

**Convention Workshop Descriptions – July 2010**  
*Maintaining a Strategic Focus in Changing Times*

**Friday, November 19, 2010**

**A1    What Can Our School Boards and Superintendents Do To Make Sure Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender Students Feel Safe, Supported and Successful in Schools? (21 CE, EEB)**

It's well known that a school climate that provides all students a welcoming, safe and supportive environment helps student to be in school and ready to learn. But for students who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender, school can be a very hostile environment. This session will share personal experiences, research findings, and expert recommendations, and you'll learn what you as a school board member or superintendent need to know to make a difference for all students through policy and practice.

**Presenters:**     Robert Rader, Executive Director, CABE  
                         Leif Mitchell, Co-Chair, GLSEN Connecticut Chapter  
                         Dustin Rader, Student, University of Vermont

**A2    Magnet and Charter Schools - What Your School District Must Know and How We All Can Get Along (21 CE, PESES)**

There has been a proliferation in the number and influence of "alternative" educational providers such as charter and magnet schools. The respective roles and relationships between a charter or magnet school and a local school district sometimes seem blurry and contentious, in light of the sometimes vague statutory schemes; there are also political battles regarding funding and practical concerns as to which entity must "foot the bill" for certain students and certain services. This workshop is intended to advise board of education members and school administrators of the proper roles and responsibilities for school districts and charter and magnet schools, and will hopefully help attendees to understand 1) the strains on their budgets that might exist, 2) areas of friction and collaboration, 3) what options are presented in accepting (or resisting, where appropriate) responsibility for magnet/charter school students, and 4) what role local school districts may have in the creation/funding of magnet and charter schools, as we "Race to the Top."

**Presenter:**     Mark Sommaruga, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC

**A3    Meaningful Meetings (EEB)**

Boards of education conduct the work of the school district in one or two dozen publicly held meetings throughout the course of a school year. Yet this limited and precious resource is frequently squandered on unnecessary votes, discussion on unimportant matters, personal and political infighting, unprepared board members and inappropriate behavior. This workshop will provide board members the guidance and tools to design and conduct their board meetings so as focus on student achievement and school improvement.

**Presenters:**     Gary Brochu, Chair, Berlin Board of Education.  
                         David Erwin, Superintendent, Berlin Public Schools

**A4    Negotiations: An Overview of the Process and the Law            (21CE, EEB)**

This workshop is aimed at new and seasoned school board members and superintendents. It will begin with an overview of collective bargaining law, including the negotiation, mediation and binding arbitration processes. We will then discuss legal issues relative to today's collective bargaining process as well as current trends, alternative compensation for teachers and health care costs. Participants may move on from this workshop and get a more in-depth look at negotiations issues in today's world by attending several other negotiations and collective bargaining-based workshops taking place later during the Convention.

**Presenters:**     Kelly B. Moyher, Sr. Staff Attorney, CABE  
                         Kenneth Weinstock, Attorney, Kainen, Escalera and McHale

