



educational excellence through leadership, partnership, and innovation

Executive Director's Report May 27, 2010

NEWS

On Friday afternoon, May 7, the CAIU held its first-ever All-Staff Celebration event at Cumberland Valley's Eagle View Middle School. The event was intended to provide a means of sharing our successes from the year and also to meet annual compliance issues on subjects such as mandated reporter, confidentiality and 403(b) opportunities. Here are just two responses to this session:

- Please extend my gratitude to all the people who helped put together a very positive, wonderful, and fun program for the "All Staff Gathering." *Kathie Thomas, CAEA Negotiations Chair*
- I wanted to send you a little note to let you know how wonderful I thought yesterday was. It was great to see all the testimonies from parents and children. I think it would be great to share that with the board as well. I have to say that I even teared up a few times! Thank you and enjoy the weekend! *Heather Donovan, CAEA President*

The third and final installment of 30-minute TV shows about the CAIU produced by Senator Piccola's office is airing on local cable stations throughout May. This month's "episode" focuses on the role of technology, with footage from a recent videoconference on technology ethics featuring students from Hershey and West Perry high schools. You can access the video by going to <http://www.piccola.org/> and then clicking on the photo of students on the right side of that home page.

On May 14, the CAIU hosted an exciting Math 24 student tournament. Math 24 involves students performing mental math using cards containing four unique numerals to which they must apply operations (add, subtract, multiply and divide) which result in the answer calculating out to "24." For example, given the numbers 2, 3, 6 and 12, a student might arrive at the answer: $12 \times 3 = 36 / 2 = 18 + 6 = 24$. Many parents and teachers attended this exciting and fast-paced competition, and Senator Piccola presented the winning teams and individuals with their awards.



As a follow-up to our annual spring legislative breakfast, during which we shared with local legislators the problems and solutions associated with cyber education, several legislators or their staff members participated in a demonstration of CAIU's Capital Area Online Learning Association courses. One of our full-time cyber students shared her experience with CAOLA to illustrate how a district-based program works, and Holly Brzycki explained the pricing structure. This educational session was attended by Representative Glen Grell and staffers from Representative Delozier's office and the offices of Senators Jake Corman and Jeff Piccola. CAOLA continues to expand with the newest member this month being a charter school from Philadelphia.

The Superintendents Advisory Council (SAC) held two special subcommittee meetings this month. An ad hoc committee met with Brian Griffith and Shawn Farr to discuss

solutions for the CASA funding situation and the standing Curriculum Committee met to discuss alternative education options, the new Chapter 12 requirements for physical education and common expectations to pursue with higher education institutions with teacher preparation programs.



CAIU employees enjoyed their ninth annual recognition/retirement dinner at Harmony Hall in Middletown on May 20. Thanks to Jean Rice, Board President, for attending and sharing her reflections with the staff. Several sponsors help underwrite the event to keep the price reasonable for all employees. Pictured at left are a few of the planning committee members led by Theresa Kinsinger.

The CAIU administrative cabinet has completed seven scheduled district visits for the year (*East Pennsboro, Northern York County this past month*). In addition, I've completed my eight annual board visits this past month (*adding Susquehanna Twp and Upper Dauphin*). Administrative visits allow us to glean information about CAIU services which is then used in our annual summer planning. The Board visits are intended to provide a brief overview of CAIU programs and services and respond to any district board member questions. Each board and administrative team is visited at least once every three years.

The CAIU Team Directors have successfully completed the first two courses provided by the federal government on safety. Each director attended a full-day training and then completed the two tests associated with National Incident Management Systems (NIMS) and Incident Command Systems (ICS). Completion of this coursework is a requirement under the state's new safety audit and was provided through the grant secured by Susquehanna Twp SD on behalf of Dauphin County.

A big thanks to Rennie Borreli and Cindy Walker who organized the first-ever Champions for Children Flea Market, raising several hundred dollars for our educational foundational. We anticipate making this an annual event to coincide with the Summerdale firehouse chicken barbecue and neighborhood yard sale.

NOTIFICATION of ACTIVITIES

Upcoming Activities:

- Voluntary Staff Communications Sessions are scheduled for May 24 and 26 to discuss issues affecting the organization and staff. About 15 employees attended the session on May 24 at Hill Top Academy.
- Several CAIU administrators will be attending the PAIU Annual Conference June 2-4 in State College.
- The Higher Ed Conference on Standards-Aligned Systems scheduled for June 7-8 in Lancaster will include a panel presentation stemming from our Higher Ed Network and will include Superintendent Joe Hood from Mechanicsburg, Suzanne Fennel from Messiah College and Brian Griffith from the CAIU.
- Datesavers (*all Board members are invited to attend*):
 - June 1, 6:00 pm, Hill Top Academy – Emotional Support and CAPP Graduation
 - June 9, 7:00 pm, Enola Office – Multiple Disabilities Support Graduation
 - July 28 – Annual Champions for Children Golf Tournament

Note – I will be on vacation Thursday, June 10 through Monday, June 21.