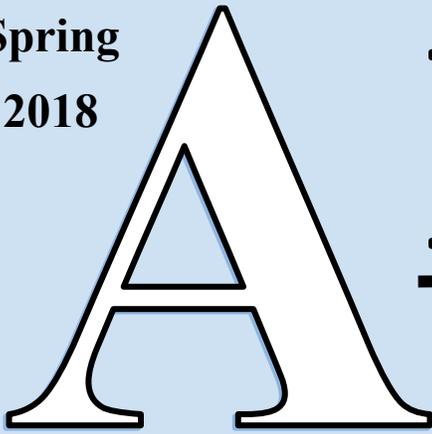


Spring  
2018



Vol. 66 No. 3

# Alabama

Elementary Administrator

## *AAESA Leaders Participate in NAESP's National Leaders' Conference*



Unified with NAESP and CLAS. Published by the Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators.  
P.O. Box 428, Montgomery, AL 36101. Jill A. Eaton, Editor.

# What a Great Year



## *Autumm Jeter* *Magnolia Elementary* *Trussville City*

What a great year we've had! I am so humbled and thankful for the opportunity to have served as our President this year. This was a year of transition

as we welcomed a new Executive Director to CLAS and Assistant Executive Director to AAESA, as well as many new officers within our association!! I heard numerous stories of how district meetings have grown this year. Even if it was only by 5-10 people, we are growing! Although this is my last few months to serve as President, I will still work to spread the message and goals of our association. I value this organization, or members, the professional learning we gain, and all that we do to "grow" leaders. Leadership is my passion and hopefully this year we've been able to ignite that same passion in our leaders all over the state!

AAESA prides itself in relationships, professional learning and effective leadership within our schools. We will continue to promote the goals of both NAESP and CLAS and encourage you to remain involved in this organization. We are a resource for all, not only as an association, but as individual Principals. I invite and encourage you to engage in school visits of your colleagues, learn innovative ideas, share best leadership practices with your Assistant Principals and attend state and national conferences to increase your knowledge base. I've learned so much from being a member of AAESA, have had numerous learning opportunities, and am thankful to be able to serve you as needed. As my term ends, please know that I am just an email or phone call away to assist you on this journey. I have many experiences over my twelve years as an administrator and want to be able to serve as a mentor to new and novice school leaders if and when needed. Let's continue to learn, serve and grow together as school leaders!!

I encourage all readers to register for our annual CLAS summer conference, as well as the NAESP national conference to be held in Orlando this summer. Engaging in discourse with other school leaders will truly be of benefit to you!

Let's keep being effective school leaders because your teachers, students and community are depending on us!! Have a great remainder of the school year and beautiful summer.



# AAESA Election Results

## Vice-President



**Charlie Gardner**

**Hokes Bluff Elementary, Etowah County**

National Distinguished Principal; Certified Instructional Leader (CIL); CLAS Board Member; Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators District V Rep; UA Superintendent's Academy; AEA.

## NAESP Representative



**Dr. Matt Kiser**

**Edgewood Elementary, Homewood City**

Member of CLAS, AAMSP, AASSP, and current member of AAESA. District IV Representative for AAESA, Co-moderator of Twitter Chat #Aledchat, Member of the ETS PRAXIS National Advisory Committee (2017, 2018).

## CLAS Board of Directors



**Frances Finney**

**Fultondale Elementary, Jefferson County**

CLAS & AAESA since 2004; Currently CLAS Board of Director; AAESA District IV; 2014 National Distinguished Principal; AAESA District IV NDP Rep.; National Certified Principal Mentor & New Principal Mentor, since 2012; Channel 42 "One Class at a Time" Grant; JefCoEd Admin. Assoc. Board, Feeder Pattern Work, Leadership Team, PLCs

## CLAS Board of Directors



**Chris Mitten**

**A. M. Windham Elementary, Daleville City**

AAESA - President 2016 - 2017; NAESP Membership Committee - 2014 - 2016; CLAS Board 2013 - 2016; Educational Leadership Center of the Wiregrass (ELCW) Fellow - 2009 - 2011; ELCW Senior Fellow 2012; AAESA - District IX President

# Soaring to New Heights with STEAM



***Bonnie Sullivan***  
***Wetumpka Elementary***  
***Elmore County***

## **Creating a Vision and Goals**

Wetumpka Elementary School is soaring to new heights this year with the implementation of a Science Technology Engineering Art Mathematics (STEAM) Based Program to serve elementary students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade. Our focus is to strengthen problem solving, collaborative, and cooperative learning skills through the curriculum. The goal for the Elmore County Public School System is to create an engaging STEAM Program that teaches students to become real problem-solvers starting at the elementary level. Students get to participate in the following activities: creating a plan, conducting research, reflecting & testing on the plan, and developing and testing the solution. Professional development has been provided so the teachers can provide effective instruction in creating STEAM lessons that will allow students to develop their skills as learner.

## **STEAM Coordinator**

Through the vision of our Superintendent, Mr. Richard Dennis, he has appointed Mr. Tracy Wright as the STEAM coordinator for Elmore County Public Schools. Mr. Tracy Wright, has implemented a vision and goal for our students which includes students becoming problem solvers, developing a thirst for success that outweighs the fear of failure, and to become real world problem solvers to expand across all disciplines in math, science, language arts, history, and writing. Mr. Wright has experience teaching and working with the curriculum at the elementary and secondary levels. He feels that it starts with building a foundation that students can thrive on as well as develop a curiosity of how to be real world problem solvers. He has provided multiple opportunities for our

professional educators to learn about teaching STEAM curriculum pieces through organizations such as NASA, Auburn University, Civil Air Patrol, and Auburn University Montgomery.

## **Partnerships**

Several partnerships have been developed throughout this year due to the development of our STEAM program. Mr. John Weis, NASA Education Specialist, provided professional development for teachers that focused on NASA's Space Program and implementation of science activities for elementary students as well as distant learning. Information Technology Solutions provided t-shirts to help our teachers with branding our new expedition in creating a SPARK Academy. Wind Creek Casino has been generous to help accommodate guests who are traveling for professional development. Dr. Lee, Associate Professor, and Dr. Cueva-Para, Head of Computer Information Systems at Auburn University Montgomery, brought a team of students to have a "Day of Coding" with our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade students that introduced them to block programming, problem solving, and will be providing training and teacher assistance in coding. We are able to move forward with future partnerships that are on going and sustainable that will include competitions and curriculum building and advancement. Susan Mallet, Civil Air Patrol, provided professional development with our teachers for educating students about aerospace curriculum. Recently, we were able to get the students and faculty excited about this partnership by flying over the school. Mrs. Carol Foster, Instructional Technology Specialist at Auburn University, provided resources to enhance STEAM instruction: Google classroom, Padlet, and lesson plan development. She is an on-going partner in helping our school support the sustainability of the STEAM program.

## **SPARK/STEAM Collaboration Meetings**

We began this adventure by first understanding that change is hard but we must focus on having a 3

# Soaring to New Heights with STEAM cont'd

positive to 1 negative ratio. We started a book study, "Growth Mindset" that allows for the faculty to work through the process of changing their mindset while moving the school forward with STEAM instruction. The SPARK teachers focus on making sure the following is included in lesson plans: science standards, technology standards, engineering standards, art standards, and mathematical standards. This helps the teachers develop a deeper understanding of the standards as well as preparing students for standardized testing. We are also working toward becoming a one-to-one device by purchasing as many chrome books as possible for grades 2-4 to help promote STEAM development. The leadership team provides guidance and support to the faculty as well as communicating to all stakeholders. STEAM projects may be in addition to the normal curriculum or used to enhance the educational process. It is important to maintain business partnerships for support from community members working with students to also maintaining resources.

Schools have a significant impact on economic development for their region. Educating students for future jobs is extremely important. Waiting until high school is essentially too late to be able to influence student career path, therefore Elmore County is finding more aggressive ways to encourage students at an early age to pursue the ever-growing types of careers in STEAM fields.



Mrs. Susan Mallet (Civil Air Patrol), Mr. Richard Dennis (Superintendent of Elmore County Public Schools), Dr. Bonnie Sullivan (Principal Wetumpka Elementary), Mr. Tracy Wright (STEAM Coordinator), and Mr. Christopher Hamm (Pilot)



# Federal Relations



*David Fancher*

*Retired*

Your state leaders have just returned from NAESP's National Leaders Conference In Washington D.C. Part of this conference

is to meet with our Senators, Congressmen and their staffs to discuss the needs of public education. For some reason, something dramatic always seems to happen when your leaders go to the hill. Last year, there were shots fired outside the Congressional office building. This year, it was a blizzard that shut the government down. Despite the shutdown, our Senators and Congressmen made it into their offices and were able to keep their appointments with our State Leaders.

