Greetings Fellow Tennessee Principals,

It seems like yesterday we were welcoming students to the first day of school, and now today we are gearing up for the testing season that is fast approaching. Time really flies when you enjoy what you do as you meet the overwhelming needs of your students.

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces and meet new friends during our Annual Fall Conference in Pigeon Forge last December. The sessions provided were very enlightening and informative, and I hope you have been able to put a number of the ideas into action at your school that you acquired at the conference.

There are GREAT things happening in our organization this year. First, you will have an opportunity to vote for the next vice-president of TPA. The nominating committee will select two dynamic principals as the slate of candidates, and ballots will be mailed out by the end of March.

Next, the NAESP Better Practices for Better Schools Annual Conference will be held at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville on July 10-12, 2014. We hope that every member will register for the conference, for your support is a key factor in the success of TPA. This will be an event that you will not want to miss because it will address the current educational trends that we, as principals, face on a day-to-day basis.

Additionally, you now have the option to pay your membership fees online if paying by credit card. We realize that you have an extremely busy schedule; and therefore, our organization wants to make this as painless and less time consuming as possible. Hopefully, this will be a convenience for you in joining or renewing the association.

Lastly, the executive board convened recently and decided that our next annual fall conference will be at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis. The conference theme will be announced soon, and if you are interested in being a presenter, please email me at tanksonjv@scsk12.org or call me at (901) 416-8166.

With the full implementation of Common Core State Standards in a few months, I know that you are ready and have prepared your teachers and students to meet the call of our state/nation to better prepare our students for a society that is becoming more competitive and that exceeds our imagination. I wish you the best and many successes for you and your school. Always know that TPA is here for YOU!

Dr. Janice V. Tankson
Are you READY for the 93rd NAESP Annual Conference “Best Practices for Better Schools” to come to TENNESSEE? Well...get READY – because literally thousands of principals, assistant principals, aspiring administrators, school administrators and leadership teams from across the country are headed our way this summer!

SET your calendars and reserve the following days, July 10-12, 2014, for some great professional development! SET your budget for this three day experience. SET your GPS for the Gaylord Opryland Hotel! SET your mind to broaden your horizon as an educational leader!

GO and experience attending and participating in a National Conference! GO network and meet school leaders from across America! GO and get involved in your state and national professional associations. GO and learn something that will make you a better leader!

Are you READY? Get SET to GO and experience a professional opportunity that will make an impact on YOU! Visit www.naesp.org for registration and conference information.


(the following excerpt was taken from the NAESP website)

THIS YEAR ALL EYES WILL BE ON NASHVILLE!

There’s no other event like the NAESP National Conference and Exposition. Only here can you make the contacts, share the ideas, and discover the solutions that will inform your whole school year.

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES!

WHAT IF you heard an idea that gave rise to a program that changed a students’ life in your school?

WHAT IF you discovered a best practice that would solve the problem that’s been nagging your school for years?

WHAT IF there were such an opportunity for you to make this happen and you failed to take advantage of it? (unthinkable)

Don’t let it happen without you. REGISTER NOW!
Inadequate Brain Competencies Undermine Drive to Implement Common Core and Close Student Achievement Gap

By Robert Bates, Executive Director, U.S. K12 Business Development, CogniSens

“With the right support, we know all students will rise to the level of expectations set by the Common Core State Standards.” - TN Core

NeuroTracker is a research-based 3D brain training intervention that was specifically designed to enhance and improve brain processing competencies most essential to learning. The following are some of the key benefits to principals:

- By significantly increasing attentional capabilities, NeuroTracker students are better prepared to take advantage of good teaching and curriculum.
- NeuroTracker improves brain processing speed. Research has shown that having a slow “brain processor” is a major contributing factor with students who struggle with reading. [http://www.learningstewards.org/re-dyslexics-suffer-from-a-slower-processor/](http://www.learningstewards.org/re-dyslexics-suffer-from-a-slower-processor/)
- ADHD students who are classified as extremely impaired have shown significant improvement after using NeuroTracker for as little as thirty days. Some students have moved from extremely impaired to almost average in that short length of time.
- Principals will see a reduction in discipline referrals since NeuroTracker helps students control attention, hyperactivity and impulsivity.
- NeuroTracker is easy to implement. Sessions take only six minutes and struggling students train 2 or 3 sessions every other day.

