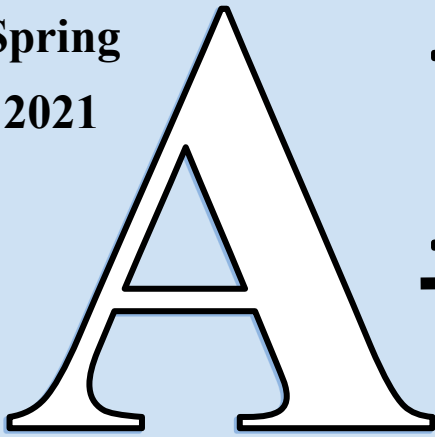


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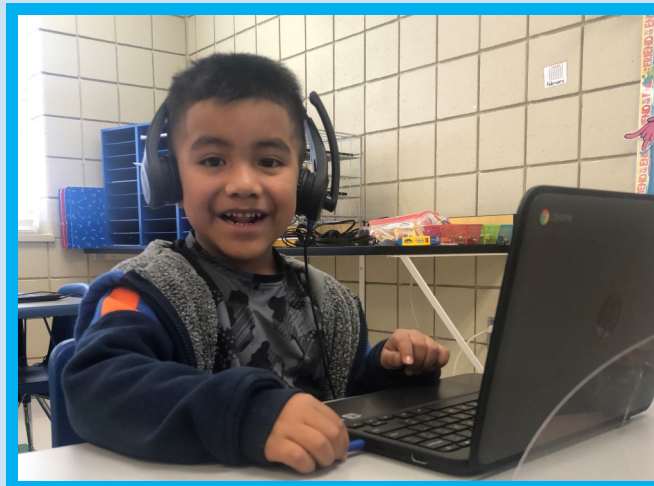


Vol. 69 No. 3

# Alabama

Elementary Administrator

## *Precious Children... Why We Do What We Do*



# AAESA President's Report



*Charlie Gardner*  
*Hokes Bluff Elementary*  
*Etowah County*

To say it has been an interesting year would be a gross understatement. I just want to take this opportunity to thank

you for allowing me to serve as the President of such a great organization as AAESA! We have all been asked to do so much in providing learning opportunities for Alabama's children during this unprecedented time of COVID. This deadly virus has claimed so many lives and affected everyone in some way. I have personally lost family members and friends and I am guessing that many of you have also. My thoughts and prayers are with each and every one of you and the decisions that you are having to make for your schools. I hope that you are all receiving the support that you need to lead your schools through this difficult time. Now more than ever it is important to stay connected with your membership in AAESA. Please rely on your association as well as your colleagues for help and guidance whenever you feel like you are alone in your decision making.

When this newsletter is published, our state legislature will be well underway working on legislation for next year. Please use your relationship with your local leaders to effect change in education for the better. Whatever your stance is on an issue, let it be known to our state leaders. They need and should want to hear from you. I have always believed that someone elected to represent my interests should be willing to accept my call, text, or email as a constituent and be willing to engage in respectful but hard conversations about actions that will positively or negatively affect

my situation. But at the same time, if I failed to contact them, then how can I expect them to know my opinion. So, I'm asking everyone to keep updated about what is happening in this legislative session and have your 'ducks in a row' when talking to your state leaders.

I am completing 25 years as a school administrator with 24 as a principal. As I end my term as president, I will continue to be an advocate for children, parents, teachers, and school administrators through AAESA/CLAS. If my many years of experience can ever help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me. There has not been many situations in education that I haven't faced and I am always willing to assist early career admins as well as our veteran admins. I have met so many wonderful people in my career and enjoy the networking as much as anything. I hope to see you at future conferences and professional development opportunities. If you have a passion for leadership and want to continue to grow as a leader, then make a decision to attend as many district and state level AAESA/CLAS events as possible.

In conclusion, I want to again thank AAESA for nominating me for the CLAS Leadership Award. I was humbled at the nomination and to be in the company of the nominees. I want to again congratulate Brenda Rickett. She is an outstanding educator and the award was well deserved.

Best wishes for continued success as the end of the school year approaches and I hope that you all have an enjoyable summer! Again, if I can ever be of service to you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

May God Bless you all!

# Congratulations Alabama District Distinguished Principals



**District I**  
**Tricia Culpepper**  
**Cullman City Primary**  
**Cullman City**  
**Finalist**



**District II**  
**Stan Stokley**  
**Saraland Elementary**  
**Saraland City**  
**Finalist**



**District III**  
**Dr. Lucile Prewitt**  
**Oakdale Elementary**  
**Tuscaloosa City**



**District IV**  
**Judith Ross**  
**L. M. Smith Middle School**  
**Birmingham City**



**District V**  
**Beth Rigsby**  
**Albertville Kindergarten and**  
**Pre-K**  
**Albertville City**



**District VII**  
**David Carpenter**  
**Jeter Primary**  
**Opelika City**



**District VIII**  
**Patrice Wolfe**  
**J. Larry Newton Elementary**  
**Baldwin County**



**District IX**  
**Chris Mitten**  
**Daleville Elementary**  
**Daleville City**



**District X**  
**Amy Mason**  
**Madison County Elementary**  
**Madison County**  
**Finalist**

# Congratulations to Our Winners



***Bonnie Sullivan***  
***B-5 Cohesive Systems***  
***Director***  
***ADECE***

**AAESA is pleased to announce the following award winners for the 2019-2020 school year:**

## **Glenys Mason Convention Scholarship Winner**

**Veronica Bayles, G. W. Trenholm Primary**

**Tuscumbia City**



The Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) has selected Veronica Bayles for the Glenys Mason Scholarship Award. This scholarship award is available to AAESA members who have never attended a national Association of Elementary School Principals Convention. Veronica is the principal at G.W. Trenholm Primary School in Tuscumbia, Alabama. She has experience as Instructional Partner, AP Coordinator, Assistant Principal, ARI Instructional Coach, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. She is pursuing a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership from Samford University. She completed the requirements for the Aspiring Superintendent's Academy Blended Cohort in February 2020.

Veronica looks forward to attending the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Convention conference to learn and grow professionally with other instructional leaders across the country. AAESA would like to recognize Veronica for her accomplishments, honors, and dedication in educational leadership that have significantly impacted educators and students.

## **Michael Carr/Marie Taylor Scholarship Winner**

**LaToya Patton, West Decatur Elementary**

**Decatur City**



The Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) has selected LaToya Patton for the Marie Taylor and Michael Carr Scholarship. This scholarship offers a \$1,000 award to enable a current Alabama educator to pursue a degree or certification in elementary/middle school administration. LaToya has 14 years of experience in education as a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade ESL teacher, Pre-Kindergarten teacher, Kindergarten teacher, and first grade teacher. She has trained teachers and administrators on EL Instructional Strategies, WIDA-ACCESS Testing, and Response to Intervention for ESL students. She has also served on committees such as A-CIP planning, Problem Solving Team, Outdoor Classroom, Math Team Coordinator, Stem Grant recipient, and was selected as the local Teacher of the Year at West Decatur Elementary. AAESA would like to congratulate LaToya for her accomplishments, honors, and dedication in education that have significantly impacted educators and students.

