

Connecticut Arts Administrators Association

Minutes for the meeting held on September 8, 2022

Meriden Board of Education

Room 22 Liberty St. Meriden, CT

In Attendance: Tracy Avicoli, Dir. Arts & Wellness, K012, Hartford PS, tracy.avicoli@hartfordschools.org; Maureen Berescik, Past Pres., CAEA, maureenberescik@gmail.com; Aimee Boyle, Art & Music Coordinator, Stratford pS, boylea@stratk12.org; Brian Cyr, K-12 Fine Arts Coord., Meriden PS, brian.cyr@meridenk12.org; Jill Goldberg, Adj. Faculty, SCSU, CCSU, Ret'd, Sup. Vernon PS & Art Consultant, jagcakes@comcast.net; Angela Griffin, Spvsr. of Music K-12, Simsbury PS, CAAA Co-Vice-President, agriffin@simsburyschools.net; Michael Gordon, Inst. Leader, Music, Wilton PS, gordonm@wiltonps.org; Dee Hansen, CAAA President, Prof. of Music Education, UHART; dee.hansen21@gmail.com; Michelle Hiscavich, Dir. Of Visu. & Perf. Arts., Newtown PS, hiscabichm@newton.k12.ct.us; Robert Hughes, Music Coord., Fairfield PS, rhughes2@fairfieldschools.org; Malcolm Karlan, Inst. Leader, Wilton PS, karlanm@wiltonps.org; Andrew Mayo, Spvsr. Perf. Arts., K-12, West Hartford PS, Andrew_Mayo@whps.org; Pam Murphy, K-12 Visual Arts Dept. Spvsr., West Hartford PS, pam_murphy@whps.org; Cindy Parsons, Sec'y. CAAA, Adj. Adj. Faculty, SCSU, CCSU, Ret'd. Dir. Of Art, Glastonbury PS, cindy53art@gmail.com; Amy Perras, Inst. Spvsr Music, Art & Library/Media, PK-12, Milford PS, aperras@milforded.org; Mark Reppucci, Music Coord., K-12, Enfield PS, mreppucci@enfieldschools.org; Farah Scala, K-12 Music Dept. Head, Middletown PS, scalaf@mpsctorg; Rick Sadlon, Exec. Dir. CAAA, Ret'd. Dir. Of Music, ricksadlon@gmail.com; Alan Sneath, Dir. Vis. & Perf. Arts, New Canaan PS, alan.sneath@ncps-k12.org; Jeff Spector, CAAA Treasurer, CAEE Exec Director, jms884@gmail.com;

Membership Business Meeting

Call to Order: 8:45 (Angela) – Welcome, introductions; attendees were instructed to sign in on Chat with name, email, district, and position

- Today's agenda presented—with changes due to cancellations by scheduled presenters.
- Minutes from January 21, 2011 meeting were shared in advance for review. Minutes were approved and will be posted on the CAAA website;

President's Report: (Angela)

- Angela thanked Brian Cyr and Meriden Board of Ed. for providing our meeting space.
- Due to the cancellations for today's meeting, today's PD session will be set up as a round table.
- Angela thanked everyone who send suggestions for PD topics. Some included diversity & equity, SEL, today's roundtable session will include discussion to consider topics for future meetings.

Exec. Director's Report: (Rick)

- Rick commented on the outstanding members of this group (CAAA) and spoke about the exceptional leaders who make up this organization and support our teachers and schools.
- Summer (2022) arts institute — At Univ. of Hartford.
 - Christopher Eaves talked about Multiple Intelligences;
 - Bettina Love on Social Justice. With help from the CT Office of the arts — this is a good resource and advocate for arts ed.
 - Though only 2 districts were represented, several teaching artists from Ct office of the arts attended. This was the first time that we had teaching artists who attended and they needed to learn about how curriculum works.
- One of our missions as the executive board, is to work towards reinstatement of the arts consultant at CT ST Dept. of Ed. We have attended multiple meetings and sessions, and are finding this a difficult task in trying to get heard. Our meeting with the current commissioner was attended by her staff, instead of the

commissioner. Feelings are that they don't seem to be concerned as there are many other infilled positions.