Discussions covered the need for Title II funding, school safety, opposition to diverting any public funds for school choice, Title I and IDEA funding among other topics. One of the key points that was stressed was for AAESA and CLAS to be a resource to them on educational topics. As you can imagine, school safety was one of the big items discussed. Education leaders and the federal government have faced many challenges together. The issue of school safety will be one of the most challenging ones yet. There are so many strong opinions on what should be done and who should do it that make it a very complex issue. Some of our representatives want to make schools "hard" targets by increasing security and infrastructure. Some of these proposals involve using armed and trained school staff as one of the measures. Other proposals look at the need for research into effective methods to prevent school violence and the need for mental health resources in our schools. This is something everyone must work together on to reach solutions that keep schools safe. Who knows better about school safety than you, the school administrator? You need to share your thoughts and ideas with those that will be developing the policies and laws about this. Secretary DeVos is chairing the federal committee on this and appears to be limiting the

members of the committee to only federal groups such as Homeland Security.

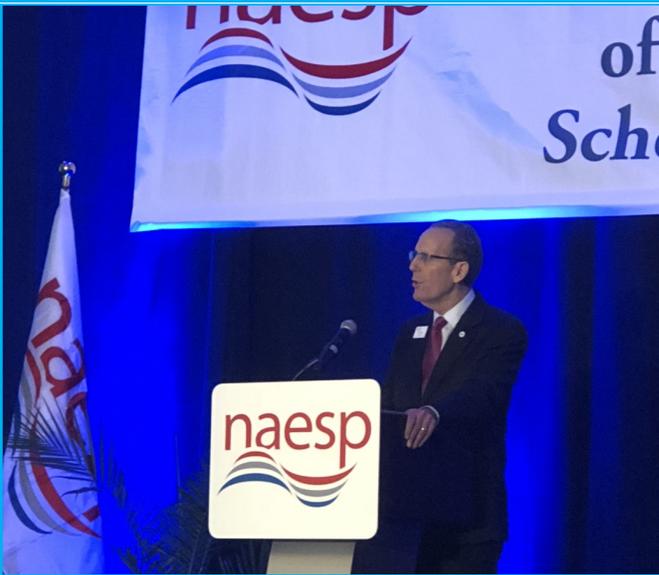
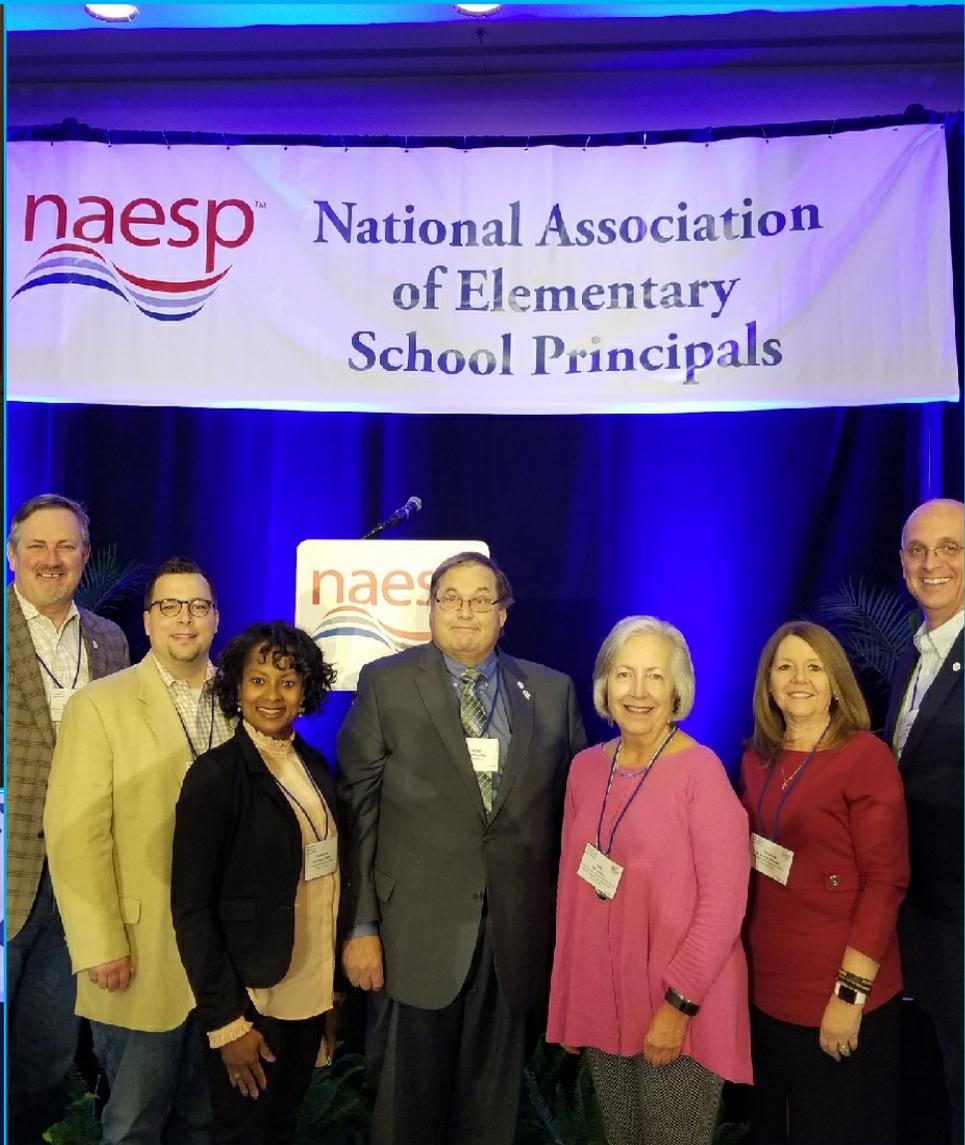
NAESP makes getting your voice heard an easy process. Sign into your account on the NAESP website and click the advocacy tab. From there it will give you all of the contact information for your Congressmen and Senators. Our representatives want to hear from you and will respond to you. Along these lines, newly elected Senator Doug Jones has been appointed to the Senate education committee. Please congratulate him on his election and share your thoughts with him. His vote on the committee is a very powerful voice for Alabama schools.

The omnibus budget bill for FY 2018 has just been passed and signed into law by the President. This budget is seen as the most favorable budget for education in the last five years. For the 2018 budget, discretionary funding has been increased by 63 billion and education got a share of this increase. Funding levels for 2018 are; Title I \$300 million increase to \$15.8 billion, Title II flat funded, Title IV \$700 million increase to \$1.1 billion, and IDEA \$275 million increase to \$12.3 billion. This budget was supported by all of Alabama's elected official except for two. Congressman Brooks and Palmer voted against the bill

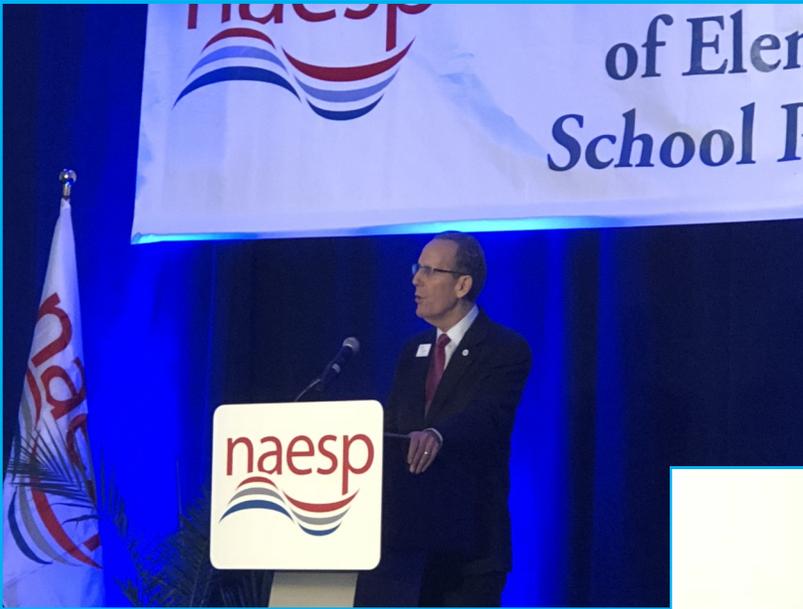
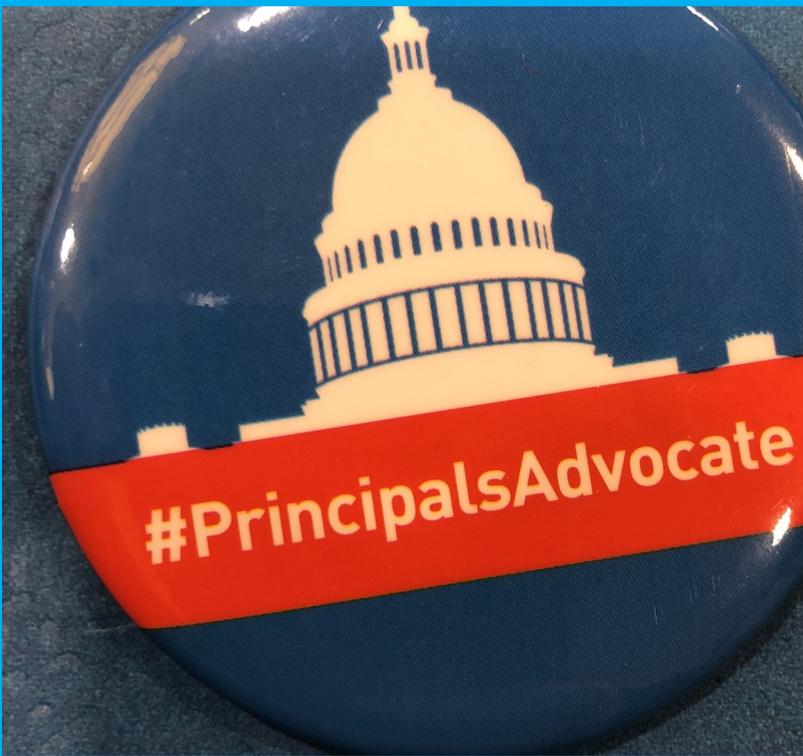
NAESP has hired a new assistant director of policy and advocacy, Danny Carlson. New to NAESP is an Advocacy Update Video, but Alabama principals should be familiar with the format from the past. These monthly videos will keep you in touch and updated in a timely manner. They are located under the advocacy tab on the NAESP website. Follow Danny on twitter @dannycarlson or NAESP's website to see these updates and more information on what is happening on the federal front.