# Congratulations to Our Winners cont'd

## CLAS Leadership Award Nominee

representing AAESA

Stan Stokley, Saraland Elementary

Saraland City



The Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators (AAESA) has selected Dr. Stan Stokley to be the final nominee for the *CLAS Leadership Award*. This award is given to an elementary administrator who is currently a CLAS member, works for the unity in the teaching profession, achieves concepts underlying the leadership team approach to local school administration, secures better local understanding in the school system, and provides leadership in a CLAS affiliate organization. The *CLAS Leadership Award* will be presented at the CLAS Convention in Birmingham, Alabama. Dr. Stokley is completing his 27<sup>th</sup> year in education. He has earned a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Masters of Education in Mathematics from the University of West Alabama, and Educational Specialist and Doctorate of Education in Instructional Leadership from University of South Alabama. He has served as a high school teacher, high school assistant principal, Programs Coordinator for Marengo County Public Schools, Principal at Sweet Water High School and Elementary School in Marengo County Public Schools. He is currently the Principal at Saraland Elementary School, in the Saraland City School System. He has been nominated as one of the three finalists for the National Distinguished Elementary Principal Award for Alabama (2021), AAESA Board Member for CLAS, lead Saraland Elementary School to earn an A on the school report card and selected as a National Blue-Ribbon School, and obtained several grants such as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant,

Alabama K-4 Initiative Grant, and Enhancing Education Through Technology Grant. Dr. Stokley is also involved in the community by hosting and presenting workshops. He has produced 40 episodes of Good Morning Saraland Morning Announcements which has been recognized by local and state news.

AAESA would like to recognize Dr. Stokley for his accomplishments, honors, and dedication in educational leadership that have significantly impacted educators and students. It is with great pleasure that Dr. Stan Stokley has been selected for the nominee for the *CLAS Leadership Award*.

## 2021 Alabama's Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year Nominees

**District I** Nona Adams  
Crescent Elementary, Limestone County

**District II** Tammy George  
Chastang-Fournier K-8, Mobile County

**District III** Melinda Boots  
Carbon Hill Elementary and Jr. High, Walker County

**District IV** Aqila Malpass  
Rocky Ridge Elementary, Hoover City

**District V** Amanda Martinez  
John S. Jones Elementary, Etowah County

**District VIII** Angie Beard  
Foley Elementary, Baldwin County

**District IX** Rodney Drish  
Pike County Elementary, Pike County

**District X** Leslie Cross  
Owen Cross Roads Elementary, Madison County

# Meet Your District VI President



*Margaret Jones*  
*Edgewood Elementary*  
*Selma City*

Greetings from historic Selma, Alabama! My name is Dr. Margaret Moore Jones, and I am honored to serve as the presi-

dent to represent the INCREDIBLE elementary school administrators in Autauga County, Bibb County, Chilton County, Choctaw County, Dallas County, Demopolis City, Linden City, Lowndes County, Marengo County, Perry County, Selma City, and Wilcox County; and collectively, we are District VI! We are working fervently to ensure that the elementary school administrators in District VI are represented to ensure that the needs of the leaders, staff, and students of the districts in which we lead are shared. Initially, District VI was absent from newsletters, award recognitions, and other entitlements that are associated with AAESA. On a whim, I contacted CLAS staff via email, and Rickey Darby responded to my email with a phone call in less than 24 hours. This small act, made me realize that AAESA was an organization in which I needed to be active. To make a long story short, in September 2019, the District VI meeting was held at Prattville Primary and was hosted by Holly McNider, who serves as the District VI Representative. Although there were only three principals, one vice principal, the CLAS Executive Director and Associate Director, we set out to reactivate District VI, and have not looked back. We were small in number, however, we accomplished our goal to truly “be on the map”.

So, a little bit about myself. I was born, and raised, in Florence Alabama. I attend Harlan Elementary School, Forest Hills Junior High School, and graduated from Henry A. Bradshaw High School in 1995. It would be a fair assessment to say that education runs through my veins. My dear mother retired from a career in education that spanned over 35 years from Deshler High School, in Tuscumbia Alabama, and my paternal grandmother, Margaret Matthews Moore, was an esteemed educator from the early 1940’s until the late 1960’s in Limestone County. My grandmother, being the staunch educator

that she was, enrolled my Dad in Kindergarten at the tender age of four years old, because he was extremely tall for his age, and she wanted him in to get an early start on his education. My Dad attended Morehouse College and Alabama A&M, served as Military Police in the Army, and retired from Reynolds/Wise Metal (yes, the alumni foil people) in Sheffield, Alabama with more than 31 years of service. All of these individuals, collectively, instilled the importance of education and a dedicated professional work ethic.

After graduating high school, I attended Alabama A & M University; which is was also the University of my Paternal Grandmother, Mother, Dad, and Sister and numerous family members. LONG LIVE THY FAME!!! I received my undergraduate degree in Special Education (1995), my graduate degree in School Psychometry (2006), and post graduate certification in Administration/Supervision (2007) all from Alabama A& M University. I further extended my educational pursuits and received a Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Policy and Law from Alabama State University (2012). I began my teaching career in the Mississippi Delta with Greenwood Public Schools, in Greenwood Mississippi. I am often asked, “Margaret, how did you wind up teaching in Mississippi?” My response is always the same, “I was interviewed during a career fair, the HR Director called me back, and asked me to visit, and the people were extremely kind”. I was not rolling in the money, however, the support from leadership and other school staff members was top notch and made up for it in other ways. My time in Greenwood, was only a year; as I had cancer scare and major surgery that required me to move back home. During this time, I secured a job at the former S.R. Butler High School, in Huntsville, Alabama as a Collaborative/Special Education Teacher, and remained in this position for six years. In August of 2006, I accepted a position with the Alabama State Department of Education Assessment and Accountability Section as an Assessment Specialist. During this time had the opportunity to work with some dynamic individuals and create long-lasting friendships. In 2010, I went to the Alabama Department of Youth Services School District and served as the Special Education and Assessment Coordinator; and held this position for five years. During this time my passion was fueled to target the most vulnerable scholars to ensure they have the opportunity to attend and finish school. I worked in Montgomery Public Schools as the

# Meet Your District VI President Cont'd

Executive Director of Learning Supports and Director of Student Social Services for three years, and in July of 2018 became the Principal of Edgewood Commerce and Entrepreneurship Academy, in Selma. Out of all of the positions in which I have had the opportunity to serve, being a school administrator brings me the most joy. Yes, there are peaks and valleys, when you are in the work of transforming lives. However, when you see that spark light up a scholar's face because, "they have it", makes everything worthwhile. I work with a group of AMAZING and KIND teachers and my families are equally AWESOME!

I am married to the handsome, kind, and funny Dr. Corey L. Jones, who serves as the Superintendent of Greene County (AL) Schools (remember education is in my veins J). Together we have one extremely incredible six, almost seven, year old, Wells Matthew. Additionally, I have three phenomenal bonus children: Moriah (22), Corey II (15), and Lydia (14). When I am not doing "school stuff", I love to go on LONG walks outside, and was an avid marathoner; now, I like to walk them. I like to spend time traveling with my family and friends, participating in "Zoom-Hours" with my girlfriends, and making new memories with my family. I am a Daddy's girl through and through, and my Dad passed on September 10, 2020, as a result of COVID. This quote by novelist James Baldwin sums up my life, *"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced."* I work to embody this mantra in my daily walk to ensure that the tasks that I set out to complete has an impact on the scholars and families for which I am duty bound to serve!

So, I am reaching out to all current District VI administrators, aspiring administrators, and retired educators to join us in to ensure that our District, and Association, strives to ensure educational excellence for our students and families throughout Alabama! As I say to my Busy Bee Scholars, Go Forth and BEE GREAT!!!



# We Are Not Alone



*Michael South*  
*W. C. Handy Early*  
*Childhood Center*  
*Florence City*

We are not alone! This year, as school administrators, we have had our share of challenges as we have had to navigate a year

like no other. We have sought to engage our students in in-person and virtual learning while maintaining their health and the health of our faculty and staff. In all the ups and downs, we have found strong support from fellow administrators and through the outstanding support of the CLAS organization and the Alabama Association of Elementary Administrators (AAESA). Even though we have had more virtual meetings and virtual professional learning, they have allowed many to participate who otherwise would not have been able to attend in person. Since we are going to focus on something, let's choose to focus on what we have learned through the pandemic and how much we need each other! We are better together! We lead better when we have the necessary tools, resources, and a network of talented leaders to lean upon.