- A5 Successfully Navigating Connecticut's Freedom of Information Act (21 CE, EEB)**  
 This workshop will help prepare board members and superintendents to contend with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act including recent developments concerning email records, and posting notices of meetings on the district's website.  
**Presenter:** William Connon, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connon, LLC
- A6 The Policy Implications of Recent Legislative Action (21 CE, EEB)**  
 Recent state legislation, especially the "Education Reform in Connecticut Act" will impact board policy and the future direction of education in Connecticut in a meaningful way. This workshop will address the many policy areas in which new or revised policy language is required and/or recommended. The new legislation will significantly change many aspects of education affecting boards, staff, students, and the community.  
**Presenter:** Vincent Mustaro, Sr. Staff Associate for Policy Service, CABE
- A7 Legal and Legislative Issues (21 CE, EEB)**  
 This session will provide a review of the 2010 Legislative Session, as well as discuss the budget and other issues facing the new governor and legislature in 2011. Updates will be provided on the achievement gap working groups and the Connecticut State Department of Education Funding Committee.  
**Presenters:** Patrice A. McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, CABE  
 Sheila McKay, Sr. Staff Associate for Government Relations, CABE
- A8 Meeting with the State Board (21 CE, EEB, PESES, MSABTS)**  
 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 2010-2011. The format will be as informal as the size of the group permits. Topics covered will be determined by your questions!  
**Presenters:** Members of the State Board of Education and Commissioner of Education
- B1 The Communications Imperative: Meeting Your Community's Growing Demand for School Information (21 CE, PESES)**  
 The last 20 years have brought profound technological changes affecting the ways people and institutions communicate, from automatic alerts delivered to cell phones to video chats to personalized news feeds and web portals. How are Connecticut school districts communications in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century? This presentation looks at these broader issues while focusing on the experiences of New Fairfield Public Schools.  
**Presenters:** Alicia Roy, Superintendent, New Fairfield Public Schools  
 John Raymond, President, PowerIT
- B2 New Reading and Writing Literacies: Will the Next Shakespeare be a Video Game? (21 CE)**  
 In this workshop, 10 questions will be posed to the session participants designed to elicit discussion and promote interest in research concerning the challenge that innovative learning technologies present to a traditional view of literacy as reading comprehension from books and writing the 5-paragraph essay. These 10 questions concern how contemporary story-writers have embraced video games as a vehicle for telling epic stories, and how the information voters get from YouTube presidential interviews and Twitter accounts of Iranian elections do not much resemble the well composed news story from traditional newspapers and magazines. Likewise what is often taught in schools may not fit in many new jobs- just as the 5-paragraph essay is not very readable on a PowerPoint slide or in a threaded discussion post. The challenge then is to understand the new literacies of reading and writing in online genres that are not part of a traditional curriculum, genres like reading comprehension for online datasets and writing skills for trans-media story-telling (stories that go across movies, games, books and other media). Further the challenge is to consider reading and writing as taught in a current curriculum and consider what changes may lie ahead.  
**Presenter:** Michael Young, Board Member, Ellington Board of Education; Associate Professor of Educational Psychology, University of Connecticut

- B3      Getting to Know Your Regional Educational Service Centers – RESCs (21CE, EEB, PESES, MSABTS)**  
Regional approaches result in quality outcomes and cost effectiveness in delivering programs and services to school districts and communities across the state. This presentation will demonstrate unique cost savings programs offered by the RESCs for districts, as well as many other benefits.  
**Presenters:**     Paula Colen, Executive Director, EASTCONN  
Bruce Douglas, Executive Director, CREC  
Craig Edmondson, Executive Director, ACES  
Evan Pitkoff, Executive Director, C.E.S.  
Virginia Seccombe, Executive Director, LEARN  
Danuta Thibodeau, Executive Director, Education Connection
- B4      Ensuring the Development of 21st Century Learning Skills in All Students (21CE)**  
This session will detail the process that the seventh largest school district in Connecticut has used to ensure that all students master the necessary skills to be 21<sup>st</sup> Century learners and citizens. Emphasis will be placed upon how all grades, departments and subject areas from the kindergarten level through AP courses at the high school level have been organized so that the learning of essential skills is seamless. Specific information will be shared that details how superintendents, central office leaders and board of education members can know that all students have been provided with learning opportunities to master critical 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills and to be able to apply these skills in all subject areas and at all grade levels. Additional and intensive focus will be placed upon technological applications to promote “just in time” learning.  
**Presenters:**     Salvatore Pascarella, Superintendent, Danbury Public Schools  
William Glass, Deputy Superintendent, Danbury Public Schools
- B5      Restructuring Schools to Control Costs: The Possibilities and the Realities (21 CE)**  
As squeezed taxpayers and state and municipal budget deficits continue to strangle the budgets of school districts, boards of education and their administrations are looking for economies of scales to maximize the value of their dollars. Restructuring strategies – from reconfiguring grade levels within buildings, to consolidating elementary schools, to joining with other school districts to combine facilities and resources – have been attempted and implemented in recent years. When the school district is a regional school district, special issues present. The presenters will discuss the legal, community and practical considerations off such strategies and share the experiences of school districts that have been on the cutting edge of implementing them, including attempts at grade reconfiguration and school consolidation within regional school system that are currently the subject of litigation and attempts at building a consolidated high school between two districts.  
**Presenters:**     Roseann Padula, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connon, LLC  
Mark Sommaruga, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connon, LLC
- B6      Roles and Responsibilities (21 CE, EEB, PESES)**  
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 CAFE's and CAPSS' view on the nature of and expectations for superintendent and board working relationships.  
**Presenters:**     Donald Blevins, President, CAFE  
David Klein, President, CAPSS  
Robert Rader, Executive Director, CAFE  
Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director, CAPSS

