

**Convention Workshop Descriptions – October 2008**  
**Public Education in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Meeting the Challenge**

**Friday, November 14, 2008**

**A1**    ***Successfully Navigating the Freedom of Information Act – An Update***    (CLT, CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)

A discussion of the aspects of the Freedom of Information Act that most directly affect school boards, including access by the public to meetings and records. The latest information on FOI, e-mail and voice mail will also be addressed.

Presenter:     William Connon, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connon

**A2**    ***The Board’s Policy/Governance Role in Improving Student Achievement***            (CLT)

School board members must meet the challenge to keep their focus on student achievement. Boards of education through policy direction and governance practices can make a difference in improving student achievement. This workshop will examine how boards can focus on student achievement and how that focus relates to the board’s policy role in district governance.

Presenter:     Vincent A. Mustaro, Senior Staff Associate for Policy Service, CABE

**A3**    ***Education in Transition***            (CLT, PGS, CFSC, RC)

The presenter will discuss some of the most important issues facing school districts in a quick, fun, interactive session. Among the topics to be discussed are demographics and closing the achievement gap; the new President’s view on public education; NCLB; accountability and reauthorization; board and board member development; pre-K and early childhood education; student discipline; and community engagement.

Presenters:     Mary Broderick, Board Member, East Lyme Board of Education  
                     Robert Rader, Executive Director, CABE

**A4**    ***Legal and Legislative Issues*** (CLT)

We will review the new law on in school suspensions; the work being done by the General Assembly’s Program Review and Investigation Committee on teacher certification; the SDE task force on the BEST program and a get a pulse from the school nurse task force! The work of SDE’s Secondary school improvement committee, which will offer legislation in 2009 session, will also be reviewed. In gearing up for the 2009 session, we will also discuss those bills which died in the 2008 session and will more than likely be back – organic cleaning products, pesticide ban for high schools and other potential mandates. There will be a demonstration and discussion of the CABE Legislative Action Center to prepare attendees to impact the 2009 General Assembly. This timely workshop will also provide an update on litigation, including NCLB, education finance and Sheff lawsuits.

Presenters:     Patrice McCarthy, Esq., Deputy Director and General Counsel, CABE  
                     Sheila McKay, Senior Staff Associate for Government Relations, CABE

**A5    *Stretching Your Dollars, Preserving Your Resources, Maximizing Your Curricular Alternatives*    (PGS, RC)**

During the last decade, the Regional Educational Service Centers (RESC) have been leaders in bringing 21<sup>st</sup> century learning to schools in Connecticut. LEARN, in partnership with Ohio's Education Service Center, began offering the Virtual Learning Academy to schools in 2006. This web-based program improves completion rates by offering customized individual curricula; provides above, below and at grade level courses; and contains embedded streaming videos within each course to enhance the learning process for grades 2-12. Schools are using Virtual Learning Academy to supplement their alternative education programs and to offer options for students under expulsion or homebound for medical reasons. It is also an effective addition to special education programs and to prevention programs for students who are at risk.

Presenters:    Paula Cymbala, Virtual Learning Coordinator, LEARN  
                  Maribeth Arlia, Instructional Technology Coordinator, Jefferson County Education Service Center, Ohio

**A6    *Dialogue with the State Board of Education*            (BESL, CS, SANC, EGS)**

Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with members of the State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education. You will have an opportunity to share views on issues of concern to you and your community. Ask about the State Board's priorities for 2008-2009. The format will be as informal as the size of the group permits. Topics covered will be determined by your questions!

**A7    *A Follow-Up with Ken Kay*    (PGS, CFSC)**

This session will provide the opportunity to ask questions of our morning keynote speaker, Ken Kay, and to hear best practices being implemented by your colleagues in Connecticut.

Presenters:    Ken Kay, CEO and Co-Founder, e-Luminate Group  
                  Robert Hale, Board Chair Madison Board of Education  
                  Betty Sternberg, Superintendent, Greenwich Public Schools  
                  Anita Rutlin; Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment; Madison Public Schools

**B1    *Negotiations*            (CLT)**

This session will provide an update on trends in contract negotiations, including teacher and administrator settlements, the results of efforts towards HSAs and an update on the status of the Enhanced MEHIP plan.

