

# THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

## *The Fifty-Ninth Annual Meeting*

*May 11, 2011*

### 2010-2011 Annual Report **ELEMENTARY BOARD OF CONTROL**

*Submitted by Lauren F. Elias, Chair*

The 2010-2011 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 "Sixth Annual Public School Data Showcase" at the Holiday Inn in Waterbury on April 27 and 28, 2011. With the topic of "Improving School Climate to Support Academic Achievement" CAS, CSDE, and EASTCONN again collaborated on this celebration of the state's school improvement efforts via the effective use of data to inform instruction.

#### **ELEMENTARY BOARD 2010- 2011**

**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 delegation from CAS attended the summer leadership conference in Washington, D.C. The board also coordinated a CT delegation to the NAESP convention in Tampa, Florida. Again this year Connecticut did not have a booth, nor did any New England state. A special committee examined and updated the bylaws from 2006 and was submitted to the Board for approval.

#### **ELEMENTARY COMMITTEES 2010- 2011**

■ **Elementary Level Professional Studies Committee** (Chaired by RoseAnne O'Brien Vojtek, Principal, Ivy Drive School, Bristol) – The Elementary Professional Studies Committee is using the new Climate Standards to revise our current Climate Assessment for the Elementary Climate Award. In addition, the Professional Studies Committee continued its discussions about how we can better use the CAS website for sharing critical information and documents among principals. They continue to collect documents from schools to be housed in the data base. Matt Fisher, the CAS Director of Information Services has been working with the Professional Studies Committee on this effort. Next year the Elementary Professional Studies Committee will merge with the Middle Level and High school Professional Studies Committees in order to collaborate and streamline our efforts among all three levels.

■ **Elementary Leadership Conference Committee** (Co-chaired by Lauren Elias, Principal, B.W. Tinker School, Waterbury and Christopher Pomroy, Principal, Center School, Old Lyme and Karen Brimecombe, Principal, John Lyuman School, Middlefield)- 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 talks of a fourth site surfaced.

■ **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 twelfth 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. Two evenings had to be devoted to the event because of the large number of schools participating.

■ **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, middle and high school educators and volunteers.

### **ELEMENTARY ACTIVITIES 2010- 2011**

■ **The Annual Elementary Program Recognition Banquet** – This event was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Aqua Turf in Southington. For the 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

■ **The Annual Elementary Celebration of the Arts Banquet** – This event was held on February 7 and 8, 2011 at the Aqua Turf in Southington and was sponsored by Liberty Mutual. The theme for the evening was “A Celebration of the Arts”. There were 113 schools that participated representing 53 towns.

■ **Parent Volunteer Recognition Banquet** - This most successful eighth-year program was chaired by Gina Vance, Assistant Principal, Gideon Welles School, Glastonbury. 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. There were 700 in attendance at the banquet representing 97 schools, which included the addition of 18 high schools from across CT. Distinguished Friends of Education Awards were presented to Maria Susaya, Librarian from the Dwight Brance of the Hartford Public Library and Trooper First-Class James Connelly from Troup F, Westbrook.

■ **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 Connecticut Association of Schools partnered with UCONN coach Geno Auriemma and the UCONN Womens Basketball Team to join Geno’s Reading Team, an incentive reading program designed to enhance your students’ reading skills. The expectation is that your students will read at least 20 minutes a day for enjoyment. Committee members prepared a suggested list of books, journal/summary log, information page for parents, staff, and students, and much more – all linked to the themes that have made the UCONN Women Basketball Players world-class student athletes. Periodically, students were able to log in and watch video lessons made by the UCONN players as they describe their reviews, reactions, and suggested follow-up learning activities to the books on the suggested reading list. Students were able to tally the minutes read and/or percentage of students involved in Geno’s Reading Team. At the end of the program, students were invited to an awesome pep rally at Gampel Pavilion to promote reading in Connecticut’s Elementary Schools The pep rally was held on March 12, 2011 and approximately 650 people representing 50 schools were in attendance.

■ **Kid’s Marathon** –KiDSMARATHON Foundation is partnering with The President's Challenge Program to help encourage children and families to be physically active and maintain a healthy lifestyle. As a President's Challenge Advocate, KiDSMARATHON Foundation will promote the Presidential Active Lifestyle Award (PALA) to more than 200,000 children and their families through Rod Dixon's KiDSMARATHON™ Program, as well as social media platforms, public relations campaigns and special events. KiDSMARATHON is an eight week training program that will culminate in celebrations at four sites this year; Fairfield on May 14<sup>th</sup>, Cheshire on May 21<sup>st</sup>, Norwich on June 4<sup>th</sup> and Litchfield on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 third year of this activity and we have partnered with the Presidential Challenge Program this year. The high school track teams will be present at all sites to mentor the elementary runners. All participants will receive t-shirts and medals.

■ **Marine Science Day** —The Long Island Sound Foundation in conjunction with CAS presents Marine Science Day for students in grades 5 through 8 on Thursday, May 19, 2011 in five locations: Avery Point in Groton, Ct River Museum in Essex, Sound School in New Haven, Sound Waters in Stamford, 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. An elementary day was held in the fall at Jack Jackter Intermediate School in Colchester. 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 the CAS-CIAC Unified Sports® Program.