

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Fifty-Eighth Annual Meeting

May 13, 2010

2009-2010 Annual Report **ELEMENTARY BOARD OF CONTROL**

Submitted by Lauren Elias, Chair

The 2009-2010 school year continued to be a year of continued programs and workshops for the elementary schools of Connecticut. A goal and focus has been to continue our collaboration with the Connecticut State Department of Education. This was accomplished by CAS, EASTCONN, SERC and the CSDE working together in sponsoring several workshops and conferences.

CAS, EASTCONN, and CSDE will jointly sponsor the “*Fifth Annual Public School Data Showcase*” at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury on April 28 & 29, 2010. This event will include keynote speakers Douglas Reeves and Kati Haycock. Participants will be able to select from 14 sessions during the two day event. A Special Recognition gathering of the 15 Partner Districts, “Celebrating Stories of Success” will be held the first evening. Other goals that have been accomplished and are enumerated in the document that follows include: developing the early childhood committee; improving and expanding our resources on the CAS website; using CSDE representatives as consultants to the elementary board and the professional studies committee when planning staff development opportunities for principals and teachers; and networking with CSDE representatives to serve on SDE committees as appropriate. The elementary division serves close to 700 public and parochial schools throughout the state. This was a year of continued growth in services provided by the various committees under the direction of the elementary board. The board continues to assess the needs of its member schools in the areas of professional development and recognition for schools, principals, teachers, parents and students.

ELEMENTARY BOARD 2009 - 2010

The Elementary Board of Control (Chaired by Lauren Elias, Principal, B.W. Tinker School, Waterbury, Assistant Chair- Jeff Newton, Dr. Charles E. Murphy School, Oakdale)- The elementary board continued to address the CAS Board of Directors’ goals for 2006-2008 through sub-committees for each goal. A number of board members attended the Northeast Regional Elementary School Principals’ Council held in Hyannis, Massachusetts in late September. The Northeast Council consists of the following states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. Next year Connecticut will host this annual meeting in Mystic Connecticut.. A delegation from CAS attended the summer leadership conference in Washington, D.C. The board also coordinated a small CT delegation to the NAESP convention in Houston where 4 principals, the assistant executive director and a retired principal from Connecticut met for a special dinner at the Strip House Steak House in Houston. Again this year Connecticut did not have a booth, nor did any New England state. It was felt that between the cost and the time involved in serving at the booth, there was little time for attending important convention sessions. The elementary board, in conjunction with the middle and high school levels, developed a member survey to gather data that will enable the respective divisions to a) advocate for and further the interests of their members; b) encourage and facilitate worthwhile activities for Connecticut youth; and c) recognize excellence among students, teachers, administrators, and schools.

ELEMENTARY COMMITTEES 2009 - 2010

■ **Elementary Level Professional Studies Committee** (Chaired by RoseAnne O’Brien Vojtek, Principal, Ivy Drive School, Bristol) – workshops were held at CAS on in-school suspension and bullying laws. These workshops were well attended by principals and teachers from across the state. The Exemplary School Climate Award has been implemented, with three schools applying and receiving exemplary climate status. This year awards were presented to Canton Intermediate School in Canton, Eastbury School in Glastonbury and Highland Park School in Manchester. The Elementary Professional Studies Committee is working with the CAS Technology committee in developing new uses of the CAS website. They are investigating the sharing of critical information and documents by principals and school staff. Presently they are collecting documents from schools to be housed in the data base. Matt Fisher, the CAS Director of Information Services is developing this effort. The Elementary Professional Studies Committee was proud to host the April workshop presentation of *10 Motivational Strategies for Building Collegial Learning Communities*, from Connecticut authors Rosie and Bob Vojtek. In their book, *Motivate! Inspire! Lead! 10 Strategies For Building Collegial Learning Communities* (Corwin Press, 2009), Bob and Rosie Vojtek define the 10 motivational strategies that, when embedded within the school culture and climate, will increase the likelihood that teachers and their students will achieve optimal levels of performance.

■ **Elementary Leadership Conference Committee** (Co-chaired by Jean Barbaro, Teacher, Anna Reynolds School, Newington, Lauren Elias, Principal, B.W. Tinker School, Waterbury and Christopher Pomroy, Principal, Center School, Old Lyme)- Connecticut students in grades four, five and six were invited to attend their choice of three statewide leadership conferences sponsored by CAS. The first was held at Asnuntuck College in Enfield and the second at Naugatuck Valley Community College in

Waterbury and the third at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich. Attendance at all conferences was high and the addition of the third conference in Norwich was positive.

■ **Environmental Science Conference Committee** This was eliminated this year due to budget and lack of sponsorship.