Presenters:    Floyd Dugas, Attorney, Berchem, Moses and Devlin. P.C.  
                  J. Callender Heminway, Board Chair, Granby Board of Education  
                  Joseph Spurgeon, Account Executive, Lindberg and Ripple, Inc.

**B2    *Professional Learning Communities: From the Central Office Team to the Classroom*    (CLT)**

This workshop will describe the development of Professional Learning Communities from the Central Office Team to the classroom, with a focus on developing collaboration literacy, developing structures and the ongoing development dialogue about student learning and teacher practice.

Presenters:    Erin Murray, Assistant Superintendent, Simsbury Public Schools  
                  Betsy Gunsalus, Director of Elementary Education, Simsbury Public Schools  
                  Mark Zito, Director of Human Resources, Simsbury Public Schools  
                  Chris Kelly, Board Member, Simsbury Board of Education  
                  Matt Curtis, Principal, Squadron Line Elementary School, Simsbury Public Schools

**B3** *Two Views – NEASC and CBIA – with One Vision: Improving Schools* (PGS)

Surveys conducted by the Connecticut Business and Industry Association (CBIA) on behalf of its 10,000 members continue to express concern that many public schools are not adequately preparing students for success in post-secondary education and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century workplace. Partnering in an examination of these concerns, CBIA and NEASC will provide a workshop that will illustrate how the school accreditation process can assist Connecticut’s public secondary schools in incorporating into the curriculum the competencies and skills identified by the business community. The workshop will focus on the education needed to prepare for high skills, high wage jobs of the future.

Participants will learn how schools can more effectively use feedback from the business community to help focus school learning priorities and engage and motivate students and how schools can demonstrate to the business community their success developing the skills needed in students for success in post-secondary education and employment.

Presenters: Pamela Gray-Bennet, Director for Commission on Public Secondary Schools, NEASC  
Lauren Weisberg Kaufman, Vice President, CBIA

**B4** *The School Board’s Role in District Improvement and Accountability* (CLT)

This session will focus on the components of a school district assessment, including both the data collection process and assessment criteria. Implications of district improvement planning and accountability will be discussed, including the role of the school board in improving student achievement.

Presenters: Deborah Richards, Chief, Bureau of Accountability, Compliance and Monitoring, CT State Department of Education  
Kenneth Imperato, Bureau of School and District Improvement, CT State Department of Education

**B5** *Roles and Responsibilities* (CLT)

Connecticut's educational leaders recognize the power and potential to improve teaching and learning in our public schools through cooperative, purposeful and professional working relationships between superintendents and Boards of Education. At a time when public education is under tremendous pressure from No Child Left Behind, tight budgets, and other community concerns it is critical that this relationship be as strong as possible. This workshop will communicate CABE’s and CAPSS’ view on the nature of and expectations for superintendent and board working relationships.

Presenters: J. Callender Heminway, President, CABE  
Ann Clark, President, CAPSS  
Robert Rader, Executive Director, CABE  
Joseph Cirasuolo, Executive Director, CAPSS

**C1** *Annual Meeting of the Nutmeg Board* (CLT, CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)

Yet again, the Nutmeg Board meets and does all the wrong things to amuse and educate you. Their actions will be analyzed from the legal perspective. This mock board meeting is patterned on the *CABE Journal’s* “See You in Court” column.

Presenter: Thomas B. Mooney, Partner, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP

Cast: Eileen Baker, Board Member, Old Saybrook Board of Education  
Donald Blevins, Board Chair, Waterford, Board of Education  
Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent, Marlborough Public Schools

**C2 Secondary School Redesign (CLT, PGS, CFSC, RC)**

One of the potentially largest changes in the education of our children in the last few decades is in secondary school reform. This panel discussion will address the initiative and some of the concerns held by various stakeholders about possible implementation of the initiative. Topics to be addressed will include teacher training and recruitment, credit issues, time needed to complete high school, drop out rates, curriculum, space and other resources needed to implement this proposal.

