I hope that you had a great summer, and the 2013-14 school year began with the excitement of making this year the best ever for your teachers, staff and your most precious product, the students. I am extremely excited about the wonderful things that are happening within our state. Our students are showing continuous academic increase on the state assessment. Our very own, Dr. Nancy Meador from Nashville, is the President of the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) organization, and Mr. Brian Partin from Kingsport, was elected Director of NAESP Zone 4. These accomplishments show that Tennessee is making tremendous strides across the country, and your voice is being heard on a national level.

Furthermore, during the summer executive planning session, three words illuminated that give extensive leverage to principals as they prepare to lead in the Common Core Era. Principals LEAD. John Maxwell once stated, “A leader knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.” As a principal, there are so many different hats that we wear on a daily basis, but our stakeholders and communities depend on us to lead in the right direction. Principals INSPIRE. Sometimes the biggest task of all is inspiring people to go beyond their comfort zone. Principals not only see the potential in their teachers and students, but they have a special ability in bringing the best out of them. Lastly, principals ACHIEVE. Principals not only make sure that their #1 Goal for the school is student achievement, but that every child develops to his/her full potential academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. Without a doubt, I know you will continue to Lead, Inspire, and Achieve in all that you do this school year.

Membership is vital to any organization and in an ever-changing society, it is important that you belong to an association whose primary focus is the principal. We are here to support you! This year we have acquired Grand Division Directors that will aid in recruitment and retention of members. The West Division Director is Dr. Teri Evans; the Middle Division Director is Dr. Ted Murcray; and the East Division Director is Dr. Steve Barnett. They will work closely with our NAESP State Representative, Mrs. Sharon McNary.

In addition, I would like to encourage you to be a participant in the Annual Leadership Conference this winter. As our state prepares for the full implementation of the Common Core Standards in 2014-15, we decided that our theme for the year would be Leading in the Common Core Era. This theme will set the stage for the 2013 Annual Leadership Conference at Music Road Hotel & Inn in Pigeon Forge December 5-6, 2013. Many renowned presenters will be there to empower principals to become more effective “Leaders of Learning” in our schools. Rooms are available for reservation in the TPA block at $85 per night. Sessions on Common Core, teacher and principal evaluations, instructional leadership through collaborative strategies, and promising commercial applications will be featured.

As always, I am humbled and honored to work in a profession that values the development and success of all learners! Wishing each of you a wonderful and safe school year and looking forward to seeing you in Pigeon Forge!

Warmest Regards,
Dr. Janice Tankson, President
Convening in Knoxville in the newly-opened Embassy Suites at Exit 378, all thirteen members of the re-structured board of directors spent two days identifying ways to be more useful to Tennessee’s principals. Pictured below are (left to right) Dr. Ted Murcray (Middle Division Director), Dr. Nancy Meador (NAESP President), Dr. Debra Bentley (Treasurer), Mrs. Sharon McNary (NAESP State Representative), Dr. Ann-Marie Gleason (Vice President), Mrs. Kimbrelle Lewis (Secretary), Dr. Janice Tankson (President), Dr. Holly Flora (President-elect), Mr. Brian Partin (NAESP Zone 4 Director), Dr. Teri Evans (West Division Director), Mrs. Kim Headrick (Past-president), Dr. Steve Barnett (East Division Director), and Dr. Ernest Bentley, Jr. (Executive Director). Each member of the board is either a current or a former successful principal.

The major restructuring occurred during our planning meeting—a shift from nine division directors to three (Evans, Murcray, Barnett) and placing the responsibility for chairing the standing committees with the elected officers. Typical standing committees have included publications, middle schools, research, membership, and professional development with some additional ad hoc committees appointed as needed on an annual basis. Many of these committees will continue to function with one of the officers responsible for their oversight. The executive committee continues to be made up of the five elected officers (Tankson, Flora, Gleason, McNary, and Headrick) and the three appointed officers (D. Bentley, Lewis, and E. Bentley).

Meeting dates for the executive committee are established on a quarterly basis. The next meeting is in Chattanooga at the Marriott Downtown, September 21, 22, 2013. The second will occur during TPA’s annual conference, December 5,6, 2013. January and April meeting dates will be established at the next meeting. After soliciting ideas from the committee members, the president provides an agenda prior to the meetings. TPA reimburses travel expenses and provides food and lodging for three of the four quarterly meetings (it is assumed board members will already be in attendance at TPA’s annual conference).

