

**Convention Workshop Descriptions – June 2011**  
**Educating Our Children for a Global Society**

**Friday, November 18, 2011**

**A1 Creating and Implementing a Curriculum for World Language (AGP)**

This session will take participants through the essential steps in creating and implementing an articulated K-12 World Language curriculum following a backwards design model. Participants will gain an understanding of how World Language fits into the secondary school reform, the resources needed to run a successful World Language program and the role of World Language in the 21st Century.

**Presenters:** Linda Darcy, World Language Chair, CREC

Carolina Gieczewski, Teacher, Metropolitan Learning Center, CREC

**A2 Westport Education 2025: Meeting the Global Challenge (ISA, AGP)**

For the past few years, a host of warnings from business leaders, educators, editorialists, government leaders, and beyond have voiced concern that American students are not adequately prepared for successful participation in the 21st Century. Our ability to compete in an increasingly global, technologically and economically interdependent world, they argue, is being threatened by a lack of experience with key 21st Century skills, such as the ability to engage in deep critical and creative thinking, including the facility and resourcefulness to solve non-standard, real-world problems using cross-disciplinary approaches. We will describe how we will be researching and benchmarking ourselves against other high-performing districts in the United States and around the world, and how we have further refined and developed our curriculum and assessments tools to achieve this end.

**Presenters:** Elliott Landon, Superintendent, Westport Public Schools

Others TBD

**A3 Trends (REYL, PYB, ISA, AGP)**

The presenter will discuss some of the most important issues facing school districts in a quick, fun, interactive session.

**Presenter:** Robert Rader, Executive Director, CABE

**A4 Negotiations: An Overview of the Process and the Law (PYB)**

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, teacher compensation reform and student achievement.

**Presenters:** Kelly Moyher, Sr. Staff Attorney, CABE

Kenneth Weinstock, Attorney, Kainen, Escalera and McHale, PC

**A5 Successfully Navigating the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act (PYB)**

This workshop will help prepare board members and superintendents to contend with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act, including recent developments concerning e-mail records, and posting notices of meetings on the districts' websites.

**Presenter:** William Connon, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC

- A6 “The Policy Implications of Recent Legislative Action” (PYB, ISA)**  
 Recent state legislation, especially “The Strengthening of School Bullying Laws” will impact board policy to foster the necessary school climate needed for educating children to compete in a global society. The workshop will address the many policy areas in which new or revised language is required and/or recommended. The new legislation will significantly affect many aspects of education affecting boards, staff, students and the community.  
**Presenter:** Vincent Mustaro, Sr. Staff Associate for Policy Service, CABE
- A7 Legislative Issues (PYB, ISA)**  
 This session will provide a review of the 2011 Legislative Session, as well as an up to the minute update on the work of the task forces on:
- Education Funding
  - Municipal Funding Distribution
  - Vocational-Technical Schools
  - Closing the Achievement Gap
- Presenters:** Patrice A. McCarthy, Deputy Director and General Counsel, CABE  
 Sheila McKay, Sr. Staff Associate for Government Relations
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- A8 Meeting with the State Board of Education (PEYL, PYB, ISA, AGP)**  
 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 2011-2012. 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  
 Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education
- B1 Strategically Budgeting in Difficult Times to Educate Children for Their Place in a Global Society (REYL, PYB, ISA)**  
 The vision of the Wallingford Public School District, created through a community-wide strategic planning process, is to ignite passion for learning and excellence in every student so that each becomes a life-long contributor to the local and global communities. Learn more about the use of an integrated multi-year strategic budget plan as a means of securing resources to prepare students for their place in a global society.  
**Presenters:** Thomas Hennessey, Board Chair, Wallingford Board of Education  
 Salvatore Menzo, Superintendent, Wallingford Public Schools  
 Jan Guarino, Assistant Superintendent of Personnel, Wallingford Public Schools  
 Ellen Cohn, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Wallingford Public Schools
- B2 Effective Strategies to Follow When Confronted with Tenured Teachers Who Fail to Meet District Performance Standards and Require Termination**  
**Presenters:** Tony Bivona, Superintendent, Brookfield Public Schools  
 Patrick McHale, Esq., Kainen, Escalera and McHale

**B3 Roles and Responsibilities of Board Members and Superintendents (REYL, PYB, ISA, AGP)**

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 CBE's and CAPSS' view on the nature of and expectations for superintendent and board working relationships.