■ **CAS Arts Committee** (Co-chaired by Maureen Berescik, Director of Arts, Bethel Public Schools; and Laura Ferrante Fernandes, Assistant Principal, Jockey Hollow Middle School) –The task of this 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 tenth year that the committee sponsored the elementary arts festival where two elementary students from each school are recognized for excelling in either the visual or the performing arts. This year, for the eighth time, two evenings had to be devoted to the event because of the large number of schools participating. Attendance continued to grow as an increasing number of schools are participating in this celebration.

■ **National Distinguished Principal Selection Committee** (Chaired by Andrienne Longobucco, Principal, Litchfield Center School) – A seven-member selection committee was formed to select Connecticut’s National Distinguished Principal for 2010. Following the guidelines established by NAESP, the selection committee members reviewed applications and portfolio information and then visited the schools of the three finalists before making their final selection. Dr. Ellen G. Stokoe, Ph.D., Principal of Edward Morley School in West Hartford was selected as Connecticut’s 2010 NDP.

■ **Volunteer/Parent Recognition Awards Committee** – (Chaired by Gina Vance, Vice Principal, Gideon Welles School, Glastonbury and Norma-Jean Posocco, Mansfield Middle School, Storrs) This committee plans the annual Parent Volunteer Recognition Banquet and, this year, collaborated for the second year in a row with the middle level. Each year this awards dinner grows as more and more schools feel a need to recognize volunteers. This year the program continued to be well attended by elementary and middle school educators and volunteers.

■ **Secretaries Conference-** The Fifth Annual Secretaries Conference, including K-12 and central office personnel, was held on April 30th at Water’s Edge Resort in Westbrook, where approximately 100 secretaries were in attendance.

ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES 2009- 2010

■ **The Annual Elementary Program Recognition Banquet** – This event was held on November 23rd at the Aqua Turf in Southington. For the 16th year, CAS recognized exemplary school programs as well as the school of the year and the exemplary educator award winner. A slide presentation was given honoring each school and their programs.

■ **Parent Volunteer Recognition Banquet** - This most successful eighth-year program was co-chaired Gina Vance, Assistant Principal, Gideon Welles School, Glastonbury. The program was for the second year collaborated between the elementary and middle school levels. The purpose of the program is to reward the efforts of school volunteers across the state. Each honoree received a certificate and a booklet listing all who have been honored. Bearingstar Insurance sponsored this special event, presenting a carnation to each honoree. The program was well attended representing 79 schools.

■ **Annual Recognition Awards**– Awards given by the elementary division annually are: National Distinguished Principal, Educator of the Year, School of the Year, Exemplary Principal Program Award for Special Education, Marjorie Bradley Curriculum Award, William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award, John Wallace Awards, John C. Mulrain Community Service Award, and Thomas R. Flanagan Student Activity Memorial Grants.

■ **Geno’s Reading Program** - The elementary division of CAS and the American Red Cross teamed up for the ninth year to continue this program in our elementary schools. The objective of the program is to provide students an opportunity to make a difference by sponsoring a blood drive at their school or co-sponsoring a blood drive in their community. The goal next year is to have over 150 of our elementary schools holding blood drives. What a great way to teach youngsters about community service and, while doing so, save lives.

■ **Kid’s Marathon** –KIDSMARATHON is an eight week training program that will culminate in celebrations at Southington High School on May 22 and at Norwich Free Academy on June 5 as kids finish the last leg of their marathon along with Olympic Medalist, Rod Dixon, who will conduct a clinic and run with kids. This is the second year of this activity and participation has more than doubled.

■ **Marine Science Day** —The Long Island Sound Foundation in conjunction with CAS presents Marine Science Day for students in grades 5 through 8 on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 in four locations: Avery Point in Groton, Ct River Museum in Essex, Sound School in New Haven and Scooner Inc. in New Haven. The purpose of this conference is to promote greater awareness of Long Island Sound and marine science.

■ **Unified Sports® Programs**–The Young Athlete Program, which supports motor skill development at the preschool to grade 1 level, has grown. This program informs parents of the Special Olympics pathway from age 3 to 83 and also provides early childhood educators with sample lesson plans and free classroom supplies. New school districts participating include: Waterbury, Bielefield and Spencer Schools from Middletown, Ivy Drive School from Bristol, Botelle School from Norfolk, Memorial School from East Hampton, Essex, and Hebron. The Elementary Sports Skill Days were held in New Canaan, Colchester, and Glastonbury, with two more scheduled for the remainder of this year in West Hartford and New Haven. Students in grades 3-5 participated in these skill days. In addition to the veteran schools, the following new schools have joined this enriching program: West Hill and Stevens in Rocky Hill; Jack Jackter in Colchester; The Brownstone and Gildersleeve Schools in Portland; and the Orange Avenue School in Guilford. Project Unify is a Special Olympics grant program to assist our staff in attracting new schools to offer a Unified Sports® program for their students. Currently 27 schools are participating in Unified Sports® programs.