Another major business item of the summer meeting focused on establishing new ambassador teams to serve as association links between the TPA board and its membership. Obviously, a major expectation is that membership growth and development can and will result. As NAESP’s State Representative, Sharon McNary coordinates the work of the three division directors and oversees membership retention and recruitment efforts.

A second major item was the organization and operational plan for the fall conference in Pigeon Forge. Flora and Partin agreed to serve as co-chairs and to finalize concurrent session plans and work assignments. The flier describing the conference is on Pages 5-8 of this newsletter. The focus this year is “Leading in the Common-Core Era.” The state is pushing its agenda along in both math and literacy and principals have been challenged to raise performance in both instructional practice and student achievement. Our selection of speakers and sessions will add value for participants.

A third extensive discussion centered on the identification of unique member services which TPA can actually offer and pay for. Ten equally-interesting suggestions were made including the following three: (1.) linking our website to sources of frequently-used letters and forms that would benefit principals in their daily tasks; (2.) establishing a vendors/partners section on our website where pertinent companies can (for a charge) advertise via a link or QR code; (3.) producing an app for our association.
Welcome Back to the 2013-14 School Year. My name is Brian Partin and I will serve as Director of Zone 4 on the NAESP Board of Directors. If you are a member of NAESP and reside in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, You are a part of Zone 4.

It is such an honor for me to represent so many great principals and leaders across the southeastern part of our country – most specifically my home state of Tennessee! In addition to working with some incredible principals from all over the United States, I am especially blessed to have the opportunity to work under the guidance and leadership of our NAESP President and fellow Tennessean, Dr. Nancy Meador.

My first official meeting as zone director was held in July prior to the NAESP Best Practices meeting in Baltimore, MD. The conference proved to be extremely exciting, emotional and engaging. One of the major highlights for me was on Saturday when a special dedication ceremony was held for one of our fallen colleagues and hero, Dawn Hochsprung, who sacrificed her life for her staff and students during the Sandy Hook shooting in Connecticut. This ceremony was preceded by a special program session about Rachel’s Challenge. Rachel’s Challenge, a series of student empowering programs and strategies that equip students and adults to combat bullying, is named after Rachel Joy Scott, who was the first student killed in the Columbine shooting.

In addition to attending some incredible sessions, I was given the opportunity to be a member of the NAESP By-laws Review Committee. This committee met in person and electronically over an 18 month period. During this time, several proposed changes were made and given to the NAESP Board to approve and send to the Delegate Assembly, which consists of members from every state. This proved to be a hot topic throughout the duration of the conference. The current bylaws have been in place since 1922, so the extensive proposals were received with a few mixed emotions. Ultimately, the delegate assembly voted to send the proposed changes back to committee for revisions and further feedback from the general membership.

I’m looking forward to working on behalf of all of the principals in Zone 4 and I hope that you will feel free to contact me with any questions that you may have. I hope to see you all in at both our Tennessee State Principals’ Conference in Pigeon Forge, TN in December and our NAESP National Best Practices Conference, which will be held July 10-12 in Nashville!
Welcome back for another school year! The beginning of a new school year brings about renewed excitement and hope for what will be accomplished! Principals need to capitalize on this excitement and energy as new goals and targets will provide additional challenge and opportunity for growth.

As I meet and speak with principals across America this year, four action packed words will be included in my message...PRINCIPALS make it happen! If you stop and think about what our job entails—we make things happen every day for students, parents, faculty, and staff. How do we make what we do happen? Principals make it happen through leadership, inspiration, and achievement. Principals lead. Principals inspire.

Principals achieve.

I hope you will become an active member in your state and national professional associations! The impact of involvement provides professional learning opportunities that are beyond the scope of your imagination. By volunteering time in the Tennessee Principals Association—this led to leadership opportunities on the TPA Board of Directors, the Southeastern Council of Elementary School Principals, and now to NAESP. This leadership journey has provided me with deeper insight as I listen and work with principals across our nation.