Presenters: Robert Hale, Board Chair, Madison Board of Education  
Alan Bookman, Superintendent, Glastonbury Public Schools  
V. Everett Lyons, Principal, Bristol Eastern High School

**D1 Creativity Tools for Reframing Problems into Opportunities (CC)**

*Everyday Creativity*, a film featuring the photography of DeWitt Jones of National Geographic Magazine provides visual imagery that illustrates nine concepts of leadership. These concepts provide tools to approach challenges in new ways and discover new perspectives that help us break old patterns. Discussion will focus on applications to address school districts' challenges creatively.

Presenter: Ted Carroll, President, Leadership Greater Hartford

**D2 Aspiring Leaders Academy (RC)**

As school systems everywhere struggle to find highly qualified candidates for leadership positions, Newington Schools turned to their teaching staff as a starting point to nurture and grow leaders. The Aspiring Leaders' Academy (PreK-12) provides participants with research-based practices and strategies to promote learning and to build capacity. In turn, they are able to facilitate school and district initiatives.

Presenters: Ernest Perlini, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools  
Jeffrey Schumann, Assistant Superintendent, Newington Public Schools  
Pamela Muraca, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, Newington Public Schools  
Suzi D'Annolfo, Supervisor of Curriculum 5-8, Newington Public Schools  
Sabrina Lavieri, Supervisor of Curriculum 9-12, Newington Public Schools  
Tom Myler, Kindergarten Teacher, Newington Public Schools

**D3 Reduce Energy Costs While Creating the Green, Sustainable School Your Community Members Desire (RC)**

This session will address strategies for reigning in runaway energy costs while creating high performance, sustainable schools – all without breaking the bank. Topics to be discussed include reducing energy use and utility costs, new construction strategies, retrofitting, impact of recent legislation and an update of Connecticut's low cost financing programs.

Presenters: Michael DeNamur, Energy Solutions Business Leader, Trane  
Mark Deming, Director of Facilities, Branford Public Schools  
Chip Lambert, Education Solutions Leader, Trane

**D4 New Ways of Communicating in an Electronic Age (CFSC)**

School districts are constantly looking for ways to “get the message out” about their successes and are frustrated with conventional strategies. The Bloomfield Public Schools has used some cutting edge strategies to communicate effectively with parents, community members and others. Hear about using billboards, radio sponsorship, television advertising, the superintendent's blog and other communication tools.

Presenter: David Title, Superintendent, Bloomfield Public Schools

**Saturday, November 15, 2008**

**F1 *Across the Hall and Around the Globe* (PGS)**

New initiatives in distance education are being designed purposefully to address the values of global community and citizenship. Join us to learn how the Connecticut RESC Alliance is leveraging these technologies to bring middle and high school students together across the country and around the globe. This strategic partnership with Virtual High School (VHS) Global Consortium enables schools to enrich their curriculum and provide a unique opportunity to students to study and collaborate with classmates from 28 states and 23 countries.

Presenters: Cara Hart, Project Manager, CREC; VHS Consortium Manager  
Dana Koch, Director of Global Services, Virtual High School

**F2 *Developing Communitywide K-12 Performance Standards for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (CC, PGS, CFSC)**

Numerous education organizations and leaders write and speak ardently about the need to update Connecticut curriculum and instruction to address a 21<sup>st</sup> century skill set. Strategies and attitudes about creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, empathy, and public service can be taught, nurtured and mastered over the course of a child's school career. The collaborative development of communitywide K-12 performance standards ensures universal understanding and a shared dedication toward these goals and student proficiencies. This session provides an opportunity for participants to review and discuss K-12 performance standards that districts can use to guide curriculum development, instruction, and learning tasks. Participants in this workshop will gain a better understanding of the process for developing and infusing their own district performance standards to improve student learning in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Presenter: Greg Florio, Superintendent, Cheshire Public Schools

**F3 *Special Education Law for Board Members: Do We Really Have to Do This? And How Do We Pay for It?* (CLT, RC)**

This workshop is designed to both teach the basics of special education law to new board members and update new mandates of the law for more experienced board members. Opportunity will be provided for board members to ask questions related to the legal requirements of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and related state and federal laws. Participants will learn about the current "hot button" issues of special education law and how to support school administration in providing appropriate services to students with special needs and accessing available funding sources.

