The Beat Goes On!

One thing Texans can count on for 140 days every odd year is an interesting legislative session. Not only did the 83rd legislative session deliver on interesting, it continues since as of this writing, the second called special session is “in-session.” Whether the children of Texas have benefited from this session I will leave to others to decide.

To be sure, the session has resulted in the legislature getting into new aspects of public education….including the pedagogical decisions of the individual classroom teacher with the prohibition of distribution of CSCOPE lesson plans. If that wasn’t enough, on August 12, 2013, a state district court banned the Llano Independent School District from using any CSCOPE lesson plans. This is certainly unprecedented and clearly a new legislative boundary that takes away from the expertise and professional decision making of the classroom teacher and replaces it with legislative expertise. All of this because of a handful of the thousands of CSCOPE lessons were objectionable to some members of the legislature.

With so much excitement going on in our field, Volume 8, Issue 2 has a few more articles for your consideration than usual and I have divided them into three categories, Policy Matters, School Practice and finally our Colleagues.

Policy Matters cannot be discussed without talking about school finance and the latest in the lawsuit dealing with such. Humble ISD Superintendent Guy Sconzo contributes The Texas School Finance Battle: “Ground Hog Day All Over Again.” Treva Franklin and Casey Graham Brown add Do Resources Matter? The Relationship Between Instructional Expenditures and College Readiness Indicators, to the discussion.

Three articles of interest make up the School Practice section of this issue. International author and speaker Geoffrey Caine offers us Education Cannot Get Where It Wants to Go Because It Cannot See Where It Needs To Go: Seeing “Learning” In a New Light! Its thesis certainly should give us a moment of pause as we begin the new school year. Betty J. Alford and Stacey Hendricks contributes Partnering with Districts with Principal Preparation: Key Program Features in Strengthening Aspiring Principals Understanding of Issues of Equity and Excellence. Finally, scholar David Barrett writes Holistic, Ethical Leadership for the 21st Century which is a topic always important to contemplate in our practice.

For our colleagues, two insightful articles are published. Sam Sullivan, Barbara Polnick, Lautrice Nickson, Robert Manniger and J. Yasmine Butler present their latest data on the controversial IDEA faculty evaluation instrument in their article Student Evaluation of Teaching: The In-Equity of Faculty Scores in Online Versus Face-to-Face Courses. Finally, prolific authors Fred C. Lunenburg and Beverly J. Irby offer mentoring of new faculty guidance in their piece Mentoring New Faculty on their Road to Tenure.

I hope you will find these seven articles insightful and particularly relevant as the education landscape continues to change around us. This issue of School Leadership Review marks the end of my two year term as Guest Editor. The honor of serving as editor is clearly a highlight of my scholarly career and I want to thank the Board of Directors of the Texas Council of Professors of Educational Administration (TCPEA) for bestowing that honor. It has been fun and rewarding publishing the four issues that make up Volumes 7 and 8. Kudos and great thanks go
to Drs. Pauline Sampson, Matt Fuller and Kerry Roberts for their exemplary and dedicated service on the issues. An editor is only as good as the editorial and publishing staff, and these three are the best in the business. It has been my pleasure working with them. Dr. Sampson will assume the position of Editor on Volume 9 and I wish her the best. Pauline will take the journal to the next level as she puts her mark on it. She is an accomplished scholar and I look forward to reading the journal under her editorship. Please join me in wishing her and the new staff to be named our best. The journal is in great hands!

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your support, encouragement, accolades and thoughtful suggestions over the past two years. I have appreciated our members and readership and I hope you found value in everything published as I know your time is valuable. Our field is under scrutiny unlike ever before and we must forge new and difficult conversations to insure our viability and role in the process as *The Beat Goes On!*

Best wishes for a productive new school year!

Timothy B. Jones, Ed.D.
Guest Editor