At least three times a year I meet with the NAESP Board of Directors. Fourteen principals, from across America (3 elected officers, 9 regional/zone directors, 2 at-large directors), work together to lead NAESP. Gail Connelly is the Executive Director of NAESP and directs the staff at the headquarters building located in Alexandria, VA. The Board of Directors schedule meetings in conjunction with three major events hosted by NAESP:

- National Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C., February 24-25, 2014

NAESP continues to have a significant voice in educational reforms that will provide each and every child with a high-caliber education. During the 2013 Annual Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, Arne Duncan, U.S. Secretary of Education, reinforced our message that principals play a significant role and must be a driving force in education reform. NAESP’s work in principal evaluation and the ESEA reauthorization has positively impacted national lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

The coming year will bring multiple opportunities to reinforce our message and to continue to grow in our positions. This year, the Best Practices for Better Schools™ Annual Conference will be held in Nashville, TN on July 10-12, 2014. This event will provide important and valuable professional development for principals, as well as a time to network with colleagues across the country.

During my year as NAESP President, I am committed to assisting states to increase membership and convey the incredible value of NAESP. I look forward to meeting with leaders and directors and supporting them in their efforts to grow as an association.

I look forward to working with you and elevating the voice of elementary and middle-level principals across our great nation. Principals make it happen! Have a GREAT SCHOOL YEAR! Visit www.naesp.org for additional information, benefits, resources!

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND...
Best Practices for Better Schools™ Annual Conference
Gaylord Opryland Hotel & Convention Center
Nashville, TN, July 10-12, 2014
Tennessee Principals Association
Annual Leadership Professional Development

2013: Leading in the Common Core Era
December 5, 6, 2013 – Pigeon Forge

Emily Barton
TDOT Assistant Commissioner of Curriculum and Instruction

David Boulton
learning activist, technologist

Debbie Silver
speaker, author, humorist

12 hours TASL credit to be requested!
Tentative Schedule at a Glance

Wednesday, December 4
1:00-6:00  Registration
5:00       Vendor set-up begins
6:00       Executive committee meeting
7:00       Board dinner meeting (by invitation)

Thursday, December 5
8:00-10:00 First General Session: David Boulton
10:00-10:30 Morning break and exhibit hall ribbon cutting
10:30-11:30 First Set of Concurrent Sessions (common-core training and implementation in Tennessee and out-of-booth presentations)
          11:30-1:20  (lunch & dedicated exhibit hall time)
          1:20-2:20  Second Set of Concurrent Sessions
                     (common core and teacher/principal evaluation and out-of-booth presentations)
          2:30-3:30  Third Set of Concurrent Sessions (selected repeats from 10:30 and 1:15 and out-of-booth presentations)
          3:40-4:40  Fourth Set of Concurrent Sessions (working examples of collaborative work groups and collaborative leadership in selected schools)
4:45       Final prize drawings in exhibit hall

Friday, December 6
8:00-11:45 Second General Session: Debbie Silver
11:45       TPA business meeting
12:00-1:30  Awards luncheon with Emily Barton
1:35        TASL credit verification, if needed

12 hours TASL credit to be requested!
Conference Registration

Tennessee Principals Association’s State Conference
December 5, 6, 2013
Music Road Inn & Hotel
303 Henderson Chapel Rd, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863
Telephone (800) 429-7700  www.MusicRoadHotel.com

Room reservations are $85 per night and may be made by telephoning the number above.
(The reserved room block is on a first-come, first-served basis.)

Please check your registration preference:

TPA member
☐ Before 10/15/2013 $225  ☐ After 10/15/13 $285
Non-TPA member
☐ Before 10/15/13 $295  ☐ After 10/15/13 $355
Aspiring administrator
☐ Before 10/15/13 $125  ☐ After 10/15/13 $175
☐ Yes, I would like to receive TASL credits if available

First name _______________________ Last name _______________________ Preferred badge name _______________________
School name ____________________________________________________________
School address __________________________________________________________ City ___________________________ Zip code __________
School telephone (____) ______ - ______ School fax (____) ______ - ______ Contact telephone (____) ______ - ______
Your e-mail (required for confirmation) ______________________________________ @ ____________________ . ______
Method of payment  ☐ personal check for $ _________  ☐ school check for $ _________

Make checks payable to Tennessee Principals Association and mail completed registration to TPA, 205 Sterling Springs Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604

☐ original, signed purchase order (may be faxed to 423 282 2784)
☐ credit card
Card Type (i.e., VISA, MasterCard AmEx, etc.) ________________________________
Card # ______________ - ____________ - ____________ - ____________ Expiration date _____ / _____

Contact information (conference co-chairs):