Presenters: Marsha Moses, Partner, Berchem, Moses and Devlin, P.C.  
Michelle Laubin, Partner, Berchem, Moses and Devlin, P.C.

**F4 *Doing the Right Work: Board Leadership for Systemic Change* (CLT)**

This session will explore the role the Berlin Board of Education took in leading and supporting systemic change related to continuous improvement. Board members and administrators worked together to establish a seamless relationship based on research and knowledge of the best practices. The Board redefined its purpose and refocused its energy and resources on student achievement and student success.

Presenters: Gary Brochu, Board President, Berlin Board of Education  
Michelle Hartel, Board Secretary, Berlin Board of Education  
Michael Cicchetti, Superintendent, Berlin Public Schools

**F5 *Middletown High School and Vocational Agriculture Center Building Project: The Trials and Tribulations* (CLT, CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)**

In September 2008 the Middletown Public Schools proudly opened its brand new \$109,000,000 High School and Vocational Agriculture Center. The presenters will give an overview of the trials and tribulations of this massive undertaking that spanned eight years from conception to reality. They will also share some of the exciting educational amenities the new school provides and some of the energy conservation measures installed.

Presenters: W. Lee Osborne, AIA, Chair, Middletown High School and Vocational Agriculture Center Building Committee  
Kendall Jackson, Director of Facilities, Middletown Public Schools  
Representative from DeCarlo & Doll, Inc.  
Representative from AM Design Architects  
Representative from Gilbane Construction Company

**F6 *Protecting Your Schools from Acts of Violence* (CLT, CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)**

The nation's public schools face a serious and complex dilemma of protecting its campuses from acts of violence. CIRMA, through the research process and partnership with the CIRMA School District Advisory Committee and input from the Fairfield and Newington Boards of Education, adopted the "Risk Management Physical School Facilities Security Assessment". The intent of the "Risk Management Physical School Facilities Security Assessment" is to help schools identify potential areas that can create security risks and hazards around school campuses. CIRMA reviews the completed assessment and meets with the submitting school districts to develop recommendations and best practices. Participants that attend the workshop will obtain information on the process of identifying physical security hazards and risks around school campuses.

Presenters: Ernest Perlini, Superintendent, Newington Public Schools  
Lou Jachimowicz, Business Manager, Newington Public Schools  
Richard Klett, Security Director, Newington Public Schools  
Joey Barbera, Senior Risk Control Consultant, CIRMA

**G1 Student Discussion Session – Student Representatives on Boards of Education: Policy into Practice (CLT, CC, PGS, RC)**

The opportunity to continue this roundtable discussion will be an open forum for students to share their experiences on a board of education as elected representatives of their student body. Students will discuss their role highlighting both best practice and areas that need to be revisited.

This session will be facilitated by a board of education member whose school system was one of the first in the state to develop and adopt a policy and regulation recognizing the importance of student input in the decision making process of boards of education.

Facilitator: Eileen Baker, Member, Old Saybrook Board of Education

**H1 Project Opening Doors (CLT, CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)**

A panel discussion will be held on Project Opening Doors, an innovative program sponsored by the National Math and Science Initiative, designed to increase student involvement and performance in math, science, and English Advance Placement courses. Discussion will focus on the combination of professional development, resources, and incentives provided through the project. Project Opening Doors requests a specific commitment to raising standards, particularly with minority populations and should be of interest to superintendents of schools and boards of education interested in future participation in the project.

Presenters: Christopher Clouet, Superintendent, New London Public Schools  
Rachel Young, Guidance Counselor and AP Coordinator, New Britain High School  
J.A. Camille Vautour, President, Project Opening Doors, CBIA

**H2 Why Early Childhood Education Matters and What We Can Do About It (CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)**

Early childhood education is increasingly seen as part of the solution to closing the achievement gap and building a world-class workforce and economy. However this scope of operations takes superintendents into realms where they may have traditionally had limited authority yet can have much influence.