Membership in the AAESA and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) provides administrators the opportunity to participate in timely professional learning and to develop strong partnerships with others. Are we taking advantage of the professional learning and networking opportunities? Remember that we are stronger together! We are so thankful that others have paved the way to establish such strong associations that are improving our ability to lead as elementary school administrators. We should strive to improve our practice through these avenues and opportunities afforded us. AAESA's mission is to serve as an advocate for children while striving to enhance effectiveness in the supervision and administration of elementary and middle schools. I would encourage all elementary administrators to be-

come an active member in both the AAESA and NAESP. As a member, you are able to participate in district meetings to stay informed and get to know your fellow members. If you are curious about what you're missing, reach out to another member to become more involved or join today.

AAESA provides a variety of professional learning opportunities throughout the year. The Fall Instructional Leadership Conference was a great success this past November. We are looking forward to participating in the CLAS convention this summer! We can re-energize and recharge as we look forward to the 2021-2022 school year. In the meantime, be sure to explore and participate in the virtual meetings and professional webinars available this semester.

Your AAESA board members work tirelessly to keep members abreast of current State and National education issues. They also serve as our advocates to make sure educational leaders and legislators hear our voices as we seek to serve students. We appreciate their intentionality to impact education in a positive way and keep us united.

The cost of membership in AAESA for active administrators is only \$106 a year as an active member of CLAS. Membership in NAESP, though optional, costs an additional \$235 a year. It provides \$2 million of professional liability coverage. This is a small price to pay for additional peace of mind. If you are a member, be sure to promote our organization and encourage others to join today. Remember, we are stronger together.



# Federal Relations



*David Fancher*  
*Federal Relations Chair*  
*Retired*

The House of Representatives and Senate have passed a 1.9 trillion-dollar relief package. By the time you read this, the House should

have voted to concur on the changes the Senate made in the bill. It passed the House along party lines with two democrats voting in opposition. It also passed the Senate on a party line. This package includes 170 billion dollars for K-12. To give you an idea of how much funding this will be to Alabama, take the Title I budget and multiply it by seven. These funds will have short term and long term uses. Short term uses include HVAC upgrades, PPE, reducing class size, and hiring more staff. Long term uses include improvement of after-school programs, hiring counselors and nurses, and re-engaging students absent from remote learning. In the Senate this funding for schools was strongly opposed by Republicans. They felt the other two Covid relief bills, passed earlier in the year, provided enough funding for schools to open face-to-face.

The NAESP National Leaders Conference was held at the end of February. Again this year, it had to be held virtually. Arne Duncan was one of the speakers. He did a great job speaking on the challenges facing schools. He made the point that we need to go out and find the 2 million students who have vanished from schools this year. He also spoke about the need for a national tutoring institute to address learning loss. Finally, he reminded principals to take care of themselves and to support each other. Zoom meetings were also held with Senator Shelby and Tuberville's education staff and Congressman Palmer's staff to share the needs of Alabama's students.

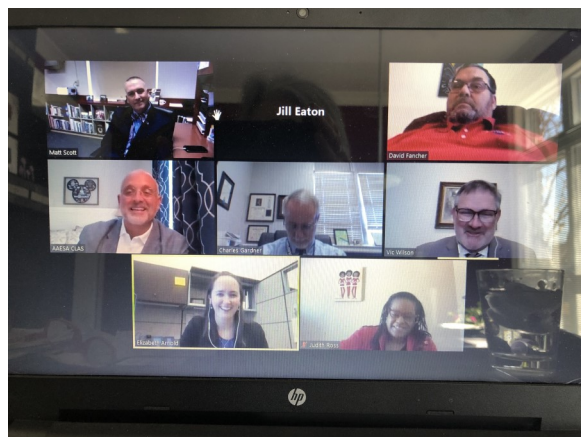
Dr. Miguel Cardona has been approved as the Secretary of Education on a 66-33 vote. The new Secretary is a former elementary school teacher and a NAESP Distinguished Prin-

cipal. There is high hope having an educator in this position will change the direction the Department of Education has been moving in in regards to public education.

Senator Tuberville has been appointed to the education committee in the Senate. This puts him in a position to do great things for students across the nation. In his first speech on the floor of the Senate he talked about how important education is. He also spoke on pushing to "get prayer back in schools". Both he and Senator Shelby voted against the Covid relief bill. They both opposed the additional funding to schools among other parts of the bill. Senator Tuberville introduced amendments to the bill that were voted down. Senator Shelby has announced his retirement for the Senate. He will complete the two years left in his current term. He one of the most powerful Senators based on his seniority and committee assignments. You need to let your Senators know what your school and students needs are. There are two ways to contact your Senators:

Senator Tuberville <https://www.tuberville.senate.gov>  
Senator Shelby <https://www.shelby.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-senator-shelby-landing>

Another way to contact them is through the NAESP Advocacy site. Enter your zip code and you are one click away from contacting them and your Congressman. Advocacy is important at all levels of government. All of the congressional staffers we talked to listened to us and said how helpful it was to hear from school administrators. Being an active advocate is now a one click deal. Text NAESP to 52886. You will get text on current issues and can send a message to your representative with just a couple of clicks.



# Meet Your District X Representative



*Amy Mason*  
*Madison County*  
*Elementary*  
*Madison County*

My name is Amy Mason. I serve as the District X representative and have worked for six years as the principal at Madison County Elementary School in Gurley, AL. Prior to becoming a “Gurley girl,” I was a principal with Huntsville City Schools and an educator in Maryland, Virginia, Indiana, and Arizona.

I recently became a widow after seventeen years of marriage and have two young children. My daughter, Amanda, is twelve years old and my son, Mac, is four years old. I enjoy spending quality time with my children whether it be hiking on the trails in our neighborhood or watching movies together at home. During the summer months, the kids and I enjoy tending to our community garden plot and, also, spending time on the boat at Lake Guntersville.

We added a four-legged addition to our family in July 2020. He is an American Mastiff puppy named Drax. Drax is a gentle giant and already weighs 111 pounds at 8 months of age! He has a great temperament and enjoys cuddling up with us at home.

My children and I are actively involved in our church and love singing along during praise and worship time. My father was a music educator in Illinois and Indiana for over forty years and his love of music has carried on through my children and me. My daughter and I play the piano and love to sing. Amanda will be participating in the All State Choir this spring. I play the flute and my daughter plays the clarinet. I look forward to seeing what instrument my son will choose as he grows and develops over the next few years.

I take pride in my affiliation with AAESA and NAESP and currently serve on the NAESP Editorial Advisory Board. I also enjoy attending the NAESP nation-

al conferences and look forward to celebrating 100 years of NAESP with my colleagues across the country in Chicago this summer! I hope to connect with some of you there.



# W. C. Handy Early Childhood Development Center



*Michael South*  
*W. C. Handy Early  
Childhood Center*  
*Florence City*

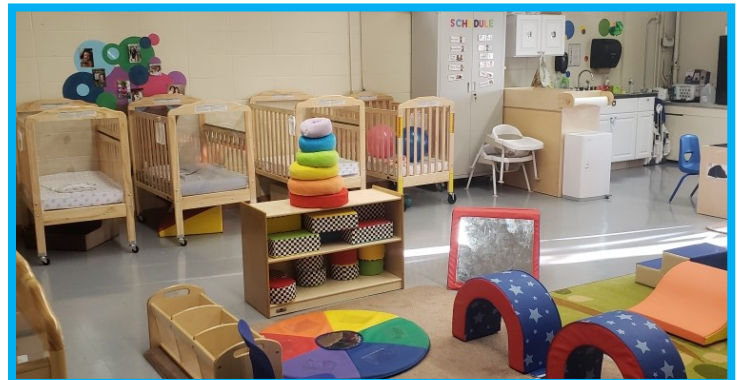
Great things are happening on the campus of W. C. Handy School. From the moment one enters the newly renovated W.

