

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Fifty-Fifth Annual Meeting

May 10, 2007

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OVER 1100 K-12 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS HAVE HOPEFULLY PROFITED FROM CAS/CIAC'S NOBLE MISSION TO ADVANCE QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS THROUGHOUT CONNECTICUT THIS PAST YEAR. ON JULY 1 YOUR ASSOCIATION WILL BE EMBARKING ON ITS 87TH YEAR OF OPERATION. THE BREADTH OF THE ASSOCIATION COMMITMENT TO STEWARDING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE IN MANY FORMS - FROM STUDENT LEADERSHIP INITIATIVES ALL THE WAY TO ADMINISTRATIVE MENTOR SHIP PROGRAMS - CONTINUED TO FLOURISH THIS YEAR, WITH EVEN MORE ADVANCEMENTS BEING PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR. THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES OF THE YEAR AHEAD WILL FURTHER BROADEN MY APPRECIATION FOR THIS REMARKABLE ORGANIZATION. YOU, THE DEDICATED AND DYNAMIC LEADERS WHO SERVE US AS WELL AS THE INCREDIBLE VISIONARY STAFF WHOSE INTENSITY OF PURPOSE, ABILITY TO MOTIVATE AND CHALLENGE; ALONG WITH THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS TRUE, RIGHT AND LASTING; COMBINED WITH THEIR PATIENCE TO BE GOOD LISTENERS AND SILENT LEADERS IS NOT ONLY ADMIRERD AND APPRECIATED BUT HAS ABSOLUTELY BECOME THE SALVATION OF MY EXISTENCE. THROUGH THE WORK OF ALL OF YOU AND MY STAFF I AM PROUD TO REPORT THAT CAS REMAINS A PRE-EMINENT EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION IN THE STATE - MORE SO THAN EVER BEFORE. IT IS A RESULT OF THE GREAT LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRITY EXHIBITED BY EACH OF YOU AND YOUR ABILITY TO CONSTANTLY FOCUS ON THE CAS MISSION OF PROVIDING EXEMPLARY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES THAT PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN THE EDUCATION OF ALL CHILDREN.

THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL CLIMATE IN OUR STATE, AS WELL AS AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL, HAS CHANGED DRAMATICALLY DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. THE PENDING RE-AUTHORIZATION OF NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND LEGISLATION, THE MANDATED STATE AND NATIONAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS, THE RECENT LEGISLATIVE DECREE TO IMPRISON THE HABITUALLY DISRUPTING STUDENTS, THE PROJECTED UNFOLDING OF A YET UNKNOWN CSDE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION EXIT EXAM, THE READING FIRST LEGISLATIVE DEBACLE, ARE BUT A FEW ISSUES THAT

HAVE AND, MOST LIKELY, WILL CONTINUE TO INFLUENCE THE FUTURE WAYS WE WILL BE EXPECTED TO TEACH THE CHILDREN IN YOUR CARE.

THE EXPECTATIONS OF CAS/CIAC FROM ITS MEMBER SCHOOLS COUPLED WITH THE CAS, CSAC, AND CIAC BOARDS' EXPANDING ASPIRATIONS TO PROVIDE THE BEST SERVICES TO OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS v CONTINUES TO CHALLENGE THE BUDGET. THE COST OF DELIVERING ON OUR MISSION HAS RISEN DISPROPORTIONATELY OVER REVENUE GENERATED FROM MEMBERSHIP DUES. AS THE GAP WIDENS, IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CHALLENGING TO FIND ALTERNATIVE WAYS OF SUPPORTING AND FUNDING PROGRAMS. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN EVER VIGILANT IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE NEW INITIATIVES WITH LITTLE OR NO FINANCIAL COST TO OUR MEMBER SCHOOLS. SO FAR WE HAVE SUCCEEDED IN ACCOMPLISHING THAT TASK.

THERE ARE FIVE PRIMARY GOALS WE WILL BE FOCUSING OUR ATTENTION ON FOR NEXT YEAR. SOME HAVE ALREADY BEEN INITIATED DURING THIS YEAR AND WILL BE FULLY REALIZED IN THE COMING YEAR. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SOME, WHICH, WHEN FULLY IMPLEMENTED WILL BRING TO COMPLETION THE GOALS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS SET FORTH IN IT'S MOST RECENT THREE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN.

