaired by Wethersfield Principal Tom Moore, met during the winter and, following research into policies and practices in place in others states, a member survey on transgender athlete eligibility, and extensive discussions among the committee members, the subcommittee concluded that all by-laws were in alignment with Connecticut law and the CAS-CIAC mission. The subcommittee recommended that the CIAC Board of Control continue education efforts to provide a deeper understanding of transgender athlete participation in Connecticut. While the subcommittee members concluded that CIAC’s existing transgender policy should stand due to alignment with state law, they recognized the limitations of a one-size fits all policy given the uniqueness of individual sports and the biological performance difference between males and females. At this time, there is little case law pertaining to transgender athletic participation at the high school level and the CIAC Board of Control may wish to further explore the issue of performance equity. The subcommittee’s complete report is available upon request.

Data Privacy Agreement – CIAC executive staff, in review of current practices, worked with Shipman and Goodwin to develop a data privacy agreement. The signing of this agreement assured that all member schools are in compliance with Connecticut data privacy laws on student identifiable information and concussion reporting.

By-law Change – Article IX, Section II.A (Student Eligibility) – The F-1 Visa Committee met to look at current language regarding students who attend schools on an F-1 Visa and their ability to play high school sports. The committee proposed the following language change which was approved by the CIAC Board of Control. – “All F-1 Visa students attending a CIAC member school are ineligible for participation in varsity athletics for 365 days upon enrollment and may only participate in varsity competitions for two years.”

Girls Basketball Tournament Division Increase – The girls basketball tournament has been expanded from four divisions to five, and the criteria used to place teams in divisions beginning with the 2019-20 tournament have been developed. The factors that will be used to determine division assignment include enrollment and the application of the “Success in Tournament” formula for schools of choice as defined by CIAC rules. The CIAC girls basketball tournament will continue the practice of filling the divisions.

Cooperative Team Appeals – The CIAC Board of Control discussed Cooperative Team rules at several meetings this year. The board approved clarifying existing language that “any appeal should be sent to the Cooperative Team Committee and its decision is final.” The board also requested that it receive regular reports on Cooperative Team Committee decisions.

Football Committee – Use of Success in Tournament Formula – Last year, the board approved for one year a proposal from the Football Committee to allow the “Success in Tournament” formula for schools of choice as defined by CIAC rules to be used to determine divisional placement. The board voted to adopt this change in rule on a permanent basis.

Out of Season Coaching/Season Limitations Request – The CIAC Board of Control voted to approve a request by the Southern Connecticut Conference to create a committee to look at the pros-and-cons of our current out-of-season coaching regulations. The committee will convene in the fall.

CIAC Board of Control Meeting Start Time – The board decided to change the start time of meetings from the traditional 2:00pm to 8:00am in an attempt to increase attendance among principals.

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2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

ELEMENTARY BOARD OF CONTROL

Submitted by Lisa Eells, Chair

Throughout the school year the Elementary Board of Control met to define their work together and to establish common foci. During one of the meetings the Board reviewed the Mission of CAS and the work of the Board to ensure full alignment. In addition the Board created and maintained a Google Doc with topics of interest in order to plan professional development opportunities for administrators across the state.

As Assistant Executive Director of Elementary Programs and Services, Jill Hale, continued her collaboration with the Office of Early Childhood and the State Department of Education. The work with each group focused on proposed legislation and the potential impact on schools across the state. In November Andrea Brinnel, CSDE and Harriet Feldlaufer, OEC met with the Early Childhood Committee and the Elementary Board to discuss the work of each of their offices. The focus of the presentation was the newly written: *Early Childhood Landscape Analysis Tool for CT Schools and Districts Transitioning to Kindergarten: The Why, What, and How of This Important Milestone for CT Schools* and a discussion of the document with the Early Childhood Committee and Elementary Board members

Jill Hale also joined the state's Kid Governor Program Committee. The Kid Governor Program is a civics program for fifth grade students across the state. Each year schools hold primary elections with their fifth grade students and submit a video of their winning candidate to the state's program. Once received the committee reviews all of the primary candidates and chooses 3-5 to run for the Kid Governor position. Schools are able to view each candidate's platform virtually and vote for the candidate of their choice. This final election is timed with the Connecticut's election day in November. After the election, the winner is announced and the winning student actually has an office in Hartford! This year's Kid Governor, Ella Briggs' platform is ***Pride - Hope - Love: To Show Respect for All.***

The Elementary Board continued its efforts to provide resources to support building a positive school culture and to eliminate bullying and mean behavior in schools. To this end the Board scheduled two presentations of *Freida B.* by author Renata Bowes. These offerings added to CAS' existing partnership with the *Look for the Good* program helping to give additional tools to schools in order to continue to increase positive school culture.

