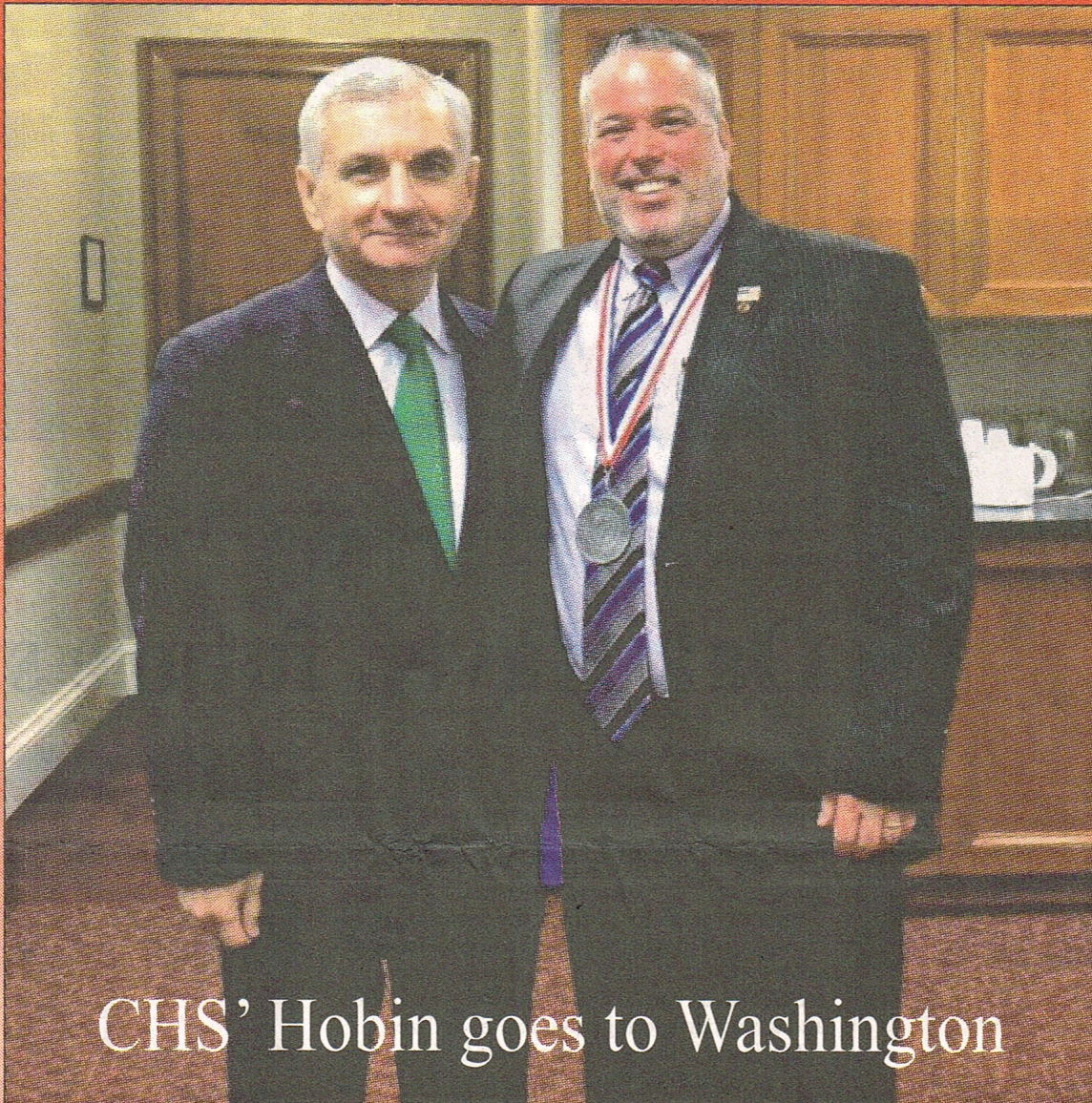


FIELD TRIP



CHS' Hobin goes to Washington

Submitted photo

Coventry High Principal Michael Hobin — the 2013 RI Principal of the Year — and Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) pose for a picture during Hobin's September trip to Washington, D.C., where he was recognized along with other Principals of the Year.