**Presenters:** Joseph Cirusuolo, Executive Director, CAPSS

Robert Rader, Executive Director, CBE

Judith Palmer, President, CAPSS

Lydia Tedone, First-Vice President, CBE

**B4 Breaching the Classroom Wall - Legal Issues Regarding the Utilization of Technology to Bring the World to Students (AGP)**

The introduction of technology and the availability of instructional materials from a wide variety of sources offer school districts the opportunity to transcend the limits imposed by classroom walls and district resources. Internet content, social networking, and on-line instruction - all provide rich opportunities to bring the world and a global perspective to Connecticut classrooms and students. Yet, many school administrators and districts avoid or fail to pursue these options vigorously due to the fear of running afoul of legal entanglements, or simply because they are not aware of the legal and statutory requirements for this type of non-traditional instruction. This seminar provides answers and a perspective on the use of technology to provide non-traditional instruction to students.

**Presenters:** Gary Brochu, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

Linda Yoder, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

**B5 Data, Data Everywhere - But How to Know That Our Student Learning Programs Are Having Any Meaningful Impact? (ISA)**

Using a multi-cultural enrichment program as a model, the presenters introduce a results based accountability-like approach to evaluating services. Being able to report to various funders about the genuine impact on student learning outcomes as a result of any program and service investment is ever more critical in these economic times. A simple, clean template for collecting and reviewing meaningful data will be presented as a lens for assessing and evaluating learning programs.

**Presenter:** Maureen Crowley, Director of Planning and Development, EASTCONN

**B6 "FACEBOOK ME": The Possibilities and Legal Pitfalls of Social Networking in Schools (PYB, AGP)**

This engaging workshop for superintendents, school administrators and board members designed to explore the legal landscape created by rapidly changing and increasing usage of technology, particularly the use of social networking by board members, administrators, teachers and students, online learning, cyberbullying, and use of Web 2.0 tools. This workshop will highlight strategies and solutions for school districts grappling with these emerging issues and provide practical advice in avoiding pitfalls of the 21st Century.

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

- C1 The Annual Meeting of the Nutmeg Board (PEYL, PYB, ISA, AGP)**  
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 CBE Journal's "See You in Court" column.  
**Presenters:** Rich Mills, Partner, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Anne Littlefield, Partner, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Cast TBD
- C2 An Open Pathway to a 21st Century School District (AGP)**  
Recent extraordinary changes in the way that software, hardware, and instructional resources are developed, priced and deployed have created opportunities for districts to move to a one-to-one learning environment for at or below the cost of their current print based models. This presentation will explore a variety of options for positioning your district to take advantage of these changes and to prepare your system for this inevitable shift to a truly digital learning environment.  
**Presenter:** Jonathan Costa, Director, School/Program Services, EDUCATION CONNECTION
- D1 How Do We Organize to Deliver 21st Century Learning in a Financially Hemorrhaging Environment (PYB, ISA)**  
This workshop examines the urgent need to change the model of educational delivery. The current model calls for more money each year, but we get less. Eventually, there are no "edges" to cut. The model is unsustainable. We must identify a new model and the architecture that helps us achieve it.  
**Presenter:** John Ramos, Superintendent, Bridgeport Public Schools
- D2 The New Commercialism in Public Schools: Naming Rights, Corporate Sponsorship, and Advertising Campaigns (REYL)**  
Commercial activity has been present in our public schools for decades, not only in the form of product sales such as food and drink, yearbooks, school photos and class rings, but also in the form of passive marketing from corporate-sponsored book fairs, pizza parties, fundraisers and free equipment and materials. The new commercialism is more blatant, direct advertising by way of corporate sponsorship of athletic programs and events, naming rights sold for stadiums and auditoriums, and full-scale advertising campaigns on school buses and facilities. This workshop will explore new options for school boards for seeking corporate sponsorship and advertising contracts as an alternative form of revenue, including the potential legal pitfalls and strategies for drafting relevant contracts, policies, and long-term sponsorship programs.  
**Presenters:** Frederick Dorsey, Attorney, Siegel, O'Connor, O'Donnell & Beck, P.C.  
Daniel Murphy, Agency Legal Director, Division of Legal and Governmental Affairs, Connecticut State Department of Education
- D3 Keep Kids in School: Practical Implementation of Connecticut's In-School Suspension Law (ISA)**  
This session will present data collected by Connecticut Appleseed regarding how districts are implementing Connecticut's in-school suspension law. We will discuss the concerns animating the law and how districts can reduce in-school suspensions in a cost effective manner.  
**Presenters:** Michael D'Agostino, Board Chair, Hamden Board of Education  
Bob Kettle, CT Appleseed

**D4 From Board of Education to Classroom Teacher: Creating a System of Care for Improving Student Achievement (ISA)**

Learn how one small district improved student achievement dramatically by taking a systemic approach to meeting the needs of each child in the system. Explore the ways that carefully designed roles and responsibilities, coupled with a strong curriculum and assessment system that leads to targeted intervention resulted in significant gains for all subgroups. Case studies and sample structures will be shared in this interactive session.

