

THE CONNECTICUT ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOLS

The Sixty-First Annual Meeting

May 9, 2013

CAS PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Francis Kennedy, Principal, Berlin High School

Good morning CAS officers, board members, committee members, and CAS Staff. It is with great pride that I present today's report of the president. The Connecticut Association of Schools, Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference, and all CAS-CIAC subsidiaries have had a year that was replete with not only triumphs, but also promising outcomes, as we look to the year ahead. The Connecticut Association of Schools had myriad successes in the face of unprecedented changes that we have witnessed in public education on the national, state, and local levels. What has been remarkable about our association over the last several years is that, while the stakes increase in our noble profession, we have risen to meet each occasion in a manner that ensures that our service to our member schools and administrators remains current, relevant, and powerful. We have secured precious relationships with our representatives in Washington DC, the Governor's office, the Commissioner's office, the State Board of Education, the State Department of Education, and other associations of import, including the National Association of Secondary School Principals, the National Association of Elementary School Principals, the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and its Commission on Public Schools, and the New England Secondary School Consortium and its League of Innovative Schools. We have become one of the "go to" associations for the Governor, Commissioner, and the SDE and its PEAC Committee – all of whom see us as one of the "Big Six" that also includes ConnCan, CABB, CAPSS, CCER, and CBIA." We continue to be a dependable partner with the University of Connecticut through the UCAPP program and our State University System through Southern Connecticut State University's internship program for aspiring administrators. We have recently added Central Connecticut State University's administrator internship program to our expanding partnerships with higher education. All of these professional bonds afford us a seat at decision-making tables at all levels of government and education, ensuring that there are no significant initiatives or mandates affecting Connecticut schools and school leaders without the representative voice of CAS members and staff, who provide the perspectives of principals, assistant principals, and other administrators throughout our state. Indeed, we have navigated the uncharted waters of our times exceedingly well this year! This has been accomplished through the tireless work of our volunteers and our staff, and the scope of the work is breathtaking: We have travelled nationally over the last year to bolster our continued relationships with our fellow associations from other states, we have multiple seats on the Governor's P-20 Council, we continue to serve our members schools through impactful, high-quality work in the areas of early childhood, school climate, student success plans, UCAPP, the Executive Coach program, evaluation, personal development programs to enhance our work as professionals, and the (new) New Leaders Academy. We have had successes in all of these areas and more over the year. At

CAS, we don't rest on such laurels, however. We build on successes and we are ever vigilant for the evolving needs of our membership. Because of the aforementioned array of precious relationships that we maintain, we can keep a weather eye on upcoming challenges and opportunities. One such opportunity is the two million dollar grant that we have been awarded to develop administrator proficiency in evaluation. This exciting news was recently announced at last month's CAS Board of Directors meeting, and it reinforces my earlier point that we have become the State's "go to" association. Today, you will learn more about this and many of the year's highlights. This is an exciting time to be involved with the work of our association. Because of you, we will continue to not only navigate the uncharted waters before us, but we will also find ourselves having ample access to the helm of many education programs and initiatives. Your work with CAS is vital to education in Connecticut; the service that you provide to your fellow educational leaders is invaluable. On behalf of the CAS Board of Directors and the CAS membership, I thank you for your part in a very successful year, and I look forward to all that lies ahead for our fine association!