- CAAA has worked with John Michael Parker and other state representatives, but this has not been effective either.
- Melissa Hickey is no longer overseeing our disciplines and we have not been officially informed regarding who at the State Dept. of Ed. is currently assigned to the arts. We continue to work on this and are looking at “*create the vote*” as a means to continue this work.
 - *Angela* mentioned that John Prins (Ct Alliance) has been able to meet with commissioner, but is finding that it our goals are not a priority at the state.
 - *Michael Gordon* suggested that perhaps we can make a plea to Michael Cardona to see if he would contact the State DOE on our behalf.
- SEADAE has been contacted for advice and several have said that they have had similar situations in their states.
- Looking ahead, we are looking for districts that may be interested in hosting our on-site visitation in Feb., 2023. Please contact Rick to discuss. Hosting a visitation by CAAA is a good way to get feedback from peers and could be seen as an advocacy opportunity for your department.

Treasurer's Report: (Jeff)

- Currently, account balance is \$13,787.51 (July statement)
- Recent expenses include some costs from arts institutes
- Dues is \$35 for yearly membership. This has remained the same for several years. Please forward checks to Jeff asap so that he can update records. Include the form provided on the website, including name(s) of members, current positions, and email addresses. Some membership dues have been received but without the form, so Jeff is not sure of who they might be for, as contact info is not included.

Vice President's Report: (Amy)

- Nat'l. Fed. Of high schools (NFHS)— she is member of that committee and will be leaving after this term. She is attending the Denver conference (Music & Theater), and presenting on work-life balance.
 - NFHS recognizes states' outstanding music teachers. Please consider sending recommendations for this to be CT's representative. Due 10/17/22. Use this link to find the nomination form . Focus should be on significant and/or long-term contributions to interscholastic music. Additionally, the committee considers national professional contributions. Nominations must carry the endorsement of the state association. Thank you for your assistance in honoring outstanding music educators throughout the country!
- James Weaver will be with us next for the next meeting — talking about copywrite issues. Content will be of interest to art and music, as well as other arts. Some school districts are now mandating copywrite training for staff;

CMEA (Megan Kerwin) *(report sent in advance of meeting)*

- Elections were held in the spring. Daniel Abrusewicz, Brian Cyr
- Festivals: CMEA hosted 7 in-person auditions, and will plan to do so again this year.
- plans are underway for this years Eastern conference.
- CMEA has new administrative (Barbara left)
- Leslie and Angela have been attending the advocacy and equity committee meetings.
- Rick mentioned that James Weaver will be here in October, and he has voiced concerns about fees being affordable. He is thinking about ideas about to pay fees for those students in need.
 - Amy stated that state high school associations often are groups that support music students in these circumstances.

CAEA Report (Holly Constantine) (Report sent in advance of meeting)

- Fall conferences – two separate conferences will be held this year. This is the first conference since 2019, and will be limited in attendance.
 - On Oct. 18 (Tuesday), our CONNECT Conference is planned at the New Britain Museum of American Art, with 150 limit for attendance. There are opportunities for workshops including a community quilt project, STEAM and curriculum, as well as a keynote speaker, vendors, tour of the museum,
 - Our REENERGIZE Conference will be held on 10/22 at (Saturday) the Brookfield crafts center . These will be all hands-on workshops, and limited capacity of 45. Find more info on the website (ctarteducators.org)
- THRIVE is the 3rd part of this year's work to engage and support teachers. These weill be ongoing events — check website for details, including monthly NAEA Webinar Watch Party and monthly: ED&I, and Discussion Group. Please join us for all of the exciting happenings. Any questions please reach out to Eileen Schnyder, President, Holly Constantine, President-Elect, or Maureen Berescik, Past-President.

Other business:

- Bob Morrison — Arts advocate, former state arts consultant in NJ — now heads the Arts Ed Data project. He presented for us last year — 30 states currently using this program to collect data for arts programs. Ajit at the SDE has been in contact and perhaps will be able to enroll CT though a grant. This data is more useful than our current reporting system. CT currently doesn't collect data at Elem. level. Perhaps we can have Ajit present again this year at one of the CAAA meetings. Amy will speak to Bob at the conference, and will find out CT's current status regarding the Arts Ed Date project.

Business meeting adjourned at 9:45, followed by roundtable discussion.