C. Handy Early Childhood Development Center, he/she will see and feel the magic the faculty and staff seek to create for the children each day. The school has experienced an overwhelmingly, positive response since reopening last year as Florence City Schools Early Childhood Development Center. Our parents have been very complimentary of the supportive, loving atmosphere. We are pleased that each class has a waitlist of students whose parents recognize the importance of early childhood education.

An active participant in the First Class Foundation Preschool Program, W. C. Handy was fortunate to add four classrooms to its thriving campus. Florence City School's newest Falcons included infants and toddlers who range from six weeks to three years of age. This expansion was made possible through Alabama's renewal of the Preschool Development Grant, Birth-Five (PDG B-5) through the Department of Early Childhood Education. The school's principal, Dr. Michael South, said, "the funding and support will allow us the opportunity to provide a strong start for more children and more time with our preschool-age children."

The importance of partnerships cannot be overemphasized for building a successful child-centered preschool program. We first seek to build a strong family connection with all our families. The healthy two-way partnership has been established by the wonderful faculty and staff at W. C. Handy. They always stand ready to do what is best for children. Additionally, our work at Handy is made stronger through the support of the directors, monitors, and coaches from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood. They are far ex-

ceeding our expectations! Every one of them is just a phone call away. With such strong support from the Alabama Department of Early Childhood, W. C. Handy's faculty and staff, along with our central office support, are dedicated to building a program that will thrive and lasts for years to come.



# Making it Through the Pandemic



*Shelia Jones*  
*Hazel Green Elementary*  
*Madison County*

To begin the school year, I had to share with my teachers that the start of the day HAD to change. I met with the CNP manager, and we determined how to create 6 feet distancing while children ate breakfast and lunch. Seats were marked. We did have all children come to the cafeteria or library as a "waiting area" until 7:30am. That was all before the pandemic. Our new procedure is as follows: teachers clock in and are at the doorways with thermometers to take the children's temperature. Students enter their classrooms AFTER a temperature check, put down their bookbags, and go to breakfast. There is no waiting area. Morning duty has increased to more staff because of all the transitioning children in such a large building with traffic to their classrooms from the bus or car rider line for their temperature check. We are doing it and it is working!

With the change in lunchroom seating, preschool and kindergarten are the only grade levels eating lunch in the cafeteria. All other grade levels eat in their classrooms. The custodians had to create a new system for trash pick up with over 400 trays out at lunch time. They have done an outstanding job!

We are all wearing masks. I usually meet with my staff after school the first Wednesday of each month. I still do, but virtually. I have finally learned how to do breakout rooms so we can still synergize. That has been a learning curve for me!

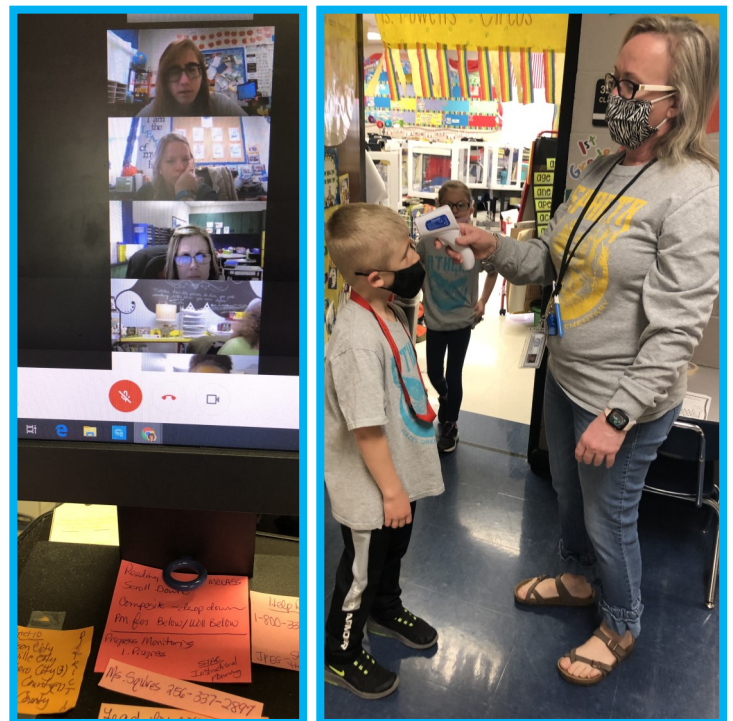
With our collaboration meetings, I did let the grade levels choose: virtual or in person. Some chose virtual from the very beginning. Now, I meet with all grade levels virtually making sure we don't violate 6 feet so-

cial distancing.

Parents are not allowed to come in and eat with their children. No volunteers are allowed in the building unless absolutely necessary. That has been VERY different.

However, our attendance is the highest ever! Discipline is the lowest ever! Parent communication is the most consistent and involved than most teachers have ever experienced! Our nurse has shared she can count the flu cases on one hand when we usually have a high number. We have not had multiple episodes of stomach viruses or any types of cold in the building this year.

It has been a unique year. We have one teacher in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, third grade, and fourth grade that are virtual teachers. I meet with them every Friday. They are a part of TWO teams: their grade level team and the virtual teacher team. The technology growth in these teachers is UNBELIEVABLE! They are making it happen!



# National Association of Elementary School Principals



***Matt Scott***  
***Creekside Primary***  
***Limestone County***

**July 8-10, 2021 - NAESP Pre-K-8 Principals Conference - Chicago**

SAVE THE DATE! The NAESP PreK-8 Principals conference will be July 8-10, 2021. The conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Chicago, nestled along the Riverwalk, just steps away from Michigan Avenue. Log into the NAESP website @ [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org) and look under the “Learning Center” tab for 2020 conference information.

All information about housing, travel and registration can be found at this [LINK](#).

Watch a promotional video about the 2021 Conference [HERE](#).

## **100 Years of NAESP**

In 2021, NAESP will be celebrating its 100-year anniversary. In celebration of this historic event, we are commissioning a 3-D art installation commemorating a century of dedicated service to elementary and middle-level principals, to be unveiled at the 2021 Pre-K-8 Principals Conference in Chicago.

Read a great article on 100 years of NAESP written by Dr. Earl Franks, NAESP Executive Director @ [LINK](#)

## **U.S. Secretary of Education - Dr. Miguel A. Cardona**

Statement from NAESP ~ “On behalf of elementary and middle school principals from across the country, the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) congratulates former NAESP member and 2012 NAESP National Distinguished Principal Dr. Miguel A. Cardona on being nominated to serve as the next U.S. Secretary of Education. Secretary-designate Cardona’s background—from growing up in public housing to his on-the-ground experience as a public school teacher and elementary

principal, as well as his current role as Connecticut's Commissioner of Education—positions him well to be an effective voice and leader for all students and school communities.



## **NAESP Principal Podcast! - [CLICK HERE](#)**

Join Adam Welcome and Rachel George as they discuss best practices, innovative strategies, and pressing topics with special guests from the education community.

For principals, it can be lonely at the top. It is always a relief to hear from fellow educators who have been there, done that, and are doing more to advance their leadership. That is why NAESP is excited to share the inaugural episode of a new podcast developed specifically for pre-K–8 principals, the NAESP Principal Podcast.

Their first episode dropped on January 26, 2021. Their topics of discussion for episode 1:

- Applying for a job
- The power of connection
- Interview hacks and tips
- Resume tips and thoughts
- Epic job hunt failures
- Social media footprints and the power of presence

## **Trials of a 1st Year Principal**

Christopher Bailey is principal of Clack Middle School in the Abilene Independent School District in Texas. Christopher has written a great article about his trials as a 1st year principal. In this article Christopher talks about:

- Building relationships
- Being the school leader
- Building trust
- And great reminders on how to treat others

# National Association of Elementary School Principals

Read Christopher's article on the NAESP's website @ this [LINK](#)

Connect with him on Twitter at [@stixbailey](#).