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COVENTRY— After being recognized in April as Rhode Island High School Principal of the Year, Coventry High School Principal Michael Hobin was given the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. and attend an awards gala at the end of September.

Because he was designated the state winner for Principal of the Year, Hobin was entered into the National Association of Secondary School Princi-

pals (NASSP) National Principal of the Year Program.

He traveled down to Washington D.C. for a three day Principals Institute and Awards Gala from Sept. 18-21.

During his visit to Washington D.C., Hobin was able to meet Rhode Island congressmen to discuss educational legislation and how it may affect schools throughout the state.

In addition, he partook in a round table conversation with representatives from the Department of

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Hobin talks shop in Wash. DC

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Education and was able to exchange ideas and advice with principals from around the country.

"NASSP is honored to recognize the outstanding work of Michael Hobin," said JoAnn Bartoletti, NASSP executive director. "The Principals Institute was a wonderful chance for us to thank these outstanding educators while giving them the opportunity to speak with their elected officials, grow professionally and learn from and inspire one another."

Hobin explained that getting the chance to travel to D.C. to interact with other principals and members of Congress was "unbelievably helpful."

Hobin was celebrated as the state's Principal of the Year and thanked at a ceremony in April by his peers, faculty, staff, family and students for doing an incredible job at the high school.

Patricia Hines, Executive Director of the R.I. Association of School Principals, was one of the many people who applauded

Hobin for his achievements during the ceremony.

Hobin was chosen for the award by a selection committee that pointed to their opinion that he proved time and time again that he cared deeply for his school, his students and his teachers, while also engaging the community in the educational process.

While working at the high school for 11 years, he constantly acknowledges multiple teachers who made a difference in student learning each week.

"He has promoted an environment of collegiality, professional networking, innovation and collaboration," she emphasized. "Principal Hobin's leadership continues to consist, not only with other administrators and department chairs, but also includes union representatives and support personnel."

Ensuring that the local community is involved with the school, Hobin drafted faculty, staff, students, parents and community members to join the school improvement team.

"Thus the entire Coventry High School community is actively engaged in promoting improvements in teaching and learning at the school," Hines said.

Another way to ensure the community is interacting with the school is the use of Twitter by Hobin.

Typically, he tweets a photo of a science event, language lab, sporting event, an acknowledgment of an outstanding student, class or team to keep the community up to date on the high school happenings.

"That is where we need to go in education today, we need to embrace the digital society in which we live and to have a principal leading the way by tweeting with his students, with his parents, with his community and faculty it is truly worthy of recognition," she said.

"It was an event of a lifetime," Hobin emphasized. "We were treated so well by the national organization and I was able to connect with 50 other high school principals from around the country and made some nice connections with people doing similar or more innovative things."

One of the biggest topics he focused on while in Washington was the increase in technology in schools, he said.

Speaking with a principal from Wisconsin who runs a high school of 1,900 students, Hobin said he was able to connect with him and learn about how he implements technology into his curriculum.

"I was also able to bring my concerns to the politicians on Capitol Hill regarding infrastructure and technology," he said. "I feel we have some old buildings in the country that are expected to be equipped with wireless ports and that's some of the things that make it difficult to teach the next generation of kids."

He explained that in the high school some of the classrooms have only one outlet, which makes it hard to use computers and promote 21st century learning.

"I also talked about mental health among students," he added. "I feel I've seen an increase in students that have different crisis situations and mental health of students was something I was advocating for support for."

He said being able to speak one-on-one with members of Congress and voice his concerns and opinions regarding education was "an amazing chance."



File photo

Overcome by emotion, Coventry High School Principal Michael Hobin takes a second away from the microphone at a school-wide ceremony in April to celebrate his being named Principal of the Year in Rhode Island for 2013.