Dr. Holly Flora
hflora@k12k.com

Brian Partin
bpartin@k12k.com

Dr. Janice Tankson
Incoming President

Dr. Ernest Bentley, Jr.
Executive Director

TPA Executive Director: Dr. Ernest Bentley, Jr.  e-mail: tnprinassoc@comcast.net
For additional information, please visit our website at www.tnprinassoc.org
Emily Barton is responsible for the dramatic improvement of student achievement through many strategies including the implementation and success of Tennessee’s evaluation system and the adoption of Common Core State Standards. Emily supports school districts in the implementation of the state-wide comprehensive multiple measure educator evaluation system. Over the next several years, Tennessee will adopt the Common Core State Standards, and Emily will support the state’s educators through leveraging the department’s resources, comprehensive communication, and extensive training. Immediately prior to this position, Emily was Chief of Staff for the Tennessee Department of Education. In this role, Emily managed cross-functional priorities for Commissioner Kevin Huffman and worked with organizations and agencies in Tennessee and across the country to incorporate promising practices to increase student achievement and support department effectiveness.

David Boulton, President of Learning Stewards and Director of the Children of the Code Project, is a learning-activist, technologist, public speaker, documentary producer, author, and a featured blogger for the National Association of School Superintendents. David’s articles on learning have appeared in: The Brain-Mind Bulletin, In Context, The California School Board’s Journal, and many others. David has founded five companies and been awarded four patents. His last start-up, went on to win the Smithsonian Award for Innovation and appeared on Upside Magazine’s Top 100 private companies list. He has been an adviser to the Chair of the California Senate Education Committee and a member of the U.S. D.O.E.’s Gateway Project. David appeared in the PBS Television show “The New Science of Learning: Brain Fitness for Kids” and in the Science Network’s “The New Science of Educating” broadcast. He is a past member of the 21st Century Learning Initiative and the Dialogue Research Project at M.I.T.’s Organizational Learning Center.

Debbie Silvers, with 30 years spent as a teacher, staff development instructor, and university professor, doesn’t just know her way around the classroom – she is familiar with the challenges educators face at every level, from kindergarten to college. The former Louisiana Teacher of the Year has given presentations around the world (including 49 states, Canada, Mexico, Europe and Asia), helping audiences to interact with students on a deeper level. Debbie’s best-selling book, Drumming to the Beat of Different Marchers: Finding the Rhythm for Differentiated Learning, has been recognized for its insights into research-based models, teaching strategies, management tips, and inspirational “from-the-heart” lessons for addressing individual differences. It is her humor, her practicality, and her ability to connect with students, teachers, parents, and administrators, however, that has made her a popular choice for keynotes, workshops, and breakout sessions.
Membership Ambassador Teams

Sharon McNary is a Shelby County principal, the Tennessee National Distinguished Principal for 2013, and NAESP State Representative for TPA (see Page 3). Her challenges as a 2013 officer with TPA include organizing, implementing, and coordinating the new system of member ambassador teams in the grand divisions. Her basic team of Evans, Murcray, and Barnett is pictured on Page 2. Contact information for them (and all board members) is on Page 10 and on the website under “Our Team.” (www.TnPrinAssoc.org)

But what is most important is the teams within each division that will be made up of individual members willing to be links between the TPA board and colleagues in the field. Making practicing principals aware of the only association in Tennessee working only on behalf of Tennessee principals is an important first step to serving as a two-way communication conduit. Often, all it takes to have a colleague join in working on behalf of all principals is to share a few of the rewards of involvement in-state and nationally. Membership is a financial bargain (see the membership form on page 11 for particulars). We are investigating offering online enrollment, but will be “old fashioned” this year at least. The mailing address is on the form. Please offer to help Teri, Ted, Steve, and Sharon in this rewarding participation option.

NeuroTracker: A New Approach for ADHD

NeuroTracker: A new approach to the focusing of attention and decision making under pressure goes by the name Neurotracker. Long- time partner Robert Bates has agreed to be the national sales director and find uses for this program in education. The software and hardware package which comprises NeuroTracker has been used for some time by Special Forces in the military, by professional athletes such as Peyton Manning and Tom Brady, and even in some college programs at (among others) the University of Tennessee. Bates is testing the usefulness of these techniques with ADHD students at Ruby Major Elementary School (Hermitage, TN), Whitwell School (Whitwell, TN), and his latest at Thomas Jefferson Elementary in Kingsport, TN.