Follow [Danny Carlson](#) on Twitter [@dannycarlson](#)

If you are on Twitter and you want to hear the latest updates on Policy and Advocacy from Washington D.C. then you should be following Danny Carlson. Danny is the Policy and Advocacy Director [@NAESP](#).

## Findings from Mid-Year National Principal Surveys on COVID-19 in Schools

Top concerns remain:

- Safety
- Attendance
- Funding
- Learning loss
- Majority of schools have quarantine protocols in place

To read more about the survey results follow this [LINK](#).

## February 21-24, National Leaders Conference - Virtual

The NAESP virtually hosted leaders from all 50 states for the National Leaders Conference. During our visit, national leaders were provided with professional development related to pertinent topics for elementary leaders. During the four-day event, national leaders heard speakers from across the country discussing timely topics spanning from general best practices in school leadership, policy development, and key research pertinent to current leaders. NAESP state reps met with members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to discuss key topics relevant to public education in our state and across the country. There were sessions regarding the political landscape for education, education policy, the NAESP advocacy program and many other areas of interest.

## MEMBER BENEFITS

Did you know as a member of NAESP you receive member benefits?

A partial list of benefits includes:

- Legal benefits
- *Principal* magazine subscription - 5x per year
- *Communicator* - monthly e-newsletters
- *Principal Insights* - education news updates - 2x per week
- *Report to Parents* handout - monthly publication (English and Spanish)
- Access to free webinars & online learning
- Discounts on mentor training and annual conference registration
- Discounts @ Office Depot
- Travel discounts with car rental & hotel discounts
- American Hearing discounts
- \$60,000 Life Insurance Policy – No cost for brand new members in their first two years
- Insurance Program Discounts – <https://www.ftj.com/naesp/>
  - Life, auto, home, health, disability and more!
  - IDShield Identity Theft Protection
  - LegalShield Legal Services Plan
  - ASPCA Pet Health Insurance
  - International Travel-Medical
- Life Line Screening and Lenovo should both be available before December 31. We'll announce and provide details through email.

To see a full listing of our membership benefits visit the NAESP website @ [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org) and visit the "Membership" section.

## NAESP Advocacy Alerts

The laws that Congress passes, and the funding decisions they make, have an enormous impact on you, your school, and your students. To ensure robust funding for federal education programs like Title II and IDEA, and to advance education policies that rightly recognize the important role of principals, it's critical to make your voice heard.

NAESP is pleased to offer members text message alerts on key legislation and votes impacting principals. To sign up for text alerts, use the button below, or text "NAESP" to 52886.

# National Association of Elementary School Principals

website @ [www.naesp.org](http://www.naesp.org) and visit the “Membership” section.

## NAESP Advocacy Alerts

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## NAESP COVID-19 Resources - [LINK](#)

NAESP has created a robust resource page for principals which includes 6 pillars:

- Webinars - All webinars and archives located here
- Advocacy - Fed tracker, bill info,
- Guidance - info for safe schools, child care info, resources for schools
- Resources - SpEd, Virtual learning, middle grades info
- Parent engagement - great information we can share with parents
- Sharing - a place to download sharable resources

## NAESP Task Force on Race and Equity - [LINK](#)

NAESP has formed a National Task Force on Race and Equity. The task force will advise NAESP on issues related to racial equity in school communities, reveal schools’ common challenges and solutions, and support a peer-to-peer network of support for school leaders.

The task force will focus on collecting information related to racial equity in schools, elevating relevant research, and determining how best NAESP can provide support to principals around these issues. In conjunction and collaboration with NAESP staff, the task force will host events for school leaders to share valuable best practices and produce recommendations to advance racial equity in the principal profession and in public schools.

## Online Resources:

NAESP Legal Benefits

<https://www.naesp.org/membership/legal-benefits>

NAESP Webinars

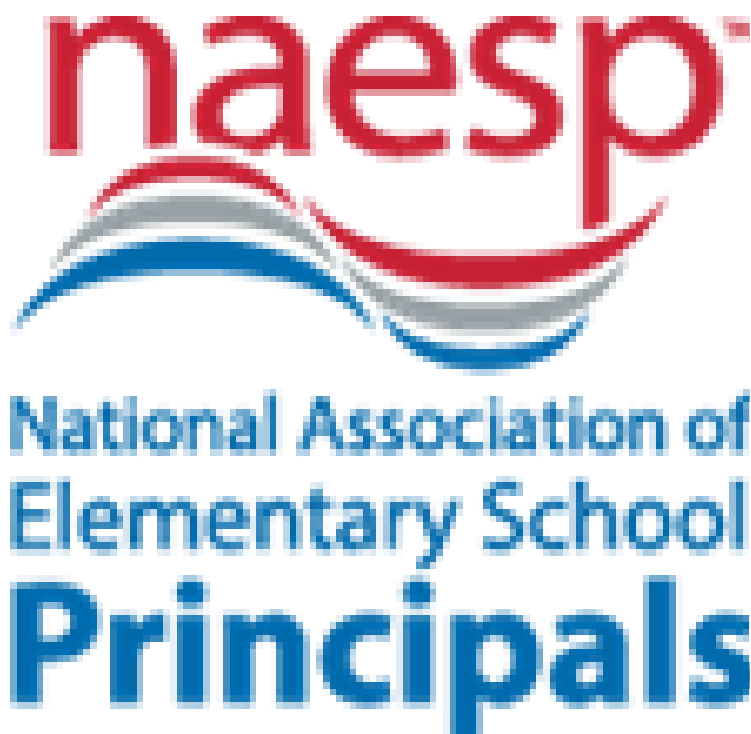
<https://www.naesp.org/career/webinars>

NAESP Report to Parents

<https://www.naesp.org/report-parents>

NAESP Communicator

<https://www.naesp.org/communicator>



# Thank You Gold Sponsors

## Gold Sponsors



## FUTURE EVENTS

### **CLAS Convention**

June 13-16, 2021

Birmingham-Jefferson  
Convention Complex (BJCC)  
Birmingham, Alabama

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

July 8-10, 2021

Hyatt Regency Chicago  
Chicago, Illinois

### **AAESA Fall Instructional Leadership Conference**

November 15-17, 2021

Perdido Beach Resort  
Orange Beach, Alabama



# Executive Director's Report



*Vic Wilson*  
*AAESA*  
*Executive Director*

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, ..."

These words from Charles Dickens resonate through the ages and land on our ears in 2021. As school leaders, we are tasked with issues great and small during the best and worst of times. You are doing this without a template or a net, and for the most part you are all doing a great job. No one knows what the second semester holds for us, but we do know that our leadership is critical for everyone to get through the best and worst of times.

One thing that we do know, is the need to take care of everyone, you must take care of yourself. Everyone is stretched thin; everyone is stressed, and everyone needs to be shown and to show compassion more than ever. One of our best speakers during the last two years has been Robert Hudson. He is an Alabamian and an educator, and he truly understands the importance of taking care of oneself so that others can be cared for properly.

Robert always shares lists on how to take care of yourself, and I want to highlight a few of his thoughts.

- Get enough sleep (usually 7 or 8 hours most nights)
- If you can't get enough sleep, get several pairs of dark glasses for the daytime.
- Exercise for at least 20 minutes at least 3 times

per week.

- Have a quiet time.
- Believe in yourself.
- Learn to say 'no' more often.
- Learn that more is not always better.
- Do something that you enjoy every day.
- Smile as much as possible.
- Laugh more
- Slow down, you move to fast. You got to make the morning last... (Apologies to Simon and Garfunkel)
- Express gratitude
- Worry less
- Listen more; talk less

These axioms can be beneficial to everyone who employs them on a regular basis. The key is intentionality and consistency. Go slow to go fast and before you know it, you will have a better outlook on your current situation, and you will be able to help others deal with their situation.