- C1 The Annual Meeting of the Nutmeg Board (21 CE, EEB, PESES, MSABTS)**  
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 CABA Journal's "See You in Court" column.  
**Presenter:** Thomas B. Mooney, Partner, Shipman and Goodwin, LLP
- C2 The Changing Landscape of Today's Media (21 CE, EEB, PESES, MSABTS)**  
This session will be a lively talk-show style panel discussion with notable high profile reporters from various media formats with expertise in radio, television, print and social media. This discussion will be facilitated by Ann Baldwin and will help the audience understand how the communications (media) game has changed and the impact that it is having on education, budgets and business.  
**Facilitator:** Ann Baldwin, President, Baldwin Media Marketing  
**Presenters:** TBA
- D1 The Lighthouse Project (21 CE, EEB, PESES, MSABTS)**  
The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education is partnered with the Connecticut State Department of Education to work with boards of education in a national study to use research and data to improve decision-making by local boards of education. This national project is part of a multi-state effort working with boards of education around the nation. Local boards of education involved in this training program will discuss their experiences and how the Lighthouse Project has helped improve student achievement in their districts. Others interested in the project will learn how they can become part of the project.  
**Presenters:** Nicholas Caruso, Sr. Staff Associate for Field Service and Coordinator of Technology, CABA  
Warren Logee, Scholar in Residence, Connecticut State Department of Education
- D2 School Reform Update (21 CE, PESES, MSABTS)**  
An update on school reform efforts in Connecticut as they relate to collective bargaining will be discussed, including an overview of what is meant by school reform based on initiatives around the country, alternative work days and salary schedules, and performance bonuses based on test scores. An update on the status of New Haven's school reform efforts will be provided.  
**Presenters:** Floyd Dugas, Attorney, Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.  
William Clark, Chief Executive Officer, New Haven Public Schools  
Garth Harris, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, New Haven Public Schools
- D3 The Seven Habits of Highly Effective Boards (EEB)**  
This workshop will identify the seven habits used by the Ledyard Board of Education and Superintendent to maintain a focus on strategic goals, to organize and manage Board meetings to make the most efficient use of time, and to use internal and external communications to achieve Board goals. The presentation will highlight hands-on suggestions regarding work sessions, committee work, and communication techniques ranging from large public forums to weekly Board/Superintendent updates.  
**Presenters:** Sharon Hightower, Board Chair, Ledyard Board of Education  
Michael Graner, Superintendent, Ledyard Public Schools
- D4 Top Ten Myths About Cost Savings (21 CE, EEB)**  
Especially with the current state budget crisis, boards of education and superintendents are searching for more, and more creative, ways to save money and avoid costs. However, sometimes measures that look like a cost savings on the surface end up saving very little, or even increasing, costs. This presentation will look at both the legal and budgetary issues surrounding popular cost saving measures, such as board/town joint operating agreements, insurance plan design changes, and other changes to collective bargaining agreements, retirement incentive provisions and other such measures.  
**Presenters:** Craig Meuser, Attorney, Chinni & Meuser, LLC  
Christine Chinni, Attorney, Chinni & Meuser, LLC

**D5      Adult Education: Every School District's Hidden Treasure (21 CE)**

Adult education is in the process of going through a dramatic and systemic change within Connecticut. This is evidenced by the recently released Adult Literacy Leadership Board (ALLB) report (August, 2009) and Governor Rell's Executive Order no. 35 (November 25, 2009). This workshop will present an Adult Education program model that is aligned with the Connecticut State Board of Education's position statement on Adult education (February 4, 2009), Connecticut's Secondary School Reform initiative, transition to further education and workforce development for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In addition to academic rigor, the model includes career pathways, educational and business partnerships that also involve regional Workforce Investment Boards.

**Presenters:**      Andy Tyskiewicz, Division Director for Community Education, CREC  
                            Jim Spafford, Workforce Education Specialist, CREC

**Saturday, November 20, 2010**

**\*\* A special session for student representatives will be held Saturday morning.  
Student Representatives on Boards of Education: Policy into Practice**

The opportunity to continue this roundtable discussion requested by student representatives attending the 2010 CABE/CAPSS Convention 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, Board Member, Old Saybrook Board of Education

**E1 Connecticut's Race to the Top Initiatives Supporting Secondary School Reform (21 CE, PESES, MSABTS)**

This session will provide superintendents and local board of education members an update on the progress districts are making in innovatively implementing components of the Connecticut Plan – the State's plan for improving secondary school education. The discussion will include policy implications as they apply to the Federal Race to the Top priorities and reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Act.