His strategy is to pre-test students suspected to be ADHD on the IVA+ PLUS diagnostic instrument to establish the severity of the impulsive behaviors, drift of focus, and general lack of engagement. Those students selected for the experimental group receive five to six minute treatments three times per day every other day for twenty-one days. For five to six minutes, students observe eight spheres in a virtual cube displayed in a required-quality monitor. Three of the eight orange spheres are shaded red so the student can see his or her placement. The spheres are returned to orange, moved around on the screen, and the student then identifies their new positions. An in-school adult is trained to monitor student involvement to ensure that participants are performing the assigned task. If the student is unable to identify the new positions, the speed of the sphere movement is slowed for the next trial. If the student identifies the spheres correctly in their new positions, the process speeds up.

So far, the data indicate that most in the experimental group make significant progress in focusing attention and engagement. Those in the control group (who do not use Neurotracker) do not demonstrate the same type of progress. This may not be enough information for the reader to truly understand what happens in this scientific application, but Robert Bates will be happy to share further details on this amazing research and the impact of student performance in the classroom. He feels it is best for potential users to observe this in action at one of the identified pilot schools. Robert Bates can be reached at 615-330-2926.

Based on first hand observation and hands-on practice, I am recommending that you try this for yourself. It sounds simple, and the impact has great potential for students.
# 2013-2014 TPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President**  
Dr. Janice Tankson  
tanksonjv@scsk12.org

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**Middle Tennessee Division Director**  
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**East Tennessee Division Director**  
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**NAESP President**  
Dr. Nancy Meador  
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**NAESP Zone 4 Director**  
Brian Partin  
bpartin@k12k.com
2013-2014 TPA Membership Form
Membership year through 8/31/2014

Professional Development Opportunities, Legal Representation, Legislative Benefits, Research, Networking, and more!

Name ______________________________________________________  Position _____________________

Check one of the following:
 New Principal   New Member   Renewal

School Name _________________________________________
 Elementary   Middle   Secondary

System ___________________________________    *Recruited by _______________________

Check preferred address:   School or   Home

Address _________________________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________  State ______  Zip __________  County ____________

Phone _________________  Fax _________________  Email ________________________@__________

TPA/NAESP Membership Dues: (check one)
A________ $385.00  Active (line administrators) TPA/NAESP
B________ $430.00  Institutional/Active (line administrators) TPA/NAESP
G________ $120.00  Aspiring Principal (teachers, counselors) TPA/NAESP
P________ $210.00  Associate (professors, central office) TPA/NAESP
R________ $110.00  Retired TPA/NAESP
E________ $168.00  Emeritus TPA/NAESP

TPA/Secondary Membership Categories (Grades 9-12)
Active Individual ______ $150.00 TPA Dues + Membership in a national association
Institutional Active ______ $150.00 TPA Dues + Membership in a national association

* TPA Membership requires simultaneous current membership in a national association

Name of association where you hold a national membership_____________________________________

Method of Payment: (check one)
 Check enclosed: make payable to: TPA   Purchase Order: Copy attached
 Credit card: please charge to:   MasterCard   Visa   AMEX
 10-month installment plan with credit or debit card (for A and B memberships)
($40.50 monthly payments for 10 consecutive months assuming member joins by November)

Card # _____________________________________________ Expiration Date____________

Signature __________________________________________________________________

Mail form along with payment to:
Membership Processor
205 Sterling Springs Drive, Johnson City, TN 37604
For questions contact tnprinassoc@comcast.net or membership@tnprinassoc.org

TPA/NAESP Membership Form
Membership year through 8/31/2014

Professional Development Opportunities, Legal Representation, Legislative Benefits, Research, Networking, and more!
MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

September 21-22, 2013
TPA Executive Committee Meeting, Marriott, Chattanooga

October 28-30, 2013
LEAD Conference, Music City Center | Omni Hotel, Nashville

October 24-25, 2013
National Distinguished Principals Program, Washington, D.C.

November 9-11, 2013
TSBA Annual Convention & Tradeshow, Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center, Nashville

December 5-6, 2013
Annual TPA Leadership Conference, Music Road, Pigeon Forge

April 2014
Zone 4 NAESP/Southeastern Council of Elementary School Principals, Jacksonville, FL

February 23-25, 2014
NAESP Advocacy and Leadership Conference, Renaissance Arlington Capital View Hotel, Arlington, VA

February 6-8, 2014
2014 NASSP Conference, Sheraton Dallas Hotel, Dallas, TX

July 2014 (see Meador’s piece on Page 4)
NAESP National Conference and Expo of the Year, Nashville

www.tnprinassoc.org