Thank you for all you do for those under your care! You are all ROCK STARS in my book!

# CLAS Board Meeting



*Frances Finney*  
*St. Francis Xavier*  
*School*  
*Birmingham*

The CLAS Board met in Prattville on December 8, 2020 and the meeting was opened by Donald Turner, who was presiding in the President's place.

About a third of the Board was in attendance, another third were virtual and unfortunately, a few caught the virus! We hope those who were sick are well and feeling great!

We started the morning with **SDE updates given by Dr. Jeff Langham**, Chief of Staff Assistant State Superintendent, for Dr. Eric Mackey who was in quarantine. Luckily, his COVID test was negative, yet as the rules go, he was still in quarantine. What an amazing update we received today from Dr. Langham! He is always a great speaker and bearer of mostly great news! He began answering the question,

### ***"What will the 2nd semester look like in the schoolhouse world of COVID?"***

A little history as we close the first semester of 2020...Per the United States Department of Education (USDOE) a waiver was granted to the ALSDE, there will be no Accountability System produced in the fall of 2020.

Schools kept their letter grade from the fall of 2019. Support statuses will not be updated in the fall of 2020.

- The Accountability System will be back in place in the fall of 2021 as the USDOE waiver was granted for only one year.
- NAEP has been postponed. (YAY!)
- The current expectation for other Spring of 2021 assessment is that we will administer them as planned...Testing, here we come!

Schools without a Grade 12 - which is most of us....indicator weights are:

- Academic Growth 40%
- Academic Achievement 40%
- Chronic Absenteeism 15%
- Progress in English Language Proficiency 5%

### **BUDGET UPDATES-FY21**

Appropriations from 2020 COVID Session - Act 2020-169 appropriated \$7.2 billion from the ETF for the support, maintenance, and development of public education

Supplemental appropriation for the ETF are:

- .8 million for expansion SOR training to support the Literacy Act
- \$2.7 million for additional regional math coaches and trainers
- \$250,000 for school safety liaisons per ALEA region
- \$1 million for a marketing campaign for teachers
- \$2.5 million through the Alabama Supercomputer Authority for K-12 school cybersecurity and IT support of which \$1 million will be spent to provide specific professional development for all education

employees on digital security.

### **CARES ACT Education \$ -**

- GEER \$48 Million (12 months to spend)
- ESSER \$216 Million (Obligated by September 2022)
- CRF \$1.8 Million (had to be spent by December 31, 2020)

Dr. Langham shared that Dr. Mackey and the whole department was very appreciative for all the challenges and opportunities we have endured on the front lines and for all we are doing to reinvent teaching for our students!

### **The last budget item that Dr. Langham discussed was the Request for the 2021 Legislative session...**

- Increases Requests: ACCESS-Distance Learning, Advanced Placement, Teachers in Residence (TIRs), Building Based Coaches for LS1 schools, Literacy Act (Before/After School Tutoring, Science of Reading/Multisensory Strategies PD, ELL Specialists, and CALT Stipend Program, Computer Science, High Needs Special Ed Grant Program, Online High-Speed Teacher Certification Protal, Mental Health Service Coordinator Program, Career Tech Initiative, Gifted Students Program, Jobs for Alabama graduates, Marketing Campaign for Teachers, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, Special Ed Pre-K Program, Special Ed certified behavior analyst program, Special Ed licensed interpreters/deaf, HOH teachers, and technology infrastructure. \*All other categories are requested to receive level funding.
- Legislative Updates from ALSDE -
  - \* 2020 COVID Bills - including COVID Immunity
  - \* Teacher Bill of Rights
  - \* Student Discipline Bill
  - \* School Board Governance Bill
  - \* Gender is Real
  - \* Open Records
  - \* Vulnerable Child Bill
  - \* Seizure Safe Act
  - \* Mental Health Service Coordinator (funded, but law didn't pass!)

### **Possible Legislative Topics -**

- Instructional Materials/textbook law
- Broadband Expansion
- Funding Solution to Hold districts harmless with COVID ADM

### **Hot Topics**

Will there be any funding for remediation for failures and deficiencies for summer schools - We need funds sooner than later! At this meeting, there were no talks of a Raise, yet recent talks seem to be considering one.

**CLAS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT Report** was given by Dr. Demica Sanders stating that we all should check CLAS website for PD and 2nd semester activities

Banner Schools - 41 systems 134 schools have applied

May 3, 2021 - CIL open soon for next school year, along with PRE K

# CLAS Board Meeting Cont'd

CLAS Convention June 13-16th **blended** conference - in Birmingham - we will be the first group in the new hotel in downtown Birmingham! Many wonderful speakers are on the agenda!

Legal Defense fund - half through the budget - Not as many superintendents and principals, yet costs are pretty equal to last year at this time.

COVID law suits coming - Strong suggestion to have documentation for attending to prove that our people are trained.

## Action items - Donald Turner

Membership report shared - we are down 125 about where we were last year - have found that many did not return

Calling all Affiliates to communicate with those who did not renew to increase our members!

AAESA 21 down. If we go below 651 we would lose a board seat.

**Financial report - Guest David Galahar** from Raymond James - we are in good shape with CLAS income from an investment standpoint. David shared the most recent statements:

Performance statement

70% fixed income and 30% variable

Projected income 827,000=18,000 interest

Over 5.2% 5.94% this year. +13,000 this year

CD -

Lower rates - It's hard to get a good % on CDs these days

Jenny Mae govt. bonds - Market is as strong as it has ever been!

Tax revenue is UP even with COVID up in our systems - Question is, "Will it continue and what has caused it?" Lots of online spending and with the Alabama Sales Tax Law passed a few years ago, we don't lose all the online sales tax!

People are still spending \$, business owners are still spending \$, PPE \$ being spent, new grants from the state are out there and will be available

**Executive Director Report - Dr. Vic Wilson** - He began with the heartfelt comment that, "He is astonished by the amount of work we all are doing, and especially the CLAS Staff." There is a new database at the CLAS office - working out kinks to make sure our #s are accurate  
Membership letters to those who have not renewed will be postmarked by December 31 .

Policy positions have not changed - to not touch the ETF. CLAS will be against a possible bill to tax the ETF. Several groups including: SSA, CLAS, AEA, and all oppose.

Budget ADM - working to make sure that school systems who lost students due to COVID should not be penalized, and be flexible for those systems who increased in size. we just need enough money to support our initiatives!

Focus: Enough \$ to support our initiatives

Fully fund transportation

Recruiting and retaining staff

Also discussed were retirement accounts. divisors to get fully funded nurses, counselors and mental health workers...all are needed now more than ever!

The CLAS/SSA Legislative Reception was changed to the Renaissance in Prattville, yet as we all know, it had to be canceled.  
Legislative session starts Feb. 2, 2021.

Dr. Wilson - had an opportunity to apply for another grant, yet, CLAS was not eligible because one of the stipulations stated we could not lobby and we do.

**Shared information about spam emails - we all need to be careful when opening emails! Make sure you can trust it before opening! Several schools have been affected!**

Everyone is worried that in December & January we will see peak covid #s - expected to be very high.

In August, 2020 CLASS accepted the 12th affiliate in CLASS... 504 Coordinators Affiliate. Congratulations to this new affiliate as their first year numbers are very high and close to what their leaders predicted!

CLAS SUMMER CONFERENCE - Vic reiterated that we hope we will have a full face to face conference in June. At this writing, CLAS has decide to offer a blended conference.

Hoping the vaccine is available and works as we enter the second semester of 2020-21!