An interesting quote from the conference was, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." AAESA, NAESP and CLAS work diligently to make sure that Alabama principals and the needs of their schools and students are "at the table". Do your part by becoming active and involved.

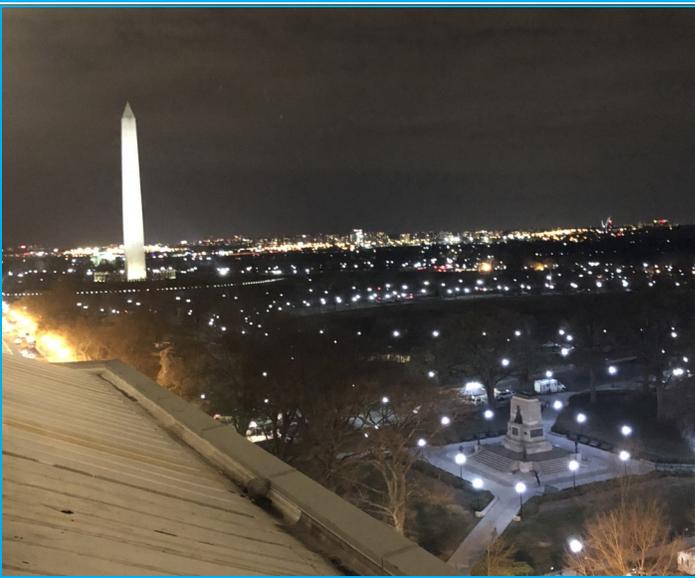
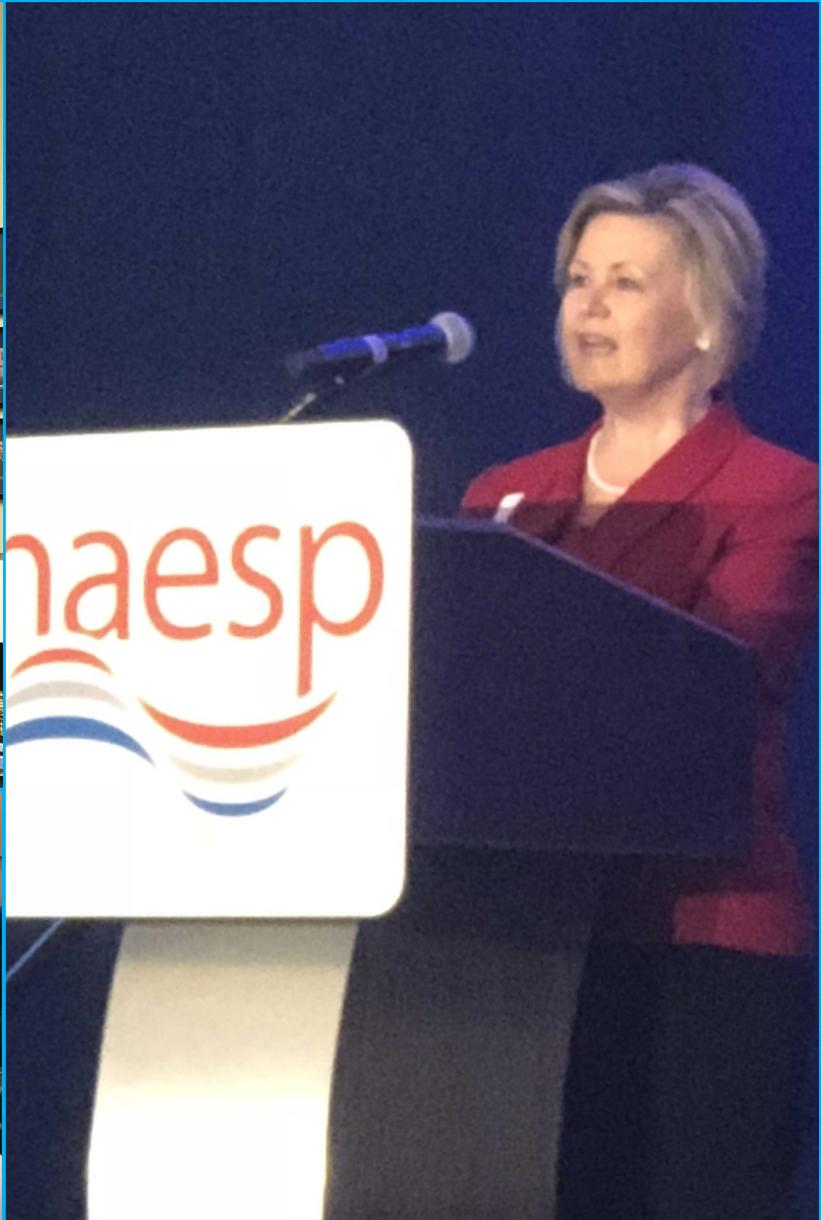
# NAESP's National Leaders Conference



# NAESP's National Leaders Conference cont'd



# NAESP's National Leaders Conference cont'd



# Executive Director's Report



*Vic Wilson*  
**AAESA**  
*Executive Director*

Greetings everyone,

Wow! Time Flies when you are having fun! We have had a very busy and very productive time at CLAS. The highlight this month has

been the announcement of Waller Martin from Enterprise Early Education Center as the National Distinguished Principal for Alabama! Waller has done a fabulous job of leading the youngest learners in the Enterprise City Schools. AAESA and CLAS are happy to recognize him for the great job he continues to do on a daily basis. He will now represent Alabama at the National Conference next fall and be recognized with great elementary principals from around the country. Join me in congratulating Waller.

We also had a very busy time in the legislature, and I encourage you to take the time to read the update below. We have spoken against bills that, if passed, could have had a negative impact on the Educational Trust Fund. We called a public hearing on a bill that sought to arm teachers and thankfully that did not pass. We had the 2nd CLAS Hill Day with several members coming to Montgomery to advocate for public education. Stay tuned for a full update on this next Friday.

Our CLAS Banner Awards Banquet was held in Prattville, AL. This luncheon honored the 24 CLAS Schools of Distinction and we recognized the Banner School winners from each state board district. We are thrilled to have an outstanding group of schools honored, and we look forward to showcasing the amazing things going on in every corner of our state. As always, Alyssa Godfrey has some great pictures and videos of this event to share.

As March quickly comes to a close, and the temperatures begin to rise, we at CLAS understand our role in providing continuing support for you on a regular basis. We had the Aspiring Administrator Conference, Culture Change, Leadership Institutes, and Lunch & Learns and more on the horizon for you. We also continue to work on enhancing our professional learning offerings for next year and the years to follow. As always, if you have topics that we need to cover, don't hesitate to let us know.

Thank you for all you do for your students and everyone under your care!

Sincerely,  
Vic

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The legislature completed the 24th, 25th, and 26th legislative days this week. The week was full of tension, debate, and late nights at the state house. Most thought it would be a two-day week, with Wednesday as Sine Die. Instead Wednesday turned out to be a late night, both chambers adjourned before dealing with the ETF budget and other key legislation. Thursday morning the Senate convened, passed the ETF budget, and immediately adjourned Sine Die at 9:30 a.m. The House worked until 1:00 p.m. before they adjourned Sine Die. At the end of the 2018 Legislative Session here is a look at the status of bills CLAS has tracked:

### Bills Signed Into Law:

#### **HB69 (Rep. Standridge) Competitive Bid Law**

Under existing law, all portions of a public works project are required to be bid and otherwise comply with the public works law. This bill would allow for certain exceptions for contracting for the purchase and installation of heating or air conditioning units or systems for county, municipal, and local school board entities when the purchase and installation of the units or systems have been competitively bid pursuant to the purchasing cooperative and the bid process has been approved by the Department of Examiners of Public Accounts.

#### **HB71 (Rep. Collins)**

Provides qualifications for the Secretary of Early Childhood Education.

#### **HB366 (Rep. Knight) – Cyberbullying**

The bill would expand current law to include student-against student bullying, intimidation, violence, and threats of violence off school property. It specifically includes cyberbullying in the definition of bullying. Names the statute Jamari Terrell Williams Act.

#### **SB101 (Sen. Orr) Gifted or Talented Children**

Grants for educational programs provided by State Department of Education, local match required.

