



PRESIDENT COMMENTARY

## Reflections on Inflection Points

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The peep frogs and crocuses are emerging anew, evoking wonder and joy. In spite of a burst of snow in early April, the natural world is continuing to bloom and balance the elements. Much-needed rain is soaking into the earth. This spring seems more glorious than ever, perhaps in part because of the juxtaposition with the systems created by human beings, some of which work well, and others that throw off the balance, equilibrium and equity.

The winter season was especially fraught with tensions and questions, challenges and changes. As members of boards of education and administrators, we have collaborated to seek solutions and resolution. Budgets have been challenging.

While in Connecticut the legislature considered providing extra time to municipalities regarding budget deadlines, ultimately the functions and responsibilities of districts continue to exist. We recognize the pressures experienced by local districts trying to project expenditures with incomplete information, as the Legislature continues to review options.

Our local context is perhaps better understood from the viewpoint of national systems. CABE is part of a much larger network, through the National School Boards Association (NSBA). There are, of course, differences among and between states, but there are also federal programs and initiatives that affect all of us. Staying connected with the national organization ensures that we are up-to-date with recent changes. The NSBA Conference held in Denver, Colorado in

late March, validated the collective focus, with many excellent sessions packed to capacity, filled with eager participants seeking information, perspectives and support.

In addition to the invaluable networking with colleagues from across the country, there were motivational speakers who conveyed powerful messages regarding the important work we all do. The term “inflection moment” or “inflection point” was heard more than once to describe our current socio-political situation.

This term resonated, though its meaning was not immediately explicitly clear. The dictionary acknowledges different meanings in different contexts. Engineers and physicists may use it to describe forces. Mathematicians and statisticians may use it to describe a change in the curve of a graph.

In our context, it can be used to describe seizing opportunity in adversity. “Carpe Diem”, “game changer” “paradigm shift” are other related terms.

Ultimately, we all need to maintain our equilibrium in order to continue to be effective. Staying balanced and centered increases the likelihood that we will be able to cope without being reactive. We need to sustain focus together as advocates for public education. This is not always easy, but it is always important.

In this moment of inflection, we need to recognize and respect those systems that have demonstrated resilience, along with enduring values that enhance the quality of public education for students in the United States of America. This is a time to center, to reflect, and to take action as needed. Collectively, we must keep goals in clear perspective so we can continue to ensure educational opportunities in public schools.