We have learned that we must be flexible, and as leaders we must make decisions as early as possible to avoid stress  
**WE WANT TO BE NORMAL BY JUNE!**

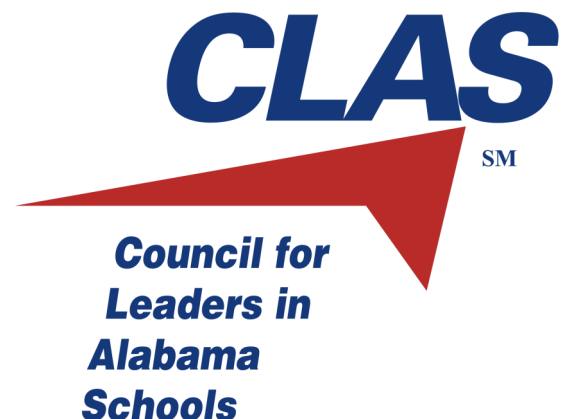
We should be proud that our Alabama schools are further along than many of our similar state organizations than any other state organizations. In our schools, we are open as much as possible where some haven't opened all semester!

Awards - Remind at the March board meeting nominations for the James A. Street and Little Red Schoolhouse Awards will be due.

A final thought from Dr. Wilson: If somebody offers you an amazing opportunity but you are not sure you can do it, say yes

Then learn how to do it later!

Richard Branson



# Assistant Executive Director's Report



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

I hope each of you had a great holiday season with family and friends. It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of February. This

continues to be the most challenging of years for all stakeholders in education. As the school administrator, you are the one that everyone is looking to give them guidance and calm in these unprecedented times.

**“It’s not the weight you carry, but how you carry it.”**

Mary Oliver

This year our professional organization has also experienced another year of membership growth. Encourage your fellow administrators to join CLAS and AAESA. Remember that this time of year the membership rates are prorated for new members. Check the CLAS website for the reduced rates for CLAS and AAESA.

Although we all miss the in person professional learning and district meetings, the new world of virtual has been our lifeline in schools and professional organizations. I am so thankful to the CLAS staff that has helped make this possible this year. **Alyssa Godfrey and Anita Reid** have been invaluable as we plan for the virtual or blended world. Virtual district meetings have opened the door for all administrators to participate. Many districts meet during the day and assistant principals have not been able to attend. This year many of our assistants have attended their district meetings. Watch for the email advertising the registration for the next district meetings. During the last couple of months of the year, each district will have

their final meeting for the year virtually. I hope everyone will try to attend for a great hour of networking and meeting fellow administrators from across your AAESA district. Watch for the emails announcing the meeting date and Zoom registration.

In addition to nominees for various awards, each district has elected officers for next school year. This year each district has a president and district representative. The districts are ready for another great year in their professional organization.

Each year we celebrate the accomplishments of our fellow administrators with the NAESP National Distinguished Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year awards. The three finalists for this year’s NDP award are **Amy Mason** from Madison County Elementary, **Tricia Culpepper** from Cullman City Primary, and **Stan Stokley** from Saraland Elementary. Each of their school visits were held virtually the first week of February. The winner will be announced in the next few weeks. The other nominees were **Dr. Lucile Prewitt, Mrs. Judith Ross, Mrs. Beth Rigsby, Mr. David Carpenter, Mrs. Patrice Wolfe, and Mr. Chris Mitten.**

The winner of the Assistant Principal of the Year will be announced later this spring. The nominees this year include **Nona Adams, Tammy George, Melinda Boots, Aqila Malpass, Amanda Martinez, Angie Beard, Rodney Drish, and Leslie Cross.**

I hope each of you have marked your calendars for upcoming conferences. The 50<sup>th</sup> CLAS Convention will be held June 14-16 in Birmingham. The theme of this year’s conference is **Emerge 2021: Reshaping Education.** The keynote speakers include Thomas Murray and Saneé Bell. There will be numerous sessions for professional growth for you to select. Don’t miss this important time of networking with fellow administrators from across the state and visiting the exhibit hall and talk with our partners.

# Assistant Executive Director's Report Cont'd

The NAESP Pre-K-8 Principals' Conference will be held July 8-10, 2021, in Chicago. This will be the centennial convention celebration and the NAESP staff has planned some special events to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> year. The keynote speakers include Baruti Kafele, Ruby Payne, and Dan Heath. The conference strands include the following: Instructional Leadership Development, Management Techniques for Effective Learning Communities, Innovative Leadership Approaches, Best Practices in Social Emotional Learning, Strategies for Technology, and Social Media and School Branding. The NAESP Conference website, [www.naesconference.org](http://www.naesconference.org), contains information and details about the conference. In addition to hearing administrators from across the country present about programs in their schools, this is a valuable time to network and learn ideas from other administrators across the country.

The AAESA Fall Instructional Leaders Conference will be held back at the Perdido Beach Resort on November 15-17, 2021. We are beginning the planning for this annual conference for elementary administrators' professional learning.

We are hopeful that everyone will be able to attend in-person by that time. However, if we need to make offerings virtually CLAS and AAESA will provide those professional learning experiences. In these stressful times it is so important to grow professionally and recharge ourselves personally.

**"Challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."** Joshua J. Marine

## Congratulations to Our Newly Elected Officers

### *Vice President*

**Shelia Jones**

Hazelgreen Elementary

Madison County



### *CLAS Board of Directors*

**Veronica Coleman**

Chastang-Fournier K-8 Elementary

Mobile County

**Charlie Gardner**

Hokes Bluff Elementary

Etowah County

# Leading with Courage and Grace



*David McCollum*

*Banks-Caddell*

*Elementary*

*Decatur City*

“You never know what battles people are facing.”

Show grace.

We’ve all heard the words used to describe 2020, most if not all give

negative implications.

“Unprecedented.”

“Fluid.”

“Unsettling.”

“Chaotic.”

“Stressful.”

“New normal.”

While there seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel, one truth no one can deny is this: Things. Have. Changed.

A lot.

With all the negativity that surrounds us, it’s important to remember that love casts out fear, and optimism is the fuel that can boost morale in the midst of so much bad news.

Now, I am not advocating for rainbows and unicorns; everyone has felt the effects from this pandemic and experienced distress associated with Covid-19. It’s been devastating. Every life lost is and was precious. The emotional toll is high, and all of the disruptions and loss should be acknowledged. School leaders should show grace and be empathetic to the realities of the Covid-19 world and its primary and secondary effects on students, teachers, parents, and staff.

And, school leaders have got to show grace to themselves, too. **Don’t forget this!**

Despite all of the turmoil and uncertainty, leading during disruptive and chaotic days offers opportunities....and we should be careful not to miss them. Here are five opportunities that we should take advantage of during the craziness.

- The pandemic has offered us the opportunity to develop deeper, more meaningful relationships with teachers,

support staff, students, and parents. We all need inspiration, hope, and community. We should lead courageously, by example, and be overly intentional to support, listen, and encourage. Sometimes leading looks an awful lot like being quiet and opening our ears, minds, and hearts to the suffering of others.

- Leaders have the opportunity to be more creative in communicating with and to parents. This can take the shape of Twitter, YouTube, or other technological avenues. I’m a little old school, and it can also look a lot like picking up the phone and making some calls to just to say hello and that I’m thinking about them.
- Teachers have been forced to adapt to new technologies and become more comfortable in teaching the digital world. This is not a bad thing. Leaders can take advantage by learning alongside them, and also using the reality of the need for strong instructional methods using technologies to engage students. The pandemic has exposed both the possibilities that exist with technologies for learning, and also the frustrations that are experienced in using them.
- Leaders have opportunities to truly lead and troubleshoot in real-time. With the ever-changing “situations on the ground,” with contact tracing, quarantines, and positive cases of Covid, school leaders have been forced to adapt and deal with problems that have never been dealt with in their careers. While this can be overly frustrating, flexibility and being able to pivot quickly can provide long-term confidence in that, if we can lead effectively in this environment, we can overcome anything that comes our way!
- Federal Funding has increased for public schools, which provides some opportunities for schools to offer different tools for teachers and students. Spend wisely and don’t waste the funds on short-term solutions to systematic problems, would be my advice, for what it’s worth.