#### **SB149 (Sen. Scofield) Rural Broadband**

Creates a grant program to encourage broadband Internet services to unserved, mostly rural, areas in Alabama. The grant program will be administered by the Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs. ADECA will develop plans and rules for the program and ADECA also will establish priorities for the grants, including wiring areas without

access. Accountability language was added in committee including a requirement to produce quarterly reports.

#### **[HB194](#) and [HB202](#) (Rep. Weaver)**

Palliative End of Life Individual Health Plans and Palliative End of Life Individual Health Plans to be used in a school setting.

#### **[SB21](#) (Sen. Dial) 13th CHECK**

This bill authorized legislation that allows a 13th check for education retirees based on number of years times \$1 per month. The funding comes from the PEEHIP Savings and Reserve account. The cost of this 13th check is \$24.7 million. This bill passed Senate unanimously on Wednesday.

#### **[SB318](#) (Sen. Orr) Alabama Data Breach Notification Act**

The bill creates the Data Breach Notification Act to require certain entities doing business in Alabama to disclose to consumers if their personal data has been compromised in a data breach.

#### **Bills Waiting for the Governor's Signature:**

#### **[HB175](#) (Rep. Poole) – ETF Budget**

Tuesday, the conference committee met. The conference committee members were Senator Orr, Senator Singleton, Senator Stutts, Representative Tuggle, Representative Poole, and Representative Scott. K-12 appropriations remain the same, Higher Education portion has changes, at-risk money is now split 50/50, and seven language changes in the conference committee budget. After this bill becomes law a copy of the spreadsheet and bill will be posted on the CLAS Legislative Update website.

#### **[HB179](#) – Education Advancement and Technology Fund Supplemental Appropriation.**

Allows funds in the Education Trust Fund Advancement and Technology Fund to be used for school security, in addition to the allowed expenditure categories in the law. The one-time appropriation, if expended for school security, would be restricted to things included in the school's current security plan. Waiting for the Governor to sign it.

#### **[HB180](#) (Rep. Poole) Supplemental Appropriation**

This bill makes a supplemental appropriation from the Education Trust Fund to the Department of Veterans' Affairs and makes a supplemental appropriation from the Education Trust Fund to the State Department of Education for the Alabama School of Cyber and Engineering for fiscal year ending September 30, 2018.

#### **[HB261](#) (Rep. Lovvorn)**

This bill creates the Alabama Math and Science Teacher Edu-

cation Program (AMSTEP) and authorizes ACHE to administer the loan repayment awards to eligible public-school math and science teachers in underserved areas of Alabama. The bill was amended. The amendment requires an evaluation of the effectiveness of the commission be conducted every four years and be based on a survey of certain specified entities.

#### **[SB26](#) (Sen. Chambliss/Rep. Beckman) Juvenile Sex Offender**

Notification provided to school of low-risk sex offender expanded to include local superintendent of education, school is required to report to local law enforcement, state board of education is required to develop and local board of education to adopt of model policy for monitoring juvenile sex offenders in school.

#### **[SB212](#) (Sen. Orr) Establish the Alabama Cyber Engineering School**

The bill creates the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering in Huntsville. It provides for the membership, powers, compensation, and terms of the board of trustees; provides for programs and the operation of the school; provides for extracurricular activities; prescribes eligibility requirements; and appropriation of \$1,500,000 from the ETF to the school.

#### **[SB323](#) (Sen. Pittman) Amend ETF Rolling Reserve Act**

This bill amends the ETF Rolling Reserve Act to allow funds in the Education Advancement and Technology fund to be used for school security, in addition to the allowed expenditure categories in the law. School systems must submit requests to the SDE for verification that the use of funds is within allowable ATF parameters. The Governor sent the bill back with executive amendments. The Senate and House concurred with the amendment. The Governor's amendment allows the Education Trust Fund Budget Stabilization Fund to be used to provide temporary emergency assistance funding to the public schools and institutions of higher education to repair damages resulting from a natural disaster declared by the Governor. It requires repayment in two years, if not paid in two years, interest will be accrued at the rate of 8% annually until the full amount plus interest is repaid. Upon receipt of insurance proceeds the first payment of proceeds has to go to the repayment. [Click here to read the Governor's amendment.](#) The bill waits for the Governor's signature.

#### **Bills Failed to Pass:**

#### **[HB1](#) (Rep. Hanes) and [SB2](#) (Sen. Shelnett) Skinny DROP/EIRP**

Provides a deferred retirement option plan for Tier I and Tier II members.

**[HB70](#) (Rep. Collins)**

Adds four non voting members to SBE. Past/Current TOYS, Boys State Delegate, and Girls State Delegate. SDE staff member assigned as liaison between the Board and State Superintendent of Education.

**[HB189](#) (Wilcox)**

State Dept. of Education and Alabama Dept. of Rehabilitation Services, to consult with Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind to select language developmental milestones and monitor and track progress of deaf and hard-of-hearing children.

**[HB225](#) (Rep. Hill) Juvenile Justice**

Provisions relating to the juvenile justice system substantially revised, adoption of policies for absenteeism and school misconduct required, and creates the Juvenile Justice Reinvestment Fund.

**[HB236](#) (Rep Pettus) School Resource Officer Qualifications**

Under existing law, a local board of education may contract with a local chief of police or sheriff to employ school resource officers. This bill would authorize a local board of education to also employ as a school resource officer a person who retired in good standing from a federal or state agency with at least 25 total years of law enforcement experience.

**[HB250](#) (Rep. Coleman-Madison)**

Under existing law any incorporated municipality in the state with a population of 5,000 or more may establish a city board of education. The bill would increase the minimum population to 25,000, require SDE determine the financial capability of a city to sustain a school system before the city could establish a city school system.

**[HB435](#) (Rep. Ainsworth)**

Teachers Authorized to Carry Firearms.

**[HB447](#) (Rep. Collins) School Safety and Security Taskforce**

Reconstitutes the Alabama Taskforce on School Safety and Security, requires the task force to annually study the education and safety laws, rules, and policies of the state, and make legislative recommendations to the Legislature when necessary.

**[SB11](#) (Sen. Brewbaker)**

Memorial Preservation Act, prohibition against renaming of certain schools and exempts all schools located on public property from act.

**[SB24](#) (Sen. Albritton)**

A constitutional amendment that would make the State Board of Education appointed by State Superintendent of Education, and State Superintendent of Education appointed by Governor and made a member of the Governor's cabinet with confirmation by the Senate.

**[SB25](#) (Sen. Albritton)**

Membership of the State Board of Education revised and changed from elected to appointed by State Superintendent of Education, State Superintendent of Education changed from appointed by State Board of Education to by Governor.

**[SB102](#) (Sen. Orr)**

Prohibiting Colleges and Universities, local boards of education, schools from using public funds to advocate for or against ballot measures.

**[SB202](#) (Sen. Bussman)**

12-year depreciation schedule for school buses.

**[SB280](#) (Sen. Brewbaker)**

County Superintendent of Education required to be appointed unless provided otherwise by constitution.

**[SB292](#) (Sen. Hightower)**

Constitutional amendment that proposed combining the ETF and General Fund budgets.

**[SB391](#) (Sen. Melson)**

Allows public schools to offer elective courses focusing on the study of the Bible in grades six to 12, and allows public school to display artifacts, monuments, symbols, and text related to the study of the Bible if displaying these items is appropriate to the overall educational purpose of the course. The State Department of Education would adopt rules and policies to implement the requirements of the bill.

**WHAT'S NEXT?**

The Governor has 10 days to act on bills sent to her on the last day of the legislative session. If she does not sign the bills, they will be pocket vetoed.

Once the 10 day time limit runs out, all bills tracked by CLAS which have been enacted, will be included in a FINAL UPDATE with links to all legislation.

**Adjourn Report** - The House and Senate adjourned Sine Die Thursday, March 29, 2018.

**[View All Bills CLAS Tracked](#)**

# Professional Learning: Membership has its Advantages



***Rickey Darby***  
***AAESA Assistant***  
***Executive Director***

CLAS and our affiliate, AAESA, annually provide opportunities to attend professional learning and earn

PLU's. This is delivered in several different formats. On-site trainings may include half-day, full-day, or multiple-day opportunities for professional learning. In addition, there are publications and convenient electronic deliveries for administrators when they are unable to leave their school building.

Over the last few months, I have had the opportunity to attend Leadership Institutes in Huntsville, Mobile, and Hoover. As a subscriber to the Leadership Series with CLAS, your system can send unlimited administrators and teachers for half day professional learning on timely topics. CLAS strives to ensure convenience by offering repeated sessions in Mobile, Prattville, and Huntsville. There is one session remaining for this year. The final session will be in April with the topic, Disrupting Poverty: How Schools Do It. These sessions provide opportunities for administrators to take teachers to hear presentations to share with their staffs.

There are two remaining electronic sessions for this year of the forty-five-minute, Lunch and Learn Series. In April, the topic will be Essential Elements of Effective Communication. This year's sessions end in May with the topic Refining Conflict Resolution Skills. These are valuable opportunities for professional learning without leaving your building.

Recently, I was involved in the two-day assis-

tant principal conferences in Orange Beach, Huntsville, and Prattville. We had approximately 250 assistant principals from across the state attend and hear inspiring speakers with relevant messages. These informative leadership sessions were presented by experts in their field and included topics such as modeling leadership, documentation and feedback, dealing with resistant staff, special education, and de-escalating crisis situations. If the assistant principal in your building has not attended this opportunity for professional learning, watch for the dates of next year's conference.