**Presenters:** Mark McQuillan, Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Education  
Diane Ullman, Superintendent, Simsbury Public Schools  
Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner, Connecticut Department of Education

**E2 Global Connecticut: Developing Global Awareness and Competence in Our Schools (21 CE)**

Connecticut's economic growth and development are tightly linked to global trends – from increasingly diverse workforce demographics to rapidly growing exports and delivery of services internationally. We invite you to participate in this workshop sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Connecticut to raise awareness among school board members and school leaders about the importance of preparing our students for the global age. Learn about cost-effective international education programs and strategies that you can use to integrate international knowledge and skills into your schools' education programs to ensure your students are prepared for success in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**Presenters:** Eve Pech, Project Consultant, World Affairs Council of Connecticut  
Catherine Fisk Natale, Independent Education Consultant; Project Consultant, World Affairs Council of Connecticut

**E3 Instructional Rounds: A Strategy for Improving Teaching and Learning (21 CE, PESES)**

Educational leaders in Connecticut and other states are using instructional rounds – a practice adapted from medicine – to help their school, district, and state systems develop the capacity to support high quality teaching and learning for all students. After a short overview, participants will engage in the rounds practice through video simulation. Educational leaders from three different contexts will share data on how they are using rounds to drive improvement efforts at the school and district levels.

**Presenters:** Andrew Lachman, Executive Director, Connecticut Center for School Change  
Steve Wlodarczyk, Education Program Officer, Connecticut Center for School Change

**E4 Budgeting in Tough Times (21 CE, EEB)**

This presentation will explore legal considerations associated with budgeting in the current economic climate, including information on:

- Personnel issues (e.g., non-renewal, reductions in force, collective bargaining);
- State and federal funding mandates (e.g., minimum budget requirement, supplementing/supplanting, special education);
- The latest developments at the state (e.g., Connecticut's state budget, Education Cost Sharing grants, special education excess cost grants) and federal (e.g., American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, "Race to the Top" funding, Title I and No Child Left Behind developments) levels related to education funding; and
- Common legal pitfalls related to budgeting.

**Presenters:** Daniel Murphy, Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Andreana Bellach, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Christopher Tracey, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

**E5 Sports in the Public Schools - A Legal Update on Board and Administrative Responsibilities (EEB, PESES)**

This workshop will discuss:

- Funding sports programs in difficult times: Booster Clubs, Pay-for-Play Policies and Corporate Sponsorship
- Creating and Enforcing Student Athletes' Codes of Conduct
- Addressing the Use of Performance Enhancing Drugs
- Best Practices for Preventing Hazing and Bullying on Athletic Teams
- Supervising and Evaluating Coaches
- Non-Renewing and Terminating Coaches
- Avoiding Liability: Discrimination, Gender Equity and Maintaining Boundaries
- Allowing Access to Sports Teams by Disabled Students
- Broadcasting Athletic Events and Other Developments in Digital Media

**Presenters:** Julie Fay, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Anne Littlefield, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Peter Murphy, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LP

**E6 Partnering with After School Programs (PESES)**

Community collaborations to provide extended learning opportunities for students is a cost-effective way to improve student outcomes. The board, in collaboration with the superintendent, staff, and community leaders, can initiate a range of policies, networks, funding adjustments, incentives, quality standards, training, technical assistance, and convening strategies to help transform schools into community learning centers with a rich array of learning opportunities beyond regular school hours.

**Presenter:** Michelle Doucette Cunningham, Executive Director, CT After School Network

**F1 Sexting, Texting and Other Uses of Technology by Students and Staff: The Legal Predicaments, Pitfalls and Possibilities (21 CE)**

An engaging workshop for superintendents, school administrators and board members designed to explore the legal landscape created by rapidly changing and increasing usage of technology by students and schools. Workshop will highlight strategies and solutions for school districts grappling with these emerging issues.

**Presenter:** Marsha Moses, Attorney, Berchem, Moses & Devlin, P.C.

**F2 What Will Schools Look Like in 2020? Using the 2020 Forecast for Future Planning (21 CE, EEB, PESES)**

Are you concerned about the future of learning for the children in your community? Will your schools/organizations be providing young people the tools they will require to become successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century global citizens? This session will focus on the Knowledgeworks Foundation/Institute for the Future 2008 report “2020 Forecast: Creating the Future of Learning” and how their six drivers of change will impact education. You will work together to identify your district/organization’s needs and begin to develop a plan that will proactively address those needs!