Making sure that every child comes to school healthy and eager to learn is a shared responsibility among the schools, communities and parents. At the same time, just as much as we need ready children, we need ready schools.

The presenters will discuss what is needed locally and statewide to ensure that Connecticut's children have a good start in school and in life.

Presenters: Mary Broderick, Board Member, East Lyme Board of Education  
Janice Gruendel, Governor's Policy Advisor on Early Childhood  
David Nee, Executive Director, William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund

**11**     ***Student Discipline – What Board Members and Superintendents Need to Know (in a Hostile World)***     **(CFSC)**

In today's schools, administrators face a need to preserve discipline and safety in the context of more complicated threats, while at the same time respecting the various statutory and constitutional rights of students. In addition, the legal commands that both school administrators and school boards must honor are subject to change in a political environment where the voices of school districts are often ignored. This workshop is intended to advise board of education members of their proper roles, responsibilities and options in the school discipline process, and will hopefully help board members to understand 1) what is actually going on at the inevitable expulsion hearing, 2) why their school board's attorney has advised them as to something that may defy common sense, and 3) how they can explain to the community this process. The seminar will also help both board members and school administrators understand both the limits and extent of their powers in the school discipline paradigm, along with their options in light of recent legislative and judicial interventions.

Presenter:     Mark Sommaruga, Partner, Sullivan, Schoen, Campana and Connon, LLC

**12**     ***Teachers and Administrators: Collective Bargaining in Uncertain Times*** **(CLT, RC)**

Is the economy heading into a recession? Are you paying more in salaries without seeing results in student achievement? What does it all mean for Boards of Education in the midst of negotiations with its teachers and administrators? This session will identify the current trends in negotiating certified collective bargaining agreements, including a view of the legal landscape surrounding performance-based pay for teachers and administrators in Connecticut. Additionally, this session will focus on current salary trends and changes in health insurance plans, including the use of Health Savings Accounts and other cost-saving measures.

Presenters:     Kevin Roy, Attorney, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP  
                    Rebecca Rudnick Santiago, Attorney, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP

**13**     ***The Impact of the Sheff Settlement on the Entire State***     **(CLT, CC, PGS, CFSC, RC)**

The recent *Sheff* settlement has an impact more far-reaching than the City of Hartford. The new five-year agreement defines "interim goals" that must be met using voluntary interdistrict programs. This session will discuss the impact on districts throughout the State.

Presenters:     George Coleman, Deputy Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education  
                    J. Callender Heminway, Board Chair, Granby Board of Education  
                    Bruce Douglas, Executive Director, CREC

**14**     ***Emerging Technologies***     **(CC, PGS, RC)**

How is technology being used to improve student achievement? What are you doing in terms of professional development for your teachers? The 21<sup>st</sup> Century use of technology goes well beyond computers. Learn more about the various emerging technologies; handheld book readers, delivery of online content, recording of online content, and more; that will change how things are done.

Presenters:     Keith Margolus, Assistant Principal, Ox Ridge Elementary School, Darien Public Schools  
                    Sarah Edson, Program Manager, Connecticut Education Network  
                    William Silver, Superintendent, Killingly Public Schools



**15     *Understanding PA 08-141: An Act Concerning on-Line Procurement by State Agencies, Municipalities and Regional and Local School Districts*   (CC, RC)**

This session will summarize the history of PA 08-141: *An Act Concerning on-Line Procurement by State Agencies, Municipalities and Regional and Local School Districts* in Connecticut and discuss how it may be implemented within municipalities and schools districts. It will include an explanation of how to use reverse auctioning as a means of reducing the costs associated with procuring goods and supplies needed for use in schools and in local and state agencies.

Presenters:     James Spallone, State Representative  
                  Michael Trahan, Board Member, Regional School District 17 Board of Education  
                  Gary S. Mala, Superintendent, Regional School District 17 Public Schools

CLT – The Collaborative Leadership Team

CC – A Culture of Creativity

PGS – Preparing for the Global Society

CFSC – Connecting Family, School and Community

RC – Resource Challenges