This summer the CLAS Convention will be June 10-13<sup>th</sup> at the Mobile Convention Center. The theme of this year's convention is "Leadership: Powered By What Matters." The scheduled keynote speakers include Will Bowen, Rehema Ellis, and Kevin Elko. The CLAS staff is working hard to ensure that this convention is an informative conference where all administrators can come together and participate in sessions for professional learning and networking opportunities with other administrators from Alabama and can earn PLU's.

In July the NAESP National Conference will be held July 9-11<sup>th</sup> at the Orlando World Center Marriott. This all-in-one conference center houses both hotel and convention center in one convenient location. Check out the hotel website to see the lagoon pools, slides and night-time laser shows [www.orlandoworldcentermarriott.com](http://www.orlandoworldcentermarriott.com). This conference will be a great opportunity to add a family vacation while you are in Orlando. The convention keynote speakers include Sean Covey, Sal Khan, and Daniel Pink. The content strands this year include the following: High Leverage Instructional Leadership, Creating Positive Culture, Climate, and Community, Transform-

# Professional Learning: Membership has its Advantages

ing Schools, Innovative Technology and Social Media, Effective Staff Development, and Leading Early Childhood Programs (Pre-K—3). The NAESP staff led by Gail Morgan, formerly of CLAS, has prepared an informative conference of professional learning to meet the needs of all administrators. The organization's website, [www.naespconference.org](http://www.naespconference.org), contains more information and details about the conference. In addition to the professional learning opportunities from numerous breakout sessions, you will be able to network with other administrators from across the country.

Another benefit to membership in AAESA is the opportunity to apply for the Glenys Mason NAESP Convention Scholarship. This \$800 scholarship is available to AAESA members who have never attended a NAESP Convention. The scholarship is awarded to help pay for the expense of attending the convention. This year's winner is Laura Tate, the assistant principal of instruction at Edgewood Elementary in Homewood City Schools. She wrote in her essay that one of the most beneficial aspects of the conference is to connect with other leaders. Through her membership she has been granted the opportunity to further her professional learning. Congratulations Laura!

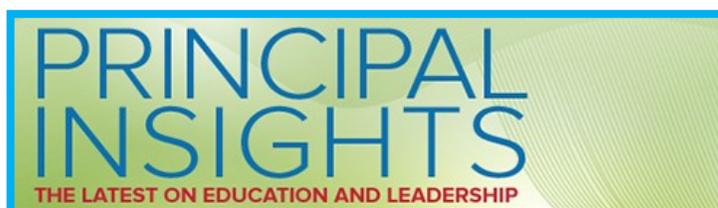


This fall our professional organization will host the AAESA Fall Conference at the Perdido Beach Resort on Nov. 11-14, 2018. You will receive more information in the future. Mark your calendars for this professional development opportunity with other elementary administrators from across Alabama.

Members also have the opportunity for professional learning from the publications provided by NAESP. These publications meet the needs of today's school leaders. *Principal Insights* (formerly *Before the Bell*) is NAESP's twice-weekly electronic newsbrief which provides the perfect mix of stories to keep you both informed and equipped to lead your school. As a member you can receive the latest in leadership. *Principal*: NAESP's award-winning magazine is written specifically for K-8 principals. Members receive a printed edition and have full access to archived issues.

Membership does have its advantages when it comes to professional learning. Being involved in your professional organization which aligns with your daily role allows you the opportunity to learn and grow together.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Helen Keller



# Meet Your District I Representative



**Tricia Culpepper**  
**Cullman City Primary School**  
**Cullman City**

My name is Tricia Culpepper and I am currently the District One Representative. I have been in the Cullman City School System since 1990 and served as a first grade

teacher, fourth grade teacher, reading interventionist and curriculum coach. For the past 12 years, I have served as the principal and Head Start Director of Cullman City Primary School. Cullman City Primary School is home to 6 pre-k classrooms, 13 kindergarten classrooms and 12 first grade classrooms.

I didn't begin my career in education immediately following college. I graduated in 1987 from the University of Alabama with a B.S. in marketing and moved to Raleigh, North Carolina to work as a sales representative for a paper company. Within a year, I was engaged to my husband, Tim Culpepper and we married and moved to Montgomery, Alabama. Tim graduated from law school at Alabama and was clerking for a Supreme Court Justice. During my time in Raleigh, I met a young teacher and would visit her classroom. I felt that I had missed my calling. I enrolled at AUM in the alternative master's program. We moved back to Cullman in 1990 and I began my career with Cullman City Schools.



Later, I earned my Education Specialists degree in elementary education as well as my reading specialist certification. In 2006, I earned my administrative certificate and was hired as the principal of Cullman City Primary School in 2006. My staff at CCPS are wonderful people and I feel like we have a great family that serves our students' needs every day. We earned the IRA exemplary reading award for Alabama in 2012 and I was honored to receive the Marbury award in 2013. I feel very fortunate to work for such a progressive school system and I have had the good fortune to have worked with wonderful Superintendents and accomplished teachers from whom I have learned so very much. The CCPS teachers are an excellent group and make my job an easy one! One of the most meaningful practices that we do is host a number of visitors from other schools in our area. It is wonderful to see teachers collaborating and learning from one

another. In the past few years, I have become a national certified mentor principal. I have had the pleasure of working with several people that are now serving in administrative roles. This has been so gratifying to me to help someone else succeed in his or her career.



My husband Tim has recently moved from the practice of law to Cullman Electric Cooperative as General Counsel and VP of administrative services. This has been a wonderful career move for Tim and our family. We have two grown children, our daughter, Mary Louise Haycraft, is married and lives in Clarksville, Tennessee with her husband, James, a helicopter pilot and 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in the Army. Mary and James, both Ole Miss grads were married on the campus of Ole Miss last spring. Our son Jack is a senior at the University of Alabama. Jack has provided us with great memories during the past four years as he has served as a manager for the Alabama football team. He provided us with tickets to the last three national championships, SEC championships, home and away games. We have felt like literally a part of the team with all of our travels these past few years. He graduates this summer and we look forward to seeing what his next venture will be in football.

In my spare time, I do manage to have a few hobbies. These include baking cakes, entertaining, reading and gardening. I also love dogs (easy) and growing orchids (more difficult). I enjoy being the District One Representative and hope that I can work with everyone in our area to make our District a more involved and connected one.



# Meet Your District II Representative



***Veronica Coleman***  
***Chastang-Fournier K-8 School***  
***Mobile County***

My name is Veronica Coleman, and I am a lifelong resident of Mobile, Alabama. I am a product of The Mobile County Public School System where I, currently, serve as Principal of Chastang-Fournier K-8 School. This is my 11th year as a Principal and 21<sup>st</sup> in education. Previously, I taught First Grade for seven years, served as Achievement Specialist for two years and an Assistant Principal for one year.

I earned my BS (1997) in elementary education with a dual certification in early childhood education, a M.Ed. (2000), and my admin certification (2003). I am the middle of five siblings, I've been married for 16 years to Hershel L. Coleman Jr. we have two beautiful daughters, Karmyn 14 years old, and Kaydence 4 years old. Yes, they are exactly 10 years apart.



In my downtime, I enjoy reading the Bible, and spending time with family. I am a child from the inner city

whose parents were both blue collar workers. Hard work was instilled in me from a very young age. I believe that GOD purposed for me to make sure every child receives love and a quality education regardless of their environment.

I'm known to be very passionate, humble, and unafraid of a challenge no matter how difficult it may appear. This was shown this school term when I agreed to move from Collins-Rhodes Elementary after 9 years of service to my current assignment at Chastang-Fournier K-8 in the middle of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. I look at this opportunity to show how GOD will provide, guide, and equip me with everything needed to ensure the students receive love, and a quality education. In my spare time, I can be found attending Bible study, serving as superintendent of church school, and relaxing at home.

I'm enjoying my tenure as District II Rep. I've met some amazing people and learned a lot from them. I look forward to continuing to represent District II and sharing my colleague's stories with everyone.

My personal mission is found in Luke 12:48, "To whom much is given, much is required" I believe that GOD has given each of us gifts and duties that we must use to help others until HE returns.



# Meet Your District VII President



***Mary Patton***  
***Southview Primary***  
***Mobile County***

Dr. Mary Patton serves as the principal of Southview Primary School. All eighteen years of Mary's career in education have been with the Opelika City Schools.

Mary received her bachelor's degree from Huntingdon College and began her teaching career at Southview Primary School. She spent 2 years as a Title I teacher, 3 years as a first grade teacher, and 8 years as a second grade teacher. While teaching, she received a master's degree in Elementary Education from Troy University, earned National Board Certification, and received an additional master's degree in Instructional Leadership from Auburn University. Mary moved from the classroom to her administrative role five years ago. Last year, she completed her doctorate in Administration of Supervision and Curriculum at Auburn University. Her dissertation focus was driven by the use of Gary Chapman's *Five Love Languages* in the classroom.

Mary grew up in Opelika, Alabama and is a proud graduate of Opelika High School. She values her community and has been a part of revitalizing multiple buildings in the downtown area, including her current residence, a restored cotton warehouse that sits along the railroad tracks of downtown.

