

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS
The Sixtieth Annual Meeting
May 10, 2012

2011-2012 Annual Report
MIDDLE LEVEL BOARD OF CONTROL
Submitted by Joseph Scheideler, Chair

With a new commissioner finally in place and a new leader at the Connecticut Association of Schools, it was a busy year in a number of areas for the Middle Level Board and various committees.

- **Student Success Plans** - The middle level division took the lead in working with the State Department of Education on Student Success Plans. In addition to contributing to statewide workgroups, CAS surveyed the member schools regarding their needs and concerns and subsequently offered three regional SSP symposia, one at Bethel Middle School, one at Lincoln Middle School in Meriden and one at EASTCONN. The feedback from these sessions prompted CAS to offer six full-day training sessions to support member schools in developing their plans.
- **Professional Studies** - The newly combined CAS Professional Studies Committee continued to support middle level initiatives. They successfully completed a cross-walk of the middle level climate certification documents with the National Climate Standards. They also are completing a revision of a ten-year-old CAS video about exemplary middle schools. Finally, they consulted on templates for the SSPs and created documents to be used in the SSP training sessions.
- **Leadership Committee** – The annual Middle Level Leadership Conference was held at Wesleyan University for the second year. The January 10 conference was an unqualified success. Enrollment from 40+ middle schools across the state was sold out. An important development was the growth in workshop presentations that involved middle school teachers and middle school students. This swelled the student participation to about 600. The committee had been advocating the involvement of students as presenters and the result was gratifying. (To help defray expenses for so many student presenters a reduced for “jr. presenters” will go into effect in 2012.) Hundreds of students completed evaluations which were overwhelmingly positive for the experience. Wesleyan Upward Bound students, under the direction of *Jen Buckley*, were instrumental in making the students feel welcome and showing them around the campus. Wesleyan continues to prove to be an excellent location for the event.
- **Honors and Awards** - The Middle Level Honors and Awards Committee celebrated *Kristen Juda*, from Har-Bur Middle School in Burlington as the Exemplary Middle Level Exemplary Educator. She joins Principal of the Year, *Donna Schilke*, of Smith Middle School in Glastonbury, First Year Principal of the Year, *Christopher Sandford* of Wheeler Middle-Sr. High in North Stonington, and *Vicenta Gibbons*, Middle School Assistant Principal of the Year from Amity Middle School, Orange as honorees for the 2011-2012 school year.
- **Scholar-Leader Banquet** – the 2011 Scholar-Leader Banquet was held on June 6 with a gathering of over 1300 students, parents and faculty at the Aqua-turf. Matt Cavedon formerly of McGee Middle School and graduate of Harvard University and former keynote speaker at the Middle Level Leadership Conference when he was in 8th grade, was the featured speaker at the dinner. Matt, wheelchair bound, delivered an inspiration address. The 2012 Scholar-Leader Banquet is planned for Monday, June 4. Jeff La Roux, President Elect of AMLE is the keynote speaker.
- At the December meeting of the CAS Board of Directors, three long-time members of the association - two active, one retired - were presented with the prestigious CAS Citation, the association’s highest honor. Congratulations to: *Joseph Scheideler*, Principal, Canton Middle School, *Gina Vance*, retired Assistant Principal, Gideon Welles School, Glastonbury, and *Steve Wysowski*, Principal, Bristol Eastern High School.