CAS and NAESP membership numbers were a focus for the Board throughout the school year. In the fall, Jill compared this year's CAS membership levels to last year's and found a number of elementary schools who had not renewed their memberships. With personal emails to principals and superintendents, Jill was able to bring many of these schools back into the CAS fold. In addition, CAS joined with NAESP to host an after-hours Book Talk with Scholastic for administrators. During this talk,

Mike Litke, NAESP Representative, shared NAESP membership benefits. Membership will continue to be a focus of the Board for the upcoming 2019-20 school year.

Collaboration with other agencies enables the Elementary Board to provide additional resources to administrators as they attempt to manage all of the changes in expectations for curriculum, assessment, and instruction. This year CAS partnered with the Connecticut Science Museum as the museum representatives facilitated two workshops specific to understanding and carrying out the Next Generation Science Standards at the elementary level. The museum team presented two workshops to school-based teams of science educators at CAS.

Jill Hale and three Elementary Board members attended the Zone One and Two meeting in Stowe, Vermont in October. This team also attended the NAESP National Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. in March. During each of these conferences Board members shared and commented on legislative topics, educational concerns, and resources.

Each year the Elementary Board recognizes outstanding work of educators across the state. This year's award recipients are:

Outstanding Elementary School of the Year 2019-20

West Hill Elementary School, Rocky Hill
Scott Nozik, Principal

The William Cieslukowski Outstanding First Year Elementary School Principal 2019-10

Dina Senecal, Principal
Somers Elementary School

Exemplary Educator of the Year Award, Elementary Level

Adrienne Bransfield
Island Avenue School
Madison

Administrative Assistant Award 2019

Cordy Crane
John Read Middle School
Redding

As we move to close out 2018-19 plans are in the works for learning opportunities which are designed to specifically support elementary and preschool administrators. These include Restorative Practices at the Elementary Level, Building Executive Functioning through Purposeful Play, and Successfully Working with Challenging Behaviors.

Watch for the CAS' Center for Leadership and Innovation brochure coming this spring and register early to hold your spot!

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2018-2019 Annual Report
MIDDLE LEVEL BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Deane Renda, Chair

This year, all of the **middle level targeted workshops and conferences** were well attended and rated as well organized and meeting expectations. CAS hosted presentations on such topics as:

- Restorative Justice (3 sessions)
- Social Media Do's and Don'ts
- Vaping and Our Students
- Women in Leadership
- Unsocial Media: Cyberbullying, Sexting and How to Regulate Communication in the Digital Age.

The Center for Leadership and Innovation (CLI) directors have planned a diverse offering of workshops and conferences for the coming school year (2019-20). Watch for the CLI brochure coming this spring!

At its December meeting, the **CAS Middle Level Board of Control** enjoyed and learned from using a formal "Problem of Practice" protocol, and, at the November meeting for the **Assistant Principal's Advocacy Committee**, viewed the "Resilience" video and discussed ways to better incorporate trauma-informed practices in our schools.

In January, the **Connecticut Middle Level Student Leadership Conference** held two conferences, one at Sacred Heart University and another at Trinity College. Students were fortunate to hear from a local hero and community service activist Jonathan Winer, director of athletics for CREC schools. Over five hundred students between both sites participated in team-building activities; responded to role playing situations; interacted with recognized student leaders from Connecticut high schools and universities; and shared leadership ideas and experiences with their peers. To close the day, Jonathan Winer had each school create a community service action plan to bring back and implement in their schools and communities.

On Saturday, January 26, 2019, the **Connecticut Middle School Debate League** held its second competitive tournament of the season at Bethel Middle School. There were 254 debaters from 23 schools combined into 92 teams to debate the motion:

This House, as the United States, would ban hate speech.