Mary attends Church of the Highlands. She also serves as the treasurer of the Lee County Mountain Bike Boosters, where she has assisted as a coach of the middle school and high school mountain bike teams in the Opelika, Auburn, and Lee County area. Mountain biking is one of Mary's favorite pastimes and is how she met her fiancé, Cody. Cody is a navigation engineer at Integrated Solutions for Systems. He is an avid mountain biker and the president of C.A.M.P., the lo-

cal mountain biking organization. In addition to biking, Mary and Cody both enjoy camping, hiking, and traveling. Currently they are training for a half Ironman that will take place in Victoria, British Columbia in June. They are also planning for their wedding, which will be held in April in Brevard, North Carolina.



# CLAS Board Meeting Highlights



*Frances Finney*  
*Fultondale Elementary*  
*Jefferson County*

The CLAS Board of Directors met on December 12, 2017 at the Montgomery Prattville Marriott at Capitol Hill with forty-four board members, four staff members, and four affiliate staff members present. CLAS Board President Richard Brown, Sr. called the meeting to order.

In addition to Staff Reports listed below, the proposed Legislative Platform was added to the agenda. Under STAFF REPORTS – Dr. Vic Wilson reviewed the Professional Learning report sharing that the Secretaries Conference hosted 331 secretaries the week before. He reminded the board of upcoming professional learning events including three Assistant Principal Conferences, two Aspiring Administrator Conferences, and the Law Conference. Dr. Wilson also reminded us about the Leadership Institutes. He reported to the board that he hoped to post Gail Morgan’s position for Professional Learning Coordinator in January.

-Dr. Wilson continued with Staff Reports giving a Banner Schools Update reminding the Board about the upcoming Banner Schools Awards Banquet that is scheduled for February 26, 2018. It will be held at the Prattville Marriott. Schools from every district will be honored with eight being recognized as CLAS Banner Schools.

-Susie Ellison reported on bills CLAS will be tracking in the upcoming Legislative Session. Education Budget, a possible DROP bill, were two mentioned. Vic Wilson presented the SSA Legislative Platform for the board’s review. One change was recommended. In the Legislative Budget Priorities section, the sentence “Underfunding transportation has a disparate effect on larger, rural school systems...” the words “larger, rural” should be removed. All were invited to the upcoming Legislative Reception hosted jointly by SSA and CLAS at the RSA Plaza Terrace in Montgomery on January 9, 2018. The CLAS Board voted to approve the Legislative Platform as amended.

-Legal Defense Fund Report was given by Dr. Wilson. Most were ongoing cases or contract reviews. He reminded us to contact Katrina Akers for any legal issues.

-CLAS Convention Update was given by Vic Wilson who reported that the CLAS Convention will be in Montgomery for two years beginning in 2019, but is back in Mobile in 2018. The Exhibit Hall will be set up differently to encourage more traffic flow among our vendors. Prize giveaways will be held in these areas to also drive attendance throughout the hall.

The CLAS Board approved the Membership Report showing less members compared to the same time frame as last year. The Board members were encouraged to contact their affiliate’s members to promote membership renewals before December 31.

The Financial Statements were also approved as presented by Dr. Wilson which included an update on CLAS investment funds. He stated that the portfolio is currently the most conservative that it could be, therefore, very little growth has occurred. In the spring, Dr. Wilson will provide options for the best situation for investment funds.

Dr. Ed Richardson, Interim State Superintendent shared updates with the CLAS Board of Directors and what he hopes to accomplish during his tenure as interim. He anticipates he will be in office through the legislative session, and is very pleased with the conversations he is having concerning the education budget and possible raise. His insights were a welcome voice to hear as a dedicated voice for Alabama’s children and educators.

Dr. Vic Wilson’s Executive Director’s Report encouraging board members to intentionally communicate our view and opinions as we can make a difference in the upcoming legislative session, especially with the Report Card update shared; CLAS Organizational Review that will be sent out soon, and reminders about upcoming Leadership Award nominations that are due.

Congratulations to CLAS President Richard Brown, Sr., for winning a position on the TSA Board.



# AAESA/NAESP Membership



***Julie Pierce***  
***Fairhope Elementary***  
***Baldwin County***

*Benefits of AAESA/NAESP Partnership*

The AAESA connection with NAESP brings many opportunities and benefits.

Personally, for new members, NAESP offers a free two-year, \$60,000 term life insurance plan from Forrest T. Jones. All members have access to professional liability insurance; auto, homeowners and renters' insurance; MetLife Dental, cancer, and long-term care insurance; and term life, accident and disability plans. Learn more about these plans by visiting [www.ftj.com](http://www.ftj.com).

Professionally, webinars, workshops, trainings, and conferences abound!

- April 11 4:00-5:00 Shifting the Monkey - Presenter: Todd Whitaker
- July 9-11 NAESP Pre-K-8 Principals Conference, Orlando, FL  
Keynote Speakers: Sean Covey, Sal Khan, Daniel Pink

Politically, NAESP continues to work for strong funding for Title II-Part A that funds the preparation, training, recruiting, and retaining of highly-quality teachers, administrators. This fund is the only dedicated source of federal funding for professional learning. NAESP has advocated for support of the Recruiting and Retaining Effective School Leaders Act which provides loan forgiveness to principals who commit to serve in low-income schools. Finally, NAESP continues to help principals understand the provisions and implications of ESSA.



To find our Facebook page, search for [Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators](#) while logged in to Facebook.



To find our Twitter page, search for [@AAESACLAS](#) while logged in to your Twitter account.

## **FUTURE EVENTS**

### **CLAS Convention**

June 10-13, 2018

Mobile, AL

<http://convention.clasleaders.org/>

### **NAESP Pre-K-8**

### **Principals Conference**

July 9-11, 2018

Orlando, Florida

<http://www.naespconference.org/>



### **AAESA**

### **Fall Conference**

November 11-14, 2018

Perdido Beach Resort

Orange Beach, AL



# 5 Things

What you need to know about the Association that has your back.

The work of a principal is never done. You do it all, and you love it. But even principals require support. We want to keep you in the know about how your Association is serving you while you serve kids. Here are five things you need to know about NAESP.

## 1 Hump day will never be the same.

This fall, NAESP launched its newest FREE member benefit: Webinar Wednesdays. Each month, NAESP members will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field on a wide range of school leadership topics.

naesp™ National Association of Elementary School Principals  
Webinar Wednesdays 

## 2 NAESP and ASCA can help you build the next generation of leaders.

Inspire students in grades 4–8 through the American Student Council Association (ASCA). Advisers and principals have access to ASCA's new website, in addition to online access to information, activities, awards, and a student council store.



## 3 We support summer learning.

Ready for summer? We are, too. With the Mott Foundation, NAESP is launching the Afterschool & Summer Learning Portal. This multimedia suite of resources includes research and best practices to help you increase opportunities for all students.



## 4 Peer support for new principals is part of what we do.

Are you a new principal looking for resources on school leadership? NAESP's National Panel for New Principals provides custom support to hundreds of new principals. Join them and improve your leadership.



## 5 #NAESPChat is back.



Every month, connect with your colleagues and find practical solutions to the challenges of being a school leader. Hone your leadership skills and build a new professional learning community that will help you succeed.



*Earl Franks*  
**NAESP**  
*Executive Director*

Happy 2018 from all of us here at NAESP! Please know that daily, your NAESP staff strives to provide resources and services based on our

mission, “to lead in the advocacy and support for elementary and middle-level principals and other education leaders in their commitment for all children.” Below is an update on NAESP programs, products, and services. As NAESP members and future members, I hope you will take the time to access these valuable benefits. Hopefully these services can assist you in the important work you do for the students you serve.

## **New Opportunities**

NAESP is proud to offer new resources and opportunities to help principals hone their craft. Here is a sampling of NAESP’s offerings—all meant to help you do your job better.

**Webinar Wednesdays.** This past fall, NAESP launched its newest FREE member benefit: Webinar Wednesdays. Each month, NAESP members will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field on a wide range of school leadership topics. Archived webinars are available only to members using your NAESP log in. Learn more at [www.naesp.org/career/webinars](http://www.naesp.org/career/webinars)

**Principals of Literacy Institute.** Looking to learn more about literacy instruction? Need to expand your expertise as an instructional leader and learn how to develop and implement a strategic, schoolwide literacy plan that empowers your teachers, families, and students? Gather your leadership team and join NAESP and Scholastic for the Principals of Literacy Institute, Sept. 20-22, 2018, in Nashville. Learn more at [www.scholastic.com/principalsinstitute](http://www.scholastic.com/principalsinstitute).

**Afterschool and Summer Learning.** NAESP has partnered with the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation to offer a new portal to help principals support and champion quality afterschool and summer programs. The initiative—which launches this winter—features a special supplement to *Principal* magazine, an interactive web-based portal with

state specific tools and resources, best practice videos, and a research report. Visit <http://afterschool.naesp.org/> to learn more.

**NAESP’s Annual Conference in Orlando.** We hope you are making plans to join us for the NAESP Pre-K–8 Principals Conference, July 9-11, at the Orlando World Center Marriott. This premier professional development conference for elementary and middle-level principals will afford you the opportunity to connect with your peers, learn best practices, and have access to today’s education movers and shakers. To date, we have confirmed three keynote presenters: Sal Kahn, Daniel Pink, and Sean Covey. Visit the conference website and register today: [www.naespconference.org](http://www.naespconference.org).

