Michigan Superintendent Mark T. Bielang Chosen as AASA President-Elect; Executive Committee Positions Filled

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Contact:
Amy Vogt
Communications and Media Relations Manager
703-875-0723
avogt@aasa.org

ARLINGTON, Va. – Mark T. Bielang, superintendent of schools in Paw Paw, Mich., was elected 2008-09 president-elect of the American Association of School Administrators on March 25, 2008. Bielang has been a member of AASA for 13 years and has served on the AASA Executive Committee and the AASA Governing Board.

"Children are at the heart of AASA's mission, and Mark Bielang has dedicated his career to helping children succeed," said AASA President Sarah D. Jerome, superintendent of schools in Arlington Heights, Ill. "I look forward to working closely with Mark as a member of the AASA leadership team."

"School systems are facing the challenges of a globalizing economy, budget shortfalls, social change and the demands of NCLB," said Bielang. "We must find new ways to meet the changing needs of our students and our communities. As AASA president-elect, I will work to improve public education by bringing together forces to influence education policy and assure the continuous growth of school system leaders. I am honored by this opportunity to serve my profession."

Bielang has served as superintendent in Paw Paw since 1995. Previously, he was principal of Ionia (Mich.) High School. He served as president, regional president and executive board member of the Michigan Association of School Administrators; as a member of the AASA Beliefs and Positions Subcommittee and the AASA Code of Ethics Subcommittee; as president of the Eastern Van Buren County (Mich.) Habitat for Humanity; on the board of directors of the Paw Paw Area Kiwanis Club; as a member of the advisory council of the Bronson/Lakeview Hospital in Paw Paw; and as past president of the Ionia Rotary Club.

In the AASA Executive Committee elections, the following individuals were elected to three-year terms on the Executive Committee: Molly Ringo, executive director of human resources for Everett Public Schools (Wash.); Benny L. Gooden, superintendent of Fort Smith Public Schools (Ark.); Robert E. Gillum, superintendent of Ball Chatham Community Unit School District 5 (Ill.); Fred S. Morton, superintendent of Henrico County Public Schools (Va.); and Jack L. McCulley, superintendent of Sterling Regional School District (N.J.).

Randall Collins, superintendent of schools in Waterford, Conn., will be installed as 2008-09 AASA president and Bielang will be sworn in as 2008-09 AASA president-elect on July 24 during a ceremony held in conjunction with AASA’s summer governance meetings in St. Louis, Mo. The Executive Committee members also will be sworn in at the ceremony.

"Both Randy Collins and Mark Bielang are outstanding leaders who will play an important role in advancing AASA’s mission in the coming years," said AASA Executive Director Paul D. Houston. “In
addition, AASA is fortunate to have new members on the AASA Executive Committee to work with Randy and Mark to advance our shared vision of high-quality public education for all students.”


**About AASA**

AASA, founded in 1865, is the professional organization for more than 13,000 educational leaders across the United States. AASA’s mission is to support and develop effective school system leaders who are dedicated to the highest quality public education for all children. AASA’s major focus is standing up for public education. For more information, please visit [www.aasa.org](http://www.aasa.org).