For many students ‘the right support’ means differentiated instruction that is relevant (to what the student has already learned), that engages them motivationally, and that responds to the learning needs it provokes. But for a significant number of students, arguably most of the students who are chronically improficient (according to NAEP and TCAP: 50% or more Tennessee students), the challenge isn’t differentiating instruction, it’s boosting the brain processing competencies that underlie the ability to learn from the instruction in the first place. Students with insufficient working memory, brain processing speed and/or attentional capacity are struggling because their brains aren’t adequately performing the processing tasks necessary for learning from the instruction they are receiving. For these students, improving their performance is less about ‘tuning’ instruction and more about ‘boosting’ their brain’s processing competencies. This reality necessitates the need for every school to provide an intervention that addresses these critical underlying cognitive deficits.

Robert Bates can be reached at 615-330-2926 or batesrl@comcast.net
The Goal in developing a Business Intelligence Solution with the TPA

An interactive business intelligence solution will serve as an early warning system for potential TPA members. When the service is fully developed, TPA members will benefit from such a system at a fraction of the cost of traditional business intelligence software.

**Key Dashboards in the Business Intelligence Solution**

- **Attendance dashboards** will be designed to flag unusual attendance patterns, highlight students not meeting attendance requirements, aggregate years of attendance (if data is provided), and drill-down to student level data to provide visual information needed by administrators to make informed decisions regarding attendance.

- Research confirms the lowest-performing students are most at risk of dropping out of high school. Those achieving in the lowest quartile are 3.5 times more likely to drop out than students in the next highest quarter of academic achievement, and 20 times more likely to drop out of school than top-performing students. Students that maintain regular school attendance tend to achieve and perform at higher proficiency levels and graduate from school than those with high absentee rates and poor attendance patterns.

- **Academic dashboards** will be created to provide administrators visual progress monitoring for academic achievement. Ongoing formative assessment data (Discovery Education or other systems) will be available in an interactive environment. TCAP will be available in an interactive format and will allow administrator to drill-down into the data by grade level, gender, raw score, proficiency level, ethnicity, socio-economic status, and other sub-group information.

- **Grading dashboards** will be designed to provide grade information to school administrators by course, subject, teacher, and marking. Controls will be added to allow administrators to quickly locate distribution patterns of high and low grades - A’s and F’s.

- **Intervention dashboards** will be designed to provide visual indicators to monitor intervention programs. Student progress will be visualized in Tableau Server and configured to provide point-and-click functionality. Trends will be flagged as an early warning system to prevent any disruptions to the fidelity of the implementation.

Continued on next page...
Custom Dashboard Designs
Simplex Learning will provide custom dashboard development for participating schools with input from school personnel. New dashboards can be created in a collaborative environment. Newly created designs can be converted into fully functioning data visualizations in Tableau Server by a certified Tableau Developer.

System Architecture
2013 TPA Annual Conference
December 5 and 6 in Pigeon Forge
2013 TPA Annual Conference
December 5 and 6 in Pigeon Forge
2013 TPA Annual Conference
December 5 and 6 in Pigeon Forge
2013 TPA Annual Conference
December 5 and 6 in Pigeon Forge

For more photos, visit our website
TnPrinAssoc.org
The 2014 National Distinguished Principal Award (NDP) Nominations are now being accepted. If you know of a principal who is a member of TPA/NAESP that you would like to nominate for the 2014 NDP Award, please complete the nomination form (next page). All nomination forms are due by February 28, 2014.