Leadership is not for the faint of heart. The best leaders exhibit courage, always tell the truth, and stand firm while loving all kids, parents, and staff. While no one really knows what challenges lie ahead, the truth is the world is always changing. There will always be issues and problems to face. Leading with courage and grace is needed desperately, and the beauty is we get to choose every day. Choose wisely!

## District I News

The mission of AAESA has always been professional engagement and professional development. This year however, has proved to be like no other. District 1 has worked hard to not let COVID keep us from learning and collaborating with our peers.

Social distancing, safety, and other factors prevented our traditional in-person Lunch and Learns. We knew more than ever, principals needed to know they were not alone and we could all get through this difficult time together. Our goal from the beginning was to provide virtual meetings that addressed areas of difficulty everyone was experiencing. So far this year, we have heard presentations on implementing the Literacy Act, Social and Emotional Support for students, staff, and teachers, and how to implement the new digital literacy standards. Meetings have averaged an hour in length with a question and answer session at the end. As a result of moving to Zoom meetings, our attendance has grown. Administrators have shared how much they enjoy this format. We all know, leaving our buildings during the day can be quite difficult and in the year of COVID, it is almost impossible. Feedback has been so awesome; this may be our new approach to quarterly district meetings.

The most powerful piece gleaned from our meetings is getting to see each other, even if it is through a screen. At the end of the day, we all need people. We all need people who understand our days, our frustrations, our pressures, and our successes. We all need people who understand how big of a deal it is when a kindergartner finally learns all their letters or a whole week passes without a bus referral.

Karissa Lang  
Crestline Elementary  
Hartselle City

## District VI News

District VI members convened on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, via Zoom to bring in the new year. The meeting was hosted by District VI President, Dr. Margaret M. Jones, and AAESA District VI members from Selma City Schools and Demopolis City

Schools were present. During this meeting, nominations were solicited from the voting members present, and Mrs. Bridget Powell, Principal of U.S. Jones Elementary in Demopolis City, was unanimously elected District VI Vice-President. The 2021-2022 District VI Officers are:

Dr. Margaret M. Jones, President; Edgewood Elementary, Selma City Schools  
Mrs. Bridget Powell, Vice-President; U.S. Jones Elementary, Demopolis City Schools  
Mrs. Holly McNider – District Representative; Prattville Primary, Autauga County Schools

District VI meeting participants had the opportunity to hear from the CLAS Executive Director, Dr. Vic Wilson, and he provided insight related to the *Alabama Literacy Act*, the upcoming 2021 Alabama Legislative session, and how we as members need to contact our local State Representatives and Senator. CLAS Associate Executive Director, Mr. Ricky Darby, provided information related to the CLAS Summer Conference that will be held in Birmingham, the NAESP National Conference in July that will be held in Chicago, and information on scholarships for aspiring leaders and first-time attendees to the NAESP National Conference. Mr. Darby discussed the CLAS leadership award and District VI members nominated and unanimously voted on Dr. Margaret M. Jones, as the Leadership Award nominee for AAESA District VI.

Dr. Jones reminded members to engage their legislators and to provide feedback to Dr. Wilson so that voices of leaders in Alabama are heard. District VI had an insightful meeting, and we look forward to strengthening and becoming visible in the work of AAESA to support our scholars, staff members, and families.

Margaret Jones  
Edgewood Elementary  
Selma City

# Welcome New AAESA Members

## District I

Matthew Bonds.....Florence City Schools  
Dennis Butler ..... Lauderdale County Schools  
Ashley Delano ..... Lauderdale County Schools  
Greta Erwin ..... Lauderdale County Schools  
Larry Green .....Muscle Shoals City Schools  
Michael Hathorn .....Lawrence County Schools  
Kandye Jones .....Limestone County Schools  
Cynthia Monroe .....Shelby County Schools  
Sarah Savas ..... Decatur City Schools  
Chad Summerford.....Morgan County Schools  
Orlando Turner ..... Athens City Schools

## District II

Tiffany Brown..... Mobile County Schools  
Heather Roe ..... Satsuma City Schools

## District III

Twana Ivory..... Tuscaloosa City Schools  
Jodi Wilson.....Tuscaloosa County Schools

## District IV

Kelly Adams..... Bessemer City Schools  
Kristina Allen ..... Mountain Brook City Schools  
Derrick Burney ..... Birmingham City Schools  
Danyell Butler ..... Birmingham City Schools  
Matthew Cameron ..... Vestavia Hills City Schools  
Melanie Covington..... Hoover City Schools  
Ammie Dawson .....Jefferson County Schools  
Carla Dudley..... Mountain Brook City Schools  
Tiffany Hamilton..... Alabaster City Schools  
LaKorya Jackson ..... Bessemer City Schools  
Cari McClellan .....Jefferson County Schools  
Lindsay Morgan..... Hoover City Schools  
Jane Smith.....Shelby County Schools  
Monique Stewart .....Jefferson County Schools  
Stephanie Whitt-Webb ..... Birmingham City Schools

## District V

Katelyn Holland..... Gadsden City Schools  
Frances Miller ..... Etowah County Schools

Jordan Pilkington.....Oxford City Schools  
Debby Smith..... Talladega County Schools  
Emily Smith ..... Calhoun County Schools  
Latoya Threatt ..... Pell City Schools  
Julie West ..... Dekalb County Schools  
Lauren Young ..... Calhoun County Schools

## District VI

Lisa Brown.....Chilton County Schools  
Jennifer Douthit .....Autauga County Schools  
Hilary Ellis..... Dale County Schools  
Allene Jones ..... Demopolis City Schools  
Jason Munford ..... Selma City Schools

## District VII

Dena Armbrecht..... Baldwin County Schools  
Michael Clay..... Baldwin County Schools  
Heather Cook ..... Escambia County Schools  
Caroline Hollowell..... Baldwin County Schools  
Madeline Jones .....Autauga County Schools  
Monica Mitchell ..... Conecuh County Schools  
Spencer Segrest ..... Baldwin County Schools  
Leslie Sellers ..... Escambia County Schools  
Marty Stringer..... Baldwin County Schools  
Leighann Swindle ..... Baldwin County Schools

## District VIII

Jermaine Coleman .....Eufaula City Schools  
Erica Delgado .....Dothan City Schools  
Evelyn Parker ..... Dothan Preparatory Academy  
LaTasha Vaughn ..... Barbour County Schools

## District IX

Natalie Beaird.....Jackson County Schools  
Anthony Haynes ..... Madison County Schools  
Leslie Maples..... Huntsville City Schools

## District X

Jenny McAlister ..... Madison County Schools  
Michelle Rathmann Vanaria ..... Madison County Schools  
Bonnie Richburg ..... Madison County Schools





# EMERGE 2021

RESHAPING EDUCATION

## 2021 CLAS CONVENTION



## 2021 CLAS CONVENTION



THOMAS C. MURRAY



DAMON WEST



SANEE BELL

Join us for the golden 50th celebration of the CLAS Summer Convention. This extraordinary three-day event features content to inspire and guide leaders in their quest to improve school and district performance. Expand your professional growth with strategies to take your career, school, and students to the next level. You will not want to miss Alabama's largest professional learning gathering for school and district administrators.



	PRE-REGISTRATION BY MAY 8	REGISTRATION BY JUNE 12	ON-SITE JUNE 13-16
<i>Members</i>	\$ 290	\$ 325	\$ 355
<i>Non-Members</i>	\$ 470	\$ 505	\$ 535

CONVENTION.CLASLEADERS.ORG

**Alabama Association of Elementary School Administrators**  
**P.O. Box 428**  
**Montgomery, AL 36101-0428**  
**(800) 239-3616 or (334) 265-3610**  
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