

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – January 19, 2017

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of December 15, 2016:

COMMUNITY PLAN FOR THE TANNERY ARTS CENTER

Michelle Williams, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County suggested that I speak with Nancy Ragey from NKR Consulting on January 4, 2017. The Arts Council is currently in the process of creating a Community Plan for the Tannery Arts Center in order to re-articulate the vision of the Tannery and to create a roadmap for its success. Ms. Ragey is talking with prominent Harvey West leaders and community members about the ecosystem of this greater neighborhood and the Tannery's role in our community.

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY STEERING COMMITTEE

I was invited to attend an Environmental Literacy Steering Committee meeting in Oakland on January 5, 2017. This meeting was on behalf of the State Superintendent for Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson's Environmental Literacy Steering Committee (ELSC), charged with implementing the recommendations in California's Blueprint for Environmental Literacy to realize the goal of environmental literacy for all California students. During the meeting, we explored re-envisioning a statewide environmental education network focused on helping districts and community organizations connect students with environment-based experiences. This particular focus group was convened to identify ways diversity, equity, and inclusion can be built into the network intentionally and effectively to best serve all of California's students.

THE PILLOWCASE PROJECT

On January 9, 2017, I met with Anna Marie Gott, Coordinator, American Red Cross Pillowcase Project. In 2013, the American Red Cross began development of the Pillowcase Project, sponsored by Disney. The Pillowcase Project teaches elementary school students emergency preparedness and coping skills for situations such as fires, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc. The skills the students learn will help them in emergency situations both at school and at home.

321 LIFE

I was privileged to meet former Aptos High School student Brandon Gruber and his mother on January 10, 2017. Brandon, who has Down Syndrome, used to feel as though he was not a part of his high school; however, he never let that get in his way. Brandon was inspired to "blow up" his senior year by joining a variety of clubs on campus and getting noticed by those who had ignored him or called him mean names. He made so many friends and created so many relationships during his Senior year that was voted Homecoming King.

Now, Brandon wanted to do something so people felt like they were a part of things as well. After hearing that some members of his class could not afford to go to the winter ball, Brandon (who is also a talented artist) decided to sell his note cards to raise money to take five boys and girls to the dance. The money he earned allowed him to purchase everything from formal wear to dinner and dance tickets. It was such a success that he decided to do it again for 10 more deserving students for senior prom. The teens were treated to shopping trips for dresses, tuxes and manicures and taken out to dinner. Brandon was even featured in People Magazine. Brandon would like to now share his story with students throughout Santa Cruz County to make sure they know that they can be a part of their high school too.

CEIBA COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

I visited Ceiba College Prep Academy on January 11, 2017 at the invitation of their Founder and Finance Director Tom Brown. Ceiba has hired a new principal and executive director and they are looking to partner with the COE to assist their program going forward.

YOUTH RESOURCE BANK

I attended the Youth Resource Bank Cabaret on January 14, 2017 at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center. The Youth Resource Bank is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that works with professionals in our community, including social workers, teachers, and public health nurses, to meet the practical needs falling outside of available public services for at-risk youth. This event is a major fundraiser used to assist underprivileged youth here in our county.

CAPITOL ADVISORS BUDGET WORKSHOP

Jack O'Connell and Gerry Shelton from Capitol Advisors visited the COE on January 17, 2017 to present their Budget Perspectives Workshop covering Governor Brown's Budget for 2017-2018. Overall, the Governor presented a conservative budget as expected. Gap funding in 2017-18 is projected to decrease from a projected 72.99% to a projected 23.67%. COLA is projected at 1.48% and Proposition 98 is projected to increase by only \$744 million. This is almost exactly the amount that the increase in costs of STRS and PERS are projected to cost school districts and COE's statewide. According to Governor Brown, "This year's budget will be the most difficult that we have faced since 2012. The surging tide of revenues that we enjoyed the past few years appears to have turned."

SILICON VALLEY REGIONAL DATA TRUST (SVRDT)

On January 17, 2017, I attended a meeting at the Santa Clara COE concerning the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust (SVRDT). By applying advanced data analytics, SVRDT (founded in 2015) will create a personal blueprint for students that clarifies the myriad factors influencing their lives and from that to improve the effectiveness of services and academic outcomes. A well-managed regional data trust will also provide a comprehensive understanding of factors contributing to student failure and success. As a research center of the University of California Santa Cruz, the SVRDT has also gained support from the National Science Foundation. Dr. Priscilla Chan, Co-Founder of the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative was the keynote speaker. Dr. Chan has offered to donate a significant grant to the SVRDT on behalf of Santa Cruz County Schools. Lastly, I was honored to recognize Assemblyman Mark Stone for his support of the SVRDT. Assemblyman Stone was co-sponsor of Resolution 120 in support of SVRDT.

DAVID LYNG REAL ESTATE

I was invited by Megan Lyng, Broker Associate, David Lyng Real Estate, to provide a short overview on education here in Santa Cruz County to approximately 50 real estate agents from the David Lyng Real Estate Agency and American Dream Realty on January 18, 2017. Another topic of discussion during my presentation was on income inequality throughout the county.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION MID-YEAR GRADUATIONS

On January 18, 2017, I attend the Alternative Education mid-year graduation ceremonies. There were 65 graduates between the two ceremonies held at the Portuguese Hall here in Santa Cruz.

Regular Monthly Meetings

Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
Meeting Migrant Head Start Videoconference
Criminal Justice Council
CCSESA Executive Board
CCSESA Agenda Committee
Force Manager's Meeting

Agriculture Board
Children's Network
S4C Steering Committee
CCSESA Board of Directors
CCSESA Accountability Task
Adult Education Block Grant