**Principal Insights Delivered to Your Email.** NAESP has relaunched its bi-weekly news aggregate, *Before the Bell*, to *Principal Insights*. It’s still delivered to your email twice a week—but the new content is geared toward leadership development for principals.

**Social Media Takeover.** Every month, principals can connect with their peers to find practical solutions to the challenges of being a school leader. #NAESPChat is hosted by members of NAESP’s newly formed Digital Leadership Ambassador Program.

**Resources for Your Students.** Help build the next generation of leaders with American Student Council Association (ASCA)—NAESP’s newly relaunched program that recognizes and supports student councils across the nation for making a difference in their schools and communities. Visit the new ASCA website, [www.naesp.org/asca](http://www.naesp.org/asca), to access information, activities, awards, and a student council store. Your students will be glad you did!

## **In Case You Didn’t Know**

**NAESP Offers Legal Benefits.** NAESP offers a solution to uncertain or inadequate liability coverage: a professional liability plan with legal assistance benefits. You’ll have peace of mind knowing that if your school district doesn’t have sufficient coverage or refuses to defend you, your back-up plan is in place. Your association’s affiliation with the Trust for Insuring Educators (TIE) makes this valuable member benefit possible. Visit [www.naesp.org/membership/legal-benefits](http://www.naesp.org/membership/legal-benefits) to learn more.

**Student Awards Programs.** NAESP administers the President’s Education Awards Program (PEAP) and the American Citizenship Awards (ACA); both are now open for the 2018 awards season. These programs offer a unique opportunity for principals to reward students’ success. This year we are proud to offer two new products: graduation cords and certificate jackets for PEAP.

# The NAESP Pre-K-8 Principals Conference

Lead. Learn. Rethink.



naesp **18**

JULY 9-11 • ORLANDO, FL  
Orlando World Center  
Marriott

July 9 - 11 / Orlando World Center Marriott / Orlando, FL

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Registration Opens October 2017

NAESPCONFERENCE.ORG

# Welcome New Members

Mr. Brannon Aaron ..... Mountain Brook City  
Mr. Christopher Adams..... Morgan County  
Mr. William Alexander ..... Athens City  
Mrs. Benita Battle ..... Baldwin County  
Monique Baugh.....Mobile County  
Lisa Baxter ..... Jefferson County  
Ms. Veronica Bayles ..... Tuscumbia City  
Ms. Kimberly Bell ..... Autauga County  
Mr. David Bennett..... Fairfield City  
Claudia Bishop.....Mobile County  
Ms. Nicole Black.....Chickasaw City  
Mrs. Michelle Brakefield .....Hoover City  
Mr. Eric Bryant ..... Dekalb County  
Mrs. Twilla Burns.....Mobile County  
Kriston Cagle ..... Limestone County  
Dr. Linda Campanotta ..... Shelby County  
Mrs. Tamara Caudle..... Decatur City S  
Mr. James Chapman..... Pickens County  
Mrs. Kristi Cocke ..... Tarrant City  
Kiana Coleman ..... Homewood City  
Ms. Mary Cooper ..... Shelby County  
Felicia Corona.....Holy Spirit Catholic  
Mr. Matthew Craig..... Baldwin County  
Ms. Tonya Cupp .....Cullman County  
Ms. Janice Darty..... Elmore County  
Dr. Alicia Daugherty ..... Baldwin County  
Ms. Wilma DeYampert..... Huntsville City  
Mrs. Ira Dozier-Stallworth.....Selma City  
Mrs Rebecca Ducote ..... Baldwin County  
Ms. Derinda Duke.....Cullman County  
Ms. Leigh Ellis.....Mobile County  
Mr. Derek Ergle ..... Franklin County  
Mr. Kimberly Felton ..... Midfield City  
Mr. Stanley Givens ..... Madison City  
Ms. Melanie Glover.....St. Clair County  
Mr. Chance Goodwin ..... Gadsden City  
Dr. Jennifer Gray .....Retired  
Tracy Gregg ..... Jefferson County

Ms. Mona Griffin..... Mobile County  
Mrs. Andrea Hamner .....Tuscaloosa County  
Ms. Laura Hittson..... Mobile County  
Mr. Jay Hooks ..... Talladega County  
Lisa Hornsby..... Tallapoosa County  
Mr. Marshall Hunt ..... Mobile County  
Mrs. Angela Idel..... Phenix City  
Mrs. Theodoria Jackson..... Decatur City  
Ms. Haley James .....Limestone County  
Ms. Brenda Johnson ..... Andalusia City  
Mr. Tony Johnson ..... Cullman County  
Dr. Amy Jones ..... Lauderdale County  
Mrs. Belinda Jones.....Tuscaloosa County  
Mr. Tyrone Jones ..... Tuscaloosa City  
John Kelly..... Dale County  
Mr. Ryan Kendall.....Pike Road City  
Mrs. Anne Lambert ..... Brewton City  
Mrs. Karissa Lang ..... Hartselle City  
Ms. Pam Langford..... Tallapoosa County  
Mrs. Robbie Lauderdale .....Limestone County  
Ms. Melissa Layton ..... Enterprise City  
Mr. Albert LeBlanc ..... Birmingham City  
Mr. Earl Leonard ..... Retired  
Ms. Lisa Lothspeich.....Trussville City  
Mrs. Melissa Lusk..... Madison Academy  
Ms. Sandra Lyle.....Jefferson County  
Mrs. Phyllis Mabowitz .....Marengo County  
Mrs. Aqila Malpass ..... Hoover City  
Mr. Shawn Marsh .....Blount County  
Amanda Martinez ..... Etowah County  
Ms. Patrice Maxwell ..... Gadsden City  
Mrs. Candi McCullars..... Albertville City  
Dr. Beth McKinney..... Athens City  
Mr. James McLeod.....Jefferson County  
Mrs. Jennifer Middleton ..... Baldwin County  
Ms. Amy Moody.....Roanoke City  
Mrs. Chasity Moon ..... Russellville City  
Mrs. Brittney Morgan .....Lawrence County

# Welcome New Members

Tammy Morton .....Bibb County  
Mrs. Tonya Nolen..... Auburn City  
Ms. Carla Palmer ..... Jefferson County  
Mrs. Kendra Parker ..... Lawrence County  
Ms. Taffy Pierce..... Lawrence County  
Jonathan Posey .....Hale County  
Dr. Lucretia Prince..... Tuscaloosa County  
Dr. Quentina Pruitt.....Mobile County  
Mrs. Stephanie Quisenberry .....Enterprise City  
Ms. Cheryl Randolph..... Byrd First Class  
Early Learning Center  
Mr. Patrick Reed.....Dale County  
Mrs. Dana Rhinehart ..... Limestone County  
Mr. Rodney Richardson..... Madison City  
Dr. Wayne Richardson .....Hoover City  
Mrs. Sondra Roberts .....Mobile County  
Aimee Shiflett.....Calhoun County

Ms. Tiffany Spencer..... Decatur City  
Mrs. Brigett Stewart ..... Piedmont City  
Mrs. Deborah Stokes.....Escambia County  
Mrs. Debra Strickland..... Elba City  
Mrs. Lori Terrell..... Elmore County  
Ms. D'Andra Tingey ..... Coffee County  
Mr. Julian Todd..... Birmingham City  
Ms. Jackie Turner ..... Retired  
Dr. Janet Turner.....Cullman County  
Mr. Michael Turner ..... Jefferson County  
Dr. Alice Turney..... Hoover City  
Mr. James Walls .....Albertville City  
Mr. Norman Williams .....Macon County  
Mr. Nathan Wilson ..... Madison City  
Mr. Barry Wood..... Covington County  
Dr. Camille Wright..... Retired  
Ms. Christy Wright..... Elmore County

## Connect the Dots

Just in time for summer planning, NAESP is pleased to launch [a new portal](#) to help Pre-K–8 principals and other educators develop quality afterschool and summer learning programs that will increase opportunities for all students. Here’s four resources on the portal that will help you jumpstart your planning:

A special magazine [supplement to \*Principal magazine\*](#) will help you connect the dots between afterschool and summer programming and in-school learning. Use the magazine as a planning guide with your leadership team.

Watch [best practice videos](#) to learn how principals across the nation are leveraging afterschool and summer programs. Gain insight on programs that enhance academic opportunities, build social-emotional skills, and strengthen communities.

Link to [resources—by state](#). The portal features an interactive map of links to resources, funding information, and standards.

A survey report: “[Beyond the Classroom: What Principals Want When It Comes to Afterschool and Summer Learning.](#)” More than 1,200 principals shared what they know and think about afterschool programs. Learn elementary principals’ perspectives on out of school time programming.

Because learning doesn’t end with the school day—or year—take the time now to access resources and information to help inform and support your afterschool and summer initiatives. From getting started to finding funding to improving quality, the portal is a one-stop-shop to becoming an expert on learning beyond the school day.