ONE: CAS WILL EMBARK ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING INITIATIVE LED BY JANET GARAGLIANO, CHAIRPERSON OF THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES BOARD. AFTER CAREFUL RESEARCH DONE BY THE SABC BOARD, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND STAFF, THERE IS UNANIMITY OF OPINION THAT THE FUTURE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH OF YOUR ORGANIZATION WILL BE IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF NON-ATHLETIC STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND ACTIVITIES PROGRAMS. HENCE, IN THE BUDGET YOU JUST APPROVED, THERE IS MONEY TO FUND A PART-TIME POSITION TO ADVANCE THE WORK OF THE CONNECTICUT STUDENT ACTIVITIES CONFERENCE.

TWO: THE CIAC PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT PROJECT IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING A NATIONAL MODEL FOR EVALUATING QUALITY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC PROGRAMS. PAUL HOEY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PROGRAM. IT IS BEING FIELD TESTED THIS YEAR AND THUS FAR HAS RECEIVED INCREDIBLY STRONG SUPPORT FROM THOSE THAT HAVE EXPERIENCED THE COMPLETE EVALUATION PROCESS. ANTICIPATING THE VOLUME OF WORK THAT WILL BESET US AS A RESULT OF OUR SUCCESSES WE WILL BE EMPLOYING, ON A PART-TIME BASIS, A PROJECT ADMINISTRATOR TO RELIEVE PAUL OF THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES SO HE CAN CONCENTRATE ON CIAC AND SPORTSMANSHIP

ACTIVITIES. THIS INITIATIVE WILL BE FUNDED THROUGH THE CIAC FOUNDATION FUND.

THREE: THE CAS/UCAPP PARTNERSHIP HAS, ACCORDING TO DR. RICHARD SCHWAB, DEAN OF THE UCONN'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION BECOME A NATIONAL MODEL THAT SOON WILL BE REPLICATED ACROSS THE COUNTRY. IN FACT, NEXT WEEK I HAVE BEEN ASKED BY BOTH NASSP AND NAESP TO GIVE A PRESENTATION TO ALL STATE ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS IN THE COUNTRY ON THIS INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN A UNIVERSITY AND STATE EDUCATION ASSOCIATION. I WILL BE PROMOTING IT AS A DYNAMIC WAY TO PREPARE ASPIRING PRINCIPALS THROUGH OUT THE COUNTRY.

FOURTH: THE STAFF, IN PARTICULAR MIKE BUCKLEY AND PAT LLODRA, WILL BE SERIOUSLY EXPLORING , WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTNER WITH THEM ON INITIATIVES CENTERING AROUND EXECUTIVE COACHING AND PRACTICING ADMINISTRATOR MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS. SOME OF THIS WORK HAS ALREADY BEEN GOING ON IN BOTH BRIDGEPORT AND NEW HAVEN INVOLVING BOTH CAS AND CSDE. IT MAKES IMMANENT SENSE TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CSDE AND ASSURE FOR CAS A PRE-EMINENT ROLE IN MENTIONING ADMINISTRATORS IN OUR MOST NEEDY SCHOOLS.

AND FINALLY: YOUR ASSOCIATION MUST EXPAND ITS ABILITY TO HAVE A PROMINENT AND WELL CONSIDERED VOICE IN GOVERNMENT AT THE STATE LEVEL. WITH THE ADDITION OF A NEW STAFF MEMBER TO ADMINISTER THE NON-ATHLETIC STUDENT ACTIVITIES DIVISION, DENNIS CARRITHERS WILL HAVE GREATER OPPORTUNITIES TO WORK MUCH MORE CLOSELY AND EFFECTIVELY WITH OUR LEGISLATIVE LEADERS. IT HAS BECOME AN ABSOLUTE PRIORITY FOR US TO BE HEARD AS A VOICE OF REASON, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, AS A VOICE WITHOUT VESTED STATUS AND WELFARE CONCERNS, --- AS ONE THAT ONLY CARES ABOUT PROMOTING QUALITY EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, IN SAFE SCHOOLS, WITH TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS WHO BELIEVE IN THAT ALL IMPORTANT MISSION.

IN CONCLUSION, ALLOW BE TO EXPRESS TO EACH OF YOU MY GRATEFUL APPRECIATION FOR YOU SUPPORT, YOUR FELLOWSHIP, AND YOUR DEDICATION TO SERVING THE YOUTH OF THIS STATE THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT OF YOUR ASSOCIATION AND ITS ENTIRE STAFF.