**Presenters:** Becky Tyrell, Board Chair, Plainville Board of Education  
Maureen Brummett, Assistant Superintendent, Plainville Community Schools  
Linda Van Wagenen, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Plainville Community Schools  
Michelle Steck, Instructional Leader for Literacy, Plainville Community Schools

**D5 CAPSS Transformation Project**

**Presenters:** Joseph Cirasuolo, Executive Director, CAPSS  
David Calchera, Director of the CAPSS Public Policy Institute  
Lawrence Schaefer, CAPSS Staff Assistant for the Leadership Development

**Saturday, November 19, 2010**

**Student Representatives on Boards of Education: Policy into Practice (REYL, PYB, ISA, AGP)**

An open forum for student to share their experiences on a board of education as elected representatives of their student body.

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

**E1 Sports, Clubs, Trips and Big Bucks: How to Avoid the Perils of Mismanagement of School Activity Funds (PYB)**

Recently, there have been several high profile cases of mismanagement of, and even embezzlement from, school activity funds. This workshop will focus on both the legal and practical issues involved in the management and control of these funds, which can hold millions of dollars each year.

**Presenters:** Christine Chinni, Attorney, Chinni & Meuser LLC  
Craig Meuser, Attorney, Chinni & Meuser LLC  
Joseph Macary, Superintendent, Wolcott Public Schools

**E2 The Operational Audit: Look Before You Leap! (PYB)**

Is your district contemplating an Operational Audit? Some communities are asking Boards of Education to conduct an outside review of its operations with an eye to finding efficiencies and cost savings. Fairfield Public Schools recently completed such an Audit. We will share the costs (monetary and non-monetary) and benefits of this experience, as well as some of the unintended negative consequences of the Audit that other districts can mitigate or avoid.

**Presenter:** David Title, Superintendent, Fairfield Public Schools

- E3 Reforming Seniority-Based "Last In, First Out" Layoff Rules to Promote Student Achievement (REYL, PYB, ISA)**  
"Reduction-in-force" provisions in most educator contracts mandate "last-in, first-out" (LIFO) layoffs. With the economic crisis necessitating unprecedented layoffs, these policies have come under close scrutiny. This seminar will discuss political and legal reform efforts at the federal, state, and local level, focusing on strategies for reform in Connecticut.  
**Presenters:** Anne Littlefield, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Kevin Roy, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP  
Christopher Tracey, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP
- E4 Reaching Out - Community Engagement in the 21st Century (PYB)**  
As a key element in its Strategic Plan, the Ledyard Board of Education has used a variety of methods to engage community members and solicit input regarding the schools. The Board has conducted several successful public forums to explain issues and request community feedback from stakeholders on matters ranging from school consolidation to education financing. In addition, the district has used a range of modern communication devices to conduct surveys, notify parents of emerging developments, and inform the public regarding routine matters.  
**Presenters:** Sharon Hightower, Board Chair, Ledyard Board of Education  
Michael Graner, Superintendent, Ledyard Public Schools
- E5 Paperless Classrooms: Using Technology to Improve Student Learning (ISA, AGP)**  
This workshop will illustrate how the use of appropriate technology can improve classroom instruction and student achievement. Through the implementation of paperless classrooms, a school system can reduce costs and create an authentic (online) learning environment. Learn how students and teachers collaborate through various online applications to attain Cheshire Public Schools "21st Century performance standards."  
**Presenter:** Tom Lewoc, Science Educator, Cheshire High School
- E6 An Introduction to International Board Examination Systems and the Pilot for the Cambridge International Board Examination System (ISA, AGP)**  
Public Act 10-111 authorizes the State Department of Education to establish a Board Examination System (BES) pilot program in Connecticut. This session will provide an introduction to BES and provide an overview of the Cambridge Board Examination System being piloted during the 2011-2013 school years in CREC high schools. CREC is currently the only district in CT partnering with the National Center of Education and the Economy (NCEE) in the pilot. Board Examination Systems are comprehensive programs that include well defined course syllabi, curriculum aligned to internationally benchmarked standards, as well as to the Common Core State Standards, high quality instructional materials, a system of student supports and professional development to support teachers. The "lower division" provides a "move on when ready" option for students to earn a diploma at the end of 10th grade by successfully completing the program and passing the internationally benchmarked board examinations. This option allows a student to enter directly into a credit-bearing open admission college or university without the need for remedial coursework. Students who choose to remain in high school for the 11th and 12th grade would participate in a rigorous "upper division" BES program to prepare for acceptance into more selective colleges and universities.  
**Presenters:** Barbara Beaudin, Associate Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education  
Sarah Barzee, Assistant Executive Director, CREC  
Anne McKernan, Assistant Director of Magnet Schools, CREC  
Andy Skarzynski, Principal, Medical Professions and Teacher Preparation Academy, CREC

