

# THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

## *The Sixty-First Annual Meeting*

*May 9, 2013*

2012-2013 Annual Report

### MIDDLE SCHOOL BOARD OF CONTROL

*Submitted by Joseph Scheideler, Chair*

- Through an on-line survey of middle level administrators, the Middle Level Board identified areas of interest and concern for which members wanted support. The top three were: evaluation, implementing the Common Core, and school climate. Members were alerted as to where C.A.S. was addressing these issues through various professional development opportunities.
- **Scholar-Leader Banquet** - the 2012 Scholar-Leader Banquet was held on June 6 with a gathering of over 1400 students, parents and faculty at the Aqua-Turf. Jeff La Roux, President-Elect of AMLE was the keynote speaker and for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Scott Gray from WTIC News Talk 1080 was the master of ceremonies. The 2013 Scholar-Leader Banquet is planned for Monday, June 3, 2013 with keynote speaker Nathan Quesnel, Superintendent of Schools in East Hartford.
- **Student Success Plans** - Capitalizing on the interest of member middle and high schools in developing Student Success Plans, David Maloney and Earle Bidwell presented six full-day workshops and took the program on the road to several member schools. Earle also presented a “trainer of trainers” session to colleagues from the other New England states and a full day session for teams at the New England League of Middle Schools convention
- **Professional Studies** - The CAS Professional Studies Committee is in the initial stages of redefining the principalship in light of new educator evaluation requirements, school climate expectations and the Common Core. They also are completing work on the development of an Emergency Response Team to provide support and guidance for principals and other building leaders who are facing crisis situations that transcend a district's capacity to manage effectively.
- **Leadership Committee** – The annual Middle Level Leadership Conference was held at Wesleyan University for the third year. The January conference was an unqualified success. Enrollment from 40+ middle schools across the state was sold out. 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. Here are a few representative quotes from student participants. “The introduction session got me thinking about being a leader.” “It was great to be with kids whose ideas and morals are the same as mine.” “I loved the school climate activity.” It appears likely that the conference will need to re-locate next year as conditions at Wesleyan have changed. It should be noted that Wesleyan has been an excellent host site for the past three years.
- **Arts in the Middle**- This unique full day art workshop for middle level art students and art teachers celebrated its 11th year at the Hartford Art School, University of Hartford. Artists who have been with us for at least 10 of those years are Diann Cook, Robert Calafiore, Jake Sadler, Nina Salazar, Tori Savage and Barbara Scavotto-Early. Original committee members who continue to serve are Meg Shea, Vaughn Ramseur and Tori Savage. As a result of this program and the high school and elementary school celebrations of the arts, CAS was recently recognized by the CT Art Education Association as Friend of the Arts.
- **Honors and Awards** - For the first time, the Middle Level Exemplary Educator and the Middle Level Principal of the Year are from the same school, the Hartford Magnet Trinity College Academy. The Exemplary Educator is Autumn Baltimore and the Principal of the Year is Sally Biggs. Chris Palmieri from DePaolo Middle School in Southington is the Middle Level Assistant Principal of the Year. Rounding out the award winners was East Lyme Middle School which garnered the Middle School of the Year Award.
- **Earle Bidwell** was honored by his UCAPP Cohort with the creation of a scholarship in his name that will be awarded annually to a deserving student. A hundred colleagues, students, administrators and family and friends attended an event in April to honor Earle and support the scholarship.