*\*The development of this portal was generously funded by [The Mott Foundation](#)*

—Dateline NAESP

## District I News

District One will be having their spring meeting on February 28 at 11:30 at Tillman Hall, located on the Cullman High School Campus. Katherine Morgan from State Farm will be sponsoring a boxed lunch for attendees and after lunch, David Wiggins, Principal of East Elementary School will do a presentation about his "Gotcha" behavior program. This program has reduced office referrals by 94% in ten years and earned East Elementary a CLAS Banner School award in 2015. Tricia Culpepper, Principal of Cullman City Primary School, will do a short presentation about the implementation of Board Game Day and the positive outcomes this activity has had in her school.

Veronica Bayles, Principal of G.W. Trenholm Primary School in Tuscumbia shared about her program "Tigers Tune in on Tuesdays". Each month a new mystery reader shares their love of reading with their students. Students tune in to the Parent Volunteer Organization (PVO) Facebook page to see the identity of the mystery reader.

G.W. Trenholm won a \$3,000 Lowes Leaves of Change grant to be used for their Outdoor classroom. They began a new Art in the Afternoon program with 2nd graders to help expose them to the joys of art. Their first GWT K-2 Robotics Team will compete February 24th at a Robotics Competition at UNA.

Brooks Elementary in the Lauderdale County School System has a Lego league team! In their first competition, students were required to design a robot to complete missions related to hydrodynamics. In addition, the team developed an innovative solution to the problem of the lack of clean water after natural disasters. Brooks Pridebots qualified for state competition and received a 2nd place trophy for Gracious Professionalism, one of the core values of First Lego League.



Wilson Elementary School in Lauderdale County has implemented S.T.E.M. activities during weekly library time under the direction of Misty Buerhaus, the media specialist. Each week approximately 600 students from pre-k to sixth grade come to their library doors, eager, excited and expectant. The pictures convey the students' excitement.

At Central Elementary in Lauderdale County, the students start of every morning with fun music, stretching, shouting, and some friendly competition in the hallways! Mr. Burt Helton is the Principal at Central Elementary.

At F.E. Burleson 3rd and 4th graders participate in Friday clubs. The following clubs that students have the option to be a part of include: young men's club, art club, coding/robotics, photography and videography, environmental, journalism and chorus club. These clubs give students a choice of where their interests lie and a place to grow and learn about something that inspires them to make, create, and be a leader within our school community.



Good Hope Primary School in Cullman County Good Tiny Tribes in January. Teachers and community members lead the tribes for an hour each month on Early Release Day Clubs/tribes are as follows: Art, board games, cheer/tumble, cooking, dance, gardening, kindness, legos, photography, Raiders 4 Christ, robotics, running, science experiments, singing, scouting, Spanish, and sports.



Tricia Culpepper, Cullman City Primary

# District News Cont'd

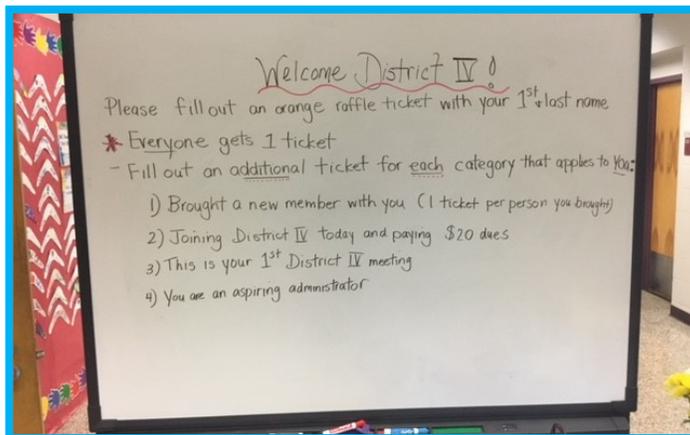
## District IV News

The Spring semester of 2018 is off to an awesome start for District IV! The first AAESA District IV meeting took place on January 25th at Rocky Ridge Elementary School. The agenda was packed with pertinent topics and information from our local chapter and across the state. In addition to a wonderful meal provided by ClassWorks, the thirty-plus educators in attendance were able to hear updates from the Alabama State Department of Education by State Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jeff Langham. During the update, Dr. Langham provided information and clarification regarding state assessments, the ESSA plan, state budget, and intervention programs. Regarding state assessments, Dr. Langham was able to report that Scantron series assessments will be used for the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school years but that the next assessment product was still to be determined. In addition, he reported that the National Assessment Center is working with members of the Alabama State Department of Education on assessments for the future. In addition to assessment discussion, conversation ensued regarding the report cards for each district and public school in Alabama. The information provided by Dr. Langham was very beneficial.



In addition to the guest speaker, Dr. Dil Uswatte, President of AAESA District IV and Principal of Rocky Ridge Elementary, brought greetings and updated educators on important news related to District IV. District IV positions were nominated and voted upon during the meeting. There are two exciting nominations in District IV this semester; Frances Finney, Principal of Fultondale

Elementary, has been nominated as the District IV nominee for the CLAS Leadership Award. In addition to this nomination, Dr. Autumn Jeter, Principal at Magnolia Elementary, is one of three finalists for the National Distinguished Principal for the NAESP. We are so proud of these two educational leaders!



Matt Kiser  
Edgewood Elementary  
Homewood City

# District News Cont'd

## District VIII News

Magnolia School in District VIII has been busy this past quarter. Magnolia School partnered with the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office to integrate the Keepin' It Real elementary curriculum for all fifth-grade students and abbreviated age-appropriate programs for other grades. Specially trained law enforcement officers partner with school staff to work toward keeping young people from using illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco. There is also an anti-bullying component within the program. The program has been very popular with students and parents. Upon completion of the program, the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office holds graduation ceremonies (pictured) to congratulate and motivate students to apply the lessons they were taught by their D.A.R.E. Officer.



Julie Pierce  
Fairhope Elementary  
Baldwin County



# District News Cont'd

## District IX News

Greetings from District Nine!! Things are very busy in our schools and there are a lot of good things happening in our part of the state. Our last meeting was a huge success, over 20 administrators attending the meeting at McLin's Restaurant in Daleville. AAESP Assistant Executive Director Ricky Darby presented the program and did an excellent job. A special thanks to Bill Miller Photography for providing the meal, a good time was had by all.

Special congratulations to Pinedale Assistant Principal Audrey Windham. Audrey was selected as our representative for Assistant Principal of the Year. We are all very proud of Audrey for representing District Nine.

Principal Waller Martin from Enterprise Early Education Center was selected 2018-2019 National Distinguished Principal of the Year. The announcement was made on Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> during a surprise school assembly. Those in attendance included CLAS Executive Director Vic Wilson and AAESP Executive Director Ricky Darby along with members of the NDP selection committee: Charlie Garner, Kathy Paiml, and Julie Pearce. Waller's family was also in attendance including his eighty-eight year old mother Mildred.

Assistant Superintendent Zel Thomas welcomed everyone and Mayor Bill Cooper congratulated Waller on behalf of the city of Enterprise. Waller thanked his faculty and staff, along with the students and parents. Waller will represent Alabama in Washington this coming October.

Please be on the lookout for information concerning our next meeting. Be sure to encourage fellow administrators to attend our meetings and participate. We always enjoy sharing new ideas with each other!!

## District X

Two Madison educators witnessed a ceremony at the state capitol that raises awareness for the work of gifted specialists.

Elizabeth 'Beth' Bero from Horizon Elementary School and Wendy Tibbs from West Madison Elementary

School visited Montgomery for Gov. Kay Ivey's proclamation signing to designate January as Gifted Education Month.

Ivey's proclamation states that "Alabama's gifted children and youth are one of Alabama's greatest assets. Gifted students can be found in all ethnic, socioeconomic and cultural groups and provide our state with a vast resource for potential leadership in all areas of society."

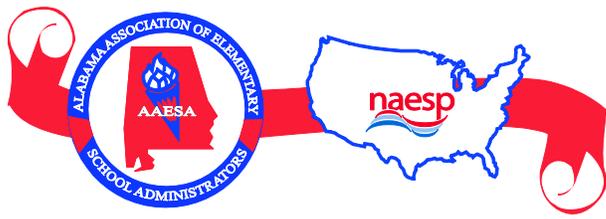
Other gifted specialists in Madison's elementary schools are Deborah Medeiros, Columbia; Emily Boshers and Rachel Gibbs, Heritage; Elizabeth Woodard, Madison elementary; Sharon Harris, Mill Creek; Kerri Scroggins, Rainbow; and Misty Farmer, Rainbow and Horizon.

"The State of Alabama is home to tens of thousands of gifted and talented children, whose full potential can be tapped only through the cooperation of education, community and government entities," Ivey said.

Gifted students have special needs in intellectual, academic and creative options to fulfill their potential and capabilities, Ivey said. "Providing rigor and challenge in the classroom for Alabama's gifted students is vital to ensuring their intellectual, social, emotional and academic development for college and career readiness," she said.

Gifted specialists in Madison often explore different activities to spark the interests of their students. For example, Bero and her students have cultivated, planted and maintained a butterfly garden at Horizon — from the first shovel of dirt to watering the growing plants. Tibbs has arranged for field trips for her students to view state legislators at work in the state capitol in Montgomery; Tibbs' students have introduced their concerns for civic improvements to local lawmakers.

Gregg Parker, *The Madison Record*



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