**F1 Educating Children for the 21st Century: An Introduction to the RULER Approach (REYL, ISA)**

This presentation gives an overview of how The RULER Approach to Social and Emotional Learning helps children develop skills to be successful in the 21st Century. The RULER Approach aligns with leading economists in our nation who argue that investing in the social and emotional development of children is a cost-effective approach to increasing the quality and productivity of the workforce through fostering motivation, perseverance, and self-control. In this workshop we will discuss how integrating this social and emotional learning program will help schools prepare children to compete in an increasingly global and competitive society, equip them to establish supportive relationships with others, resolve conflict in positive ways, and prevent their use of drugs, alcohol, and other behaviors that threaten their health and well-being.

**Presenters:** Marc Brackett, Research Scientist, Yale University  
Fran Rabinowitz, Superintendent, Hamden Public Schools

**F2 Secondary School Reform: Implementing the Capstone Project (ISA)**

This workshop session will provide attendees with an overview of the Capstone Project as it relates to Secondary School Reform. Participants will learn how the CREC district implemented this into our schools as a graduation requirement and how it has evolved during the seven years it has been in place.

**Presenters:** Linda Darcy, Capstone Coordinator, CREC  
Anne Marie Mancini, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, CREC

**F3 What Board Members Need to Know About School District Budgets**

**Presenters:** Richard Carmelich, Business Manager, Plainville Public Schools  
Jack Levine, Director of Financial Services, Region #5 Public Schools

**G1 International Exchanges: Providing Relevance for Foreign Language Study (ISA, AGP)**

This workshop will provide information on how to develop a durable relationship with an international partner school or town. It will also examine the positive impacts of exchange travel such as, student performance, Connecticut's position in a global community, and enhanced business development. We will explore how family-stay/community-oriented exchanges can make travel affordable and reduce possible student misbehavior.

**Presenters:** Mark Foster, French Teacher and Exchange Coordinator, Waterford High School  
Zachary Sanders, UCONN Student; Assistant Clerk, Connecticut State Appropriations Committee

**G2 Instilling a Culture of Professionalism for Your Board - The Creation and Use of a Board Member Handbook to Establish Board Norms and Expectations (PYB)**

Boards of Education often are hampered in their work of providing a quality education for their students by organizational and personal issues within the Board itself. The first challenge for every Board is "how do we become a functional, professional leadership team that can promote and drive student achievement?" One tool utilized by the Berlin Board of Education was the development and use of a detailed, extensive Board Member Handbook, which helps create a culture of professionalism by setting out member's codes of behavior and expectations for performance, along with information on board and district work, policies, committees, and even a glossary of terms.

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

**G3 Controlling the Process: Managing the Board-Level Hearing (ISA)**

School board members are regularly called upon to preside over administrative proceedings that are required by collective bargaining agreements, state statutes or even the United States Constitution, including student expulsion hearings, student residency or transportation hearings, grievance hearings, and administrator or teacher termination proceedings. Mishandling such hearings can have serious legal ramifications, including violations of federal or state law and litigation against the school district and, in some cases, even individual Board members. This presentation will discuss Board and Administration responsibilities with respect to these hearings, including a practical discussion of common pitfalls, how to handle unexpected twists in the proceedings, and a checklist of what Board members and administrators should and should not do.

**Presenter:** Michael McKeon, Attorney, Sullivan, Schoen, Campana & Connon, LLC

**G4 Fostering Community Support for Special Education (ISA)**

Special education is a highly regulated and often complicated area for parents and school administrators to navigate. Providing effective services in this area requires considerable coordination and communication between and among a variety of educational professionals, administrators and parents. Often, parents and the public at large (not to mention Board members themselves) may have misperceptions about what special education is, and what is required of public school districts. This workshop will examine the broad requirements of the IDEA and Section 504 with a focus on how to improve the support and cooperation of parents, as well as your local community, in order to bolster student achievement.

**Presenters:** Julie Fay, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

Susan Freedman, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

Leander Dolphin, Attorney, Shipman & Goodwin, LLP

**G5 Graduation Rates and Preparing Our Students for College**

**Presenters:** TBA