

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixty-Fourth Annual Meeting
June 2016

2015-2016 Annual Report
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DIVISION
Submitted by Roxanne Augelli, Chair, Elementary Board of Control

The 2015-2016 school year has continued to be a year with many programs and workshops for elementary schools in Connecticut. The goal and focus has been on Pre-K-Grade 3 in collaboration with the Connecticut Office of Early Childhood and the Connecticut State Department of Education. Other areas of focus included the Connecticut Core and Principal Leadership.

ELEMENTARY BOARD 2015-2016

The Elementary Board of Control has been chaired by Roxanne Augelli, Principal, Washington Elementary School in Waterbury, and assistant chair Laurie Boske, Principal, Brownstone Intermediate School in Portland. A delegation from CAS attended the NAESP Fall Zone 1 & 2 meeting in New Jersey; and, principals Michael Litke, Victoria Reed and Roxanne Augelli joined CAS staff members Regina Birdsell and Karissa Niehoff at the NAESP March leadership conference in Washington, DC. These remarkable principals represented CAS and the state of CT so well. Their preparations, involvement, presentations and networking are a credit not only to the principal profession, but to our state association.

Annual Recognition & Awards: Awards given by the elementary division annually are: National Distinguished Principal, Educator of the Year, School of the Year, William Cieslukowski First Year Principal Award, and Thomas R. Flanagan Student Activity Memorial Grants. Also available are the school climate recognitions.

CAS Volunteer Recognition: (Chair: Rick Watson, Principal, Albert D. Griswold Middle School in Rocky Hill). This program, held on March 7, 2016, recognized the efforts of school volunteers across the state. Honorees received a certificate and a booklet listing their names and accomplishments. Horace Mann Insurance sponsored this special event, presenting a carnation to every honoree. There were over 400 in attendance representing elementary, middle and high schools across CT. Each year, this awards dinner grows as more schools desire to recognize volunteers.

CAS Annual Recognition of Excellence Celebration Banquet: Held on November 9, 2015, this year's event recognized staff members from 45 schools for excellence in education. Also honored were the exemplary educator award winners for the elementary, middle and high school levels and the 2015-2016 schools of the year. Guilford Lakes School, led by Principal Jill Hale, was selected as this year's Elementary School of the Year. Also recognized were the CAS Outstanding First Year Principals: Principal Christian Strickland of Deep River Elementary School; Dr. Frank LaBanca, principal of West Side Middle School Academy in Danbury; and Eric Graf, principal of Central High School in Bridgeport. Also recognized were the CAS Exemplary Educators from the high school, middle school and elementary school levels. Additionally the Ronald McDonald House Charities joined us to present its Local Hero's Awards to six CT teachers.

Pre K-Grade 3: CAS continues to collaborate with the CT State Department of Education, the Office of Early Childhood and several professional associations to promote PreK-3 implementation and standards. There is a need to help elementary principals understand early childhood education and Pre-K-Grade 3 alignment. CAS will continue to focus on providing professional development for elementary principals and school leaders.

CAS has collaborated with the University of Connecticut in developing a new program for elementary principals and school community leaders: *PK-3 Leadership Program- Curriculum & Instruction Assessment & Evaluation Leadership*. The first cohort graduated in May receiving fellowship certificates and the second cohort will begin in July.

Science: In collaboration with Elizabeth Buttner, CSDE Science Education Consultant, CAS has collaborated in sharing the NGSS standards with principals and school leaders. Beginning in June, we will be working with the CT Science Center to offer special sessions for teachers, school leaders and principals.

Connecticut Core: *The Connecticut Core Standards Community of Practice Series for School Administrators and School Leaders* - A professional development series of eight sessions was offered to school leaders at the elementary, middle and high school levels throughout the 2015-16 school year.

Legislation: CAS, through its professional lobbyist and staff, tracked and provided testimony on numerous education-related bills this year. CAS also involved member elementary school principals in testifying on legislation affecting several areas including entrance age for kindergarten children; schools collaborating with preschool agencies and families; extending half-day kindergarten to full day kindergarten; and, school security and safety. CAS, with support from elementary principals, continues to be instrumental in speaking on these bills. CAS is staying updated and involved with teacher/principal evaluation, assessment and school funding through our lobbyist, Marshall Collins.

NAESP: CAS continues to support and encourage CT principals to join NAESP. This year, mailings and renewals will come to the principals directly from NAESP. Several Connecticut principals attended the NAESP Convention in Baltimore last June. This year, the NAESP Conference is in National Harbor, MD. CAS board members Michael Litke, principal of Naubuc School in Glastonbury, and Scott Nozik, principal of West Hill Elementary School in Rocky Hill, will be presenting a session on "Communication in the 21st Century: How Social Media and Branding Contribute to a Positive Climate."

Looking Ahead: In planning for the 2016-17 school year, the elementary board has set a goal to bring workshops to several geographically dispersed sites throughout the state. This will help ensure the opportunity for participation from all elementary principals.