They may be mailed to:

Sharon McNary
5440 Rich Road
Memphis, TN 38120

They may be e-mailed to:
mcnarysk@scsk12.org

Contact Sharon McNary with any questions at:
901-416-2148

Sharon McNary
NAESP State Representative
NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPALS PROGRAM
A Program to Recognize Excellence in School Leadership

2014 NOMINATION APPLICATION

Nominee’s Name________________________
Nominee’s School________________________ Grade Configuration________
Address_______________________________
Phone________________________ Fax_________ E-mail____________________
School Type_________ Urban_________ Suburban_________ Rural ________
School Enrollment_________
Total Number of Years as a Principal_________
Nominator’s Name/Address/Phone/E-mail ________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________
Relationship to Nominee______________________________

Please read requirements for official application carefully:

Award Criteria
The nominee:

is a member of NAESP at the time of the award;
is an active principal of a school in which a commitment to excellence is clearly evident;
has been an active principal for at least five years;
will remain in active service in a position of school leadership during the school year in which he/she will
serve as NDP;
shows a strong commitment to the principalship through active membership in professional associations;
is respected by students, colleagues, parents, and the community at large;
assumes an active role in his/her community, distinguishing himself/herself as a leader in civic, religious, or
humanitarian activities;
shows strong educational leadership by setting high expectations for school staff and students; and
maintains an orderly, purposeful learning environment.

If you are interested in applying or in nominating a candidate for the National Distinguished Principals award,
please complete this form along with an attached letter (not to exceed two pages) identifying the strengths and
skills that you feel make the candidate eligible for this award. Please check with your state principal’s affiliate or
sponsoring organization to determine deadlines for submission or any additional state requirements.

Successful candidates will be required to complete the formal application form upon no-
tification from their state or sponsoring organization’s selection committee.

_____________________________________________________________________
Nominator’s Signature ______________________________ Date

_____________________________________________________________________
Supervisor or Employer’s Signature ______________________________ Date

Return completed Nomination Application to Sharon McNary at 5440 Rich Rd. Memphis, TN. 38120 or
mcnarysk@scsk12.org, by February 28, 2014.
**Executive Director’s Report**  
*Dr. Ernest Bentley, Jr.*

### Pigeon Forge 2013 Conference

Pages 6-9 capture participants and activities in one of the most adventurous conference venues—a Wednesday dinner at MagiQuest and admission to the Tomb; a great array of vendors in the exhibit hall of the Music Road Hotel; a reception and visit to the exhibits in WonderWorks; exploration of what’s happening in the minds of learners (David Boulton); laughter with Debbie Silver in her unique views on leadership; Dr. Meador’s inspirational presentation at the Awards Luncheon; and the recognitions of Brian Partin as the *Dr. Robert Frazier Meritorious* award winner and Jamie Woodson as the *2014 Friend of Education*.

Final calculations of income and expenses have been audited by Dr. Holy Flora, Dr. Steve Barnett, and myself. The association was blessed with manageable expenses and net income of approximately $29,000 largely based upon the support of our sponsors. Those funds make up approximately one fourth of TPA’s budget for the 2014 year.

### Budget Adoption for 2014

The executive committee reviewed expenditures from the 2013 calendar budget and found expenditures within appropriated funds. During the annual business meeting, Dr. Ann-Marie Gleason presented the audited 2013 budget results which is Column 2 (below). Then the executive committee and board adopted the 2014 budget. The balances on hand to begin the 2014 budget year are approximately the amount of the approved budget which is in Column 3 (below). The association has been fortunate to be able to begin the last several program years with the funds in the bank to operate at the level approved for the budget year. The executive committee is hopeful of increased revenues related to the NAESP annual conference in Nashville and our partnerships with NeuroTracker and Simplex Learning (see pages 3-5) which will be available for program activities not currently budgeted in the $112,000 approved amount. The conference income and expenses for 2014 have not been included in the basic budget approved. It is customary when the conference is in the Peabody in Memphis for expenses to be in the $40,000-50,000 range.

