

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Fifty-Fourth Annual Meeting

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2005-2006 ANNUAL REPORT

CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS

Submitted by Robert Pitocco, Chair

“The functions of the Connecticut Association of High School Principals are to further the interests of high school education through cooperative actions; to provide leadership for member high schools in professional development and curriculum; to encourage and facilitate worthwhile activities and useful learning experiences; and to secure effective supervision and control of all inter-high school student programs.”

Our goals for the year were as follows:

1. To further the cause of high school reform by adopting NASSP’s Breaking Ranks II as the board’s theme for the next two years.
2. To assist high schools with the NEAS&C accreditation process.
3. To connect high school principals with policy-makers, ensuring a strong “voice at the table” when decisions affecting the conditions for teaching and learning are made.
4. To help member school principals improve how issues of diversity are addressed in their schools.

The activities generated in response to these goals included:

- The Connecticut Association of High School Principals (CAHSP) met monthly from October to May.
- Training sessions on Breaking Ranks II were held in November 2005 and in February 2006. Each session was a two-day event open to school leaders in Connecticut, leading to certification for participants as Breaking Ranks II facilitators. Over forty Connecticut educational leaders attended the sessions.
- CAS partnered with the Connecticut Department of Education (CSDE) to have high school leaders participate on the statewide high school committee charged with examining the framework of the Connecticut high school. Twelve high school principals and assistant principals and two CAS staff members serve on the committee that will provide the Commissioner of Education for recommendations for high school reform.
- CAS offered a two-day seminar on NEAS&C accreditation that registered 91 participants from 20 different schools. Over the last two years, CAS has provided 53 high schools with presentations and professional development programs on accreditation.
- In conjunction with the CSDE, CAHSP Chair Robert Pitocco attended the Model Schools Conference in Nashville led by Dr. William Daggett.
- The High School Program Committee (Dr. David Perry, Principal of North Branford High School, Chair) joined again this year with the Middle Level Program Committee to plan and implement a successful high school-middle level mid-winter conference. Mark Sharenbroich was the keynote speaker and Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General of Connecticut was the luncheon speaker. Three workshops were offered on the topics of “Building Connections,” “Increased Achievement through School Health and Fitness,” and “Using Digital Portfolios.”
- CAHSP extended its collaboration with the State Department of Education and Operation Respect CT by continuing the *Respect Me!* Program, the high school follow-up to the popular elementary and middle school climate improvement program, *Don’t Laugh at Me*. Three full-day sessions were conducted at CAS for high school teams from member schools. To date over 750 students, teachers, and administrators from 120 member high schools have participated in this training.
- The Assistant Principals Committee, chaired by South Windsor High School Associate Principal Sally Biggs, met six times during the year. Topics for the meetings included topics from the trenches, advisor/advisee programs, graduation requirements for 2006, and legal issues. The 29th Annual Assistant Principals Conference, was successfully held at the Hartford Convention Center on March 27th. The theme of the conference was *Building Connections*. Over 120 assistant principals attended.
- The CAHSP Board worked in conjunction with the CAS Legislative Committee to review proposed state legislation, met with our lobbyist and also held focus group meetings with the co-chairs of the legislature’s education committee, Andrew Fleischmann and Thomas Gaffey.
- CAHSP re-activated the annual mini-conference, “Conversation with the Commissioner” in April at Conard High School at the CAS office. Twenty-five principals attended for an informal and informative dialogue with Dr. Sternberg.
- CAHSP co-sponsored with the Assistant Principals Committee a mini-conference on the Class of 2006 graduation requirements.
- Along with the Professional Studies Committee and the Student Activities Board of Control, CAHSP initiated a CAS website service of compiling and exchanging information on current topics affecting high schools. We thank Matt Fisher for his technical assistance to make the site available.