**Presenters:** Joanne Manginelli, Education Specialist, ACES/PDSI  
Enza Macri, Principal, The Lawrence School, Middletown Public Schools

**F3 Labor Implications for School Boards: Race to the Top and Beyond (21 CE)**

This session will consist of an overview of legal implications of labor issues associated with the State of Connecticut’s Race to the Top (RTTT) application, regardless of success of the State’s application. There will be an analysis of the trends in education reform which are likely to develop over time regardless of the State’s success with its RTTT application, especially in light of the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary School Education Act. An in-depth examination of applicable collective bargaining issues and board strategies will be the focal point.

**Presenters:** Daniel Murphy, Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Frederick Dorsey, Attorney, Siegel, O’Connor, O’Donnell & Beck, P.C.

**G1 Preparing 21st Century Superintendents - What Board Members Should Know (21 CE, EEB)**

Superintendents and board members face unprecedented challenges in these times – collaborative leadership is essential. Board members (and superintendents) should know how aspiring superintendents are being prepared for shared governance and shared leadership. We are also very interested in hearing suggestions from board members in support of collaborative leadership conditions and practices.

**Presenters:** Robert Villanova, Director, Executive Leadership Program, Neag Schools of Education, University of Connecticut  
Philip Streifer, Superintendent, Bristol Public Schools; Neag Adjunct Faculty

**G2 Making Sense of Assessment and Data for Systemic Change (MSABTS)**

This workshop will highlight how systemic change can occur when assessment and data drive district initiatives. Principals will share how their schools have transformed instructional practices at the building and classroom levels and how it is translating to student growth and instructional improvement. There will be a discussion of how Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI) aligns with and supports current initiatives.

**Presenters:** Elaina Brachman, Principal, University of Hartford Magnet School  
Anne McKernan, Principal, Metropolitan Learning Center  
Jean Privatera, Principal, Two Rivers Magnet Middle School  
Denise Gallucci, Director, CREC Magnet Schools

**G3 How to Avoid the 5 Most Costly Mistakes in Your School Construction Project (21 CE)**

This workshop will illustrate the most costly mistakes school districts make with school construction projects. Incomplete documentation and inaccurate reporting are just two of the mistakes commonly made that result in the loss of millions of dollars to the district. This workshop is for board members, superintendents, business managers and town officials, who will learn how professional, contracted project management avoids mistakes that result in increased costs, lost time and less than maximum reimbursement. The workshop will explain how an Owner’s Representative coordinates all of the activities of the project on behalf of the district - reporting progress, managing the project team, and freeing up the superintendent or business manager to stay focused on managing the school system.

**Presenters:** Roger LaFleur, Director of School Construction, CREC  
James Giuliano, Sr. Project Manager, CREC

**G4 Extend the School Day, Save Money and Provide Individual Student Resources Online (21 CE)**

Wouldn't it be nice to have a centralized point of access where teachers and students login to see a customized, dynamic desktop form which all applications can easily be accessed from any computing device in the school, community or home? Well, Monroe Public Schools is providing their student and staff with 24/7 access to instructional applications, classroom management tools and curricular resources. Users are able to easily and consistently access whatever they need, whenever the need! The school day is now extended which provides ample opportunities for distance learning. Teachers and students have access to district resources and are no long bound to staying late after school.

**Presenters:** Craig Tunks, Director of Technology, Monroe Public Schools  
Richard Canfield, Assistant Superintendent, Monroe Public Schools

**G5 Regionalization Roundup - A Review of Regionalization and Shared Services and the Legal Issues Relevant to the Cutting Edge Means of Controlling Costs (21 CE, EEB, PESES)**

The workshop will explore regionalization and shared services as a mechanism for reducing spending and balancing board of education budgets. We will review the laws that enable school districts to regionalize and share student and operational services, such as special education services and the transportation of students, as well as regionalized purchasing cooperatives. We will also provide some pragmatic advice regarding the best ways to mobilize these efforts.

**Presenters:** Ruth Levy, Superintendent, Regional School District #4  
Gary Mala, Superintendent, Regional School District #17  
Kevin Roy, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Rebecca Santiago, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

21 CE - 21st Century Education

EEB - Essentials of Effective Boardmanship

PESES - Partnering to Ensure the Success of Each Student

MSABTS - Measuring Student Achievement Beyond Test Scores