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<th>Approved Budget 1/11/13</th>
<th>Expenditures 1/1/13 - 12/31/13</th>
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<td><strong>$141,666.52</strong></td>
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April Election for the Next TPA Vice-president

Each year, at least one new officer is added to the leadership team. It has been customary to have representation from each of the Grand Divisions among the elected officers (president, president-elect, vice-president, and NAESP state representative). This year might be viewed as West Grand Division’s year. A nominating committee was selected at the annual business meeting on December 7, in Pigeon Forge. It is chaired by the past-president who this year is Kim Headrick. Members nominated and selected are Debra Martin, Dr. Debra Smith, and Dr. Steve Barnett. At least three nominees have already been submitted for consideration by the committee. The slate will be comprised of the two most qualified candidates in the judgment of the panel. Additional nominations may be submitted by February 7. The slate will be identified by the end of February, and ballot information will be prepared with candidate statements and mailed by March 31, 2014. The deadline for returns to be counted, as always, is April 30.

NAESP July Conference in Nashville

NAESP and TPA are collaboratively planning a membership drive for non-members attending the conference in July. What this means for Tennesseans is an opportunity to encourage assistant principals and aspiring principals to attend as team members with a special affordable group rate of $249 each (up to five). A particular emphasis will be the seven-county area comprising the greater Nashville area because these prospects are within driving distance. Non-member convention registrants in this driving distance zone will be invited to a "schmoozarama" event that exposes them to the value of TPA/NAESP membership. These individuals will be allowed to visit the exhibit arena by using a special pass and a special event will be planned for them.

TPA is currently negotiating with NAESP for a special registration rate for TPA/NAESP members—a flat rate somewhere between $200-$250. Registration is already open for that conference, and as I recall, early bird rate is $359. So, it will be a good deal and a chance to be part of the national meeting. As soon as a decision is made, an email blast will be sent to all members through our website. Nancy, Brian, or I will know more by the end of February.

Current Pilot Projects/Partnerships

Longtime TPA business supporter Robert Bates is now the national executive director for CogniSens and their NeuroTracker product. TPA has partnered with Robert and NeuroTracker because their approach to neuroplasticity offers significant promise to improve mental functioning for almost anyone. But for those most needing brain rewire work it may be the difference in learning success or continued failure. Three pilots have been undertaken in Tennessee. The first was at Ruby Major Elementary (Metro Nashville) where Teresa Dennis was principal. The second was at Whitwell Middle (Whitwell, Principal Kim Headrick). The third has recently been completed at Thomas Jefferson Elementary (Kingsport, Principal Brian Partin). Please see page 3 for a quick overview of NeuroTracker.

Gus Vargas and Simplex Learning have been involved with TPA in a number of projects. Vargas’s expertise with data management is exceptional. Our partnership with Simplex Learning is an attempt to provide affordable data management access to local principals in Tennessee schools. Pages 4 and 5 offer a thumbnail sketch of Dashboard potential and the use of Cloud technology. Currently, two pilots are underway or approved. The first is being set up in Whitwell Middle, an East Tennessee location. The second approved pilot was won by T'Shaka Coverson (McMurray Middle Preps of Nashville) in a drawing at Simplex Learning’s booth at the TPA Pigeon Forge conference.
- 2014 -

**February 6-8**
Executive NASSP Conference: Ignite '14, Sheraton Dallas, Dallas, Texas

**February 23-25**

**March 25,26**
Executive Committee at the Legislature, Nashville, Tennessee

**April 5,6**
SE Council for Elementary Principals/Zone 4 Meeting, Hyatt Place at Jacksonville Airport, Jacksonville, Florida

**July 10**
TPA Board of Directors Dinner Meeting, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee

**July 10-12**
NAESP Annual Conference, Gaylord Opryland Hotel, Nashville, Tennessee (see page 2)

**July 20-24**
The Summit Experience, Discovery Education Global Headquarters, Silver Spring, Maryland

**September TBA**
Executive Committee Conference Call, date and time TBA

**November 14-17**
TSBA Annual Convention, Nashville, Tennessee

**December 7-9**
Annual Tennessee Principals Association Conference, Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee (watch your July mail for a brochure)