South Orangetown Middle School of NY took first place on a 3-0 Final Round decision. Bethel Middle School was the top CT school. Thank you to the Bethel Middle School community and

coach, Cathy Emerick, for hosting and the Greenwich Branch of the English Speaking Union for its continuing support. Also, huge thanks go out to the 54 people (high school debaters, coaches, teachers and parents) who volunteered as judges and workshop leaders.

The **Connecticut Association of Schools 2018-2019 Middle Level Award** winners were:

1. **Principal of the Year** - Diane Vumback, Lincoln Middle School, Meriden
2. **Assistant Principal of the Year** - Darlene Wallin, John Read MS, Redding
3. **Middle Level Educator of the Year** - Robert Fragione, Amity MS, Bethany
4. **William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award** - Jason Bitgood, East Lyme MS
5. **Middle School of the Year** - Hillcrest Middle School, Trumbull
6. **Arthur Director Leadership Award** - No applications received at this time

We are proud to announce that **Old Saybrook Middle School** has been awarded the **CAS Exemplary School Climate Practices Recognition Award**. This award is based on the committee's careful review of OSMS' self-assessment as well as a site visit completed on March 6, 2019. Congratulations to OSMS!

Erin Scholes, **CAS Middle Level Board** member, was re-elected to the Executive Council of the Board of Trustees for the **Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE)**.

Recognition awards for School Climate, Creativity and Innovation, and Outstanding Leadership continue to be awarded throughout the school year.

The 18th annual middle school arts conference entitled "**Arts in the Middle**" was held at the University of Hartford Art School on Wednesday, May 22nd. More than 190 students spent a full day developing their artistic abilities in hands-on workshops led by working artists. Thank you to the University of Hartford Art School for welcoming our young aspiring artists to its campus.

The **Middle Level Scholar Leader Banquet** was held on Monday, June 3rd at the Aqua Turf and another large cohort of our state's model middle level students was celebrated. We were excited to have **Dr. Bonnie Edmondson**, former Olympian (two-time National Champion), Olympic Women's Track and Field Throws coach, SCSU professor, and Trinity College Assistant Track coach as our keynote speaker. This program permits middle school CAS members to recognize two students who have exhibited exemplary leadership and scholarship.

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting
June 2019

2018-2019 Annual Report
HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Dr. Bill Silva, Chair

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING PROGRAMS -

Redesigned SAT and PSAT

For several years, we have invited Alan Bernstein of the College Board to present various workshops on the redesign of the SAT and PSAT, a topic that continues to prove its popularity with high school leaders and teachers. This year's workshops included 6 sessions dealing with SAT language arts, mathematics and social studies assessment, the use of SAT/PSAT data and the use of the PSAT at both the high and middle school levels. All sessions were well attended.

RECOGNITION EVENTS & ACTIVITIES -

High School Arts Awards Banquet

On April 2, 2019, CAS, along with sponsors Fox 61, Jostens Awards and Horace Mann Insurance, honored 284 students from 143 member high schools at the 24th Annual High School Arts Awards Banquet. This year's keynote speaker was well-known columnist, Gina Barreca.

Governor's Scholars Program

Over 133 high school students entered this year's competition for the title of Governor's Scholar. Students were selected based upon a written essay dealing with leadership, their placement in the top 5% of their junior class and their PSAT results. Horace Mann joined us again as the program's sponsor this year. Twenty-two student recipients were honored at the 23rd Annual Governor's Scholars Luncheon on May 16, 2019.

Exemplary High School Educator

Susan Coco, a Wethersfield High School technology teacher, was nominated by her principal, Tom Moore, and selected by the CAS selection committee to receive this year's Exemplary High School Educator Award. This award is given to a deserving teacher at the high school level who exemplifies outstanding student involvement, leadership and instructional excellence.

Cieslukowski First-Year Principal Award

Kathleen Simoneau, principal of the Connecticut IB Academy in East Hartford, was this year's high school recipient of the William Cielukowski Outstanding First-Year Principal Award. Kathleen was cited by her nominators for her grasp of curriculum and instruction and for her interpersonal skills in developing both faculty and student relationships which moved her high school toward a level of improved performance.