

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – March 16, 2017

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of February 16, 2017:

BITE OF REALITY

I was invited to attend "Bite of Reality", a financial simulation that helps students build financial literacy skills at Santa Cruz High School on February 22, 2017. Bite of Reality is a learning event where students receive a fictional occupation, salary and financial responsibilities, then "purchase" housing, transportation and other necessities from "merchant" volunteers. Students, who make poor choices and run out of money, can work with trained volunteers to sort out expenses and create a budget. This hands-on practice helps students learn about money management, expense tracking and financial problem solving. The program is free to schools through a partnership between Bay Federal Credit Union and the RMJ Foundation.

GAIL RICH AWARDS

I attended the Gail Rich Awards on February 22, 2017 at the Rio Theatre. Julia Chiapella, Writer and Program Director for the Young Writer's Program was an award recipient that evening. Julia has been the Director of the Young Writers Program since August 2012. The Young Writers Program is a project between the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the Arts Council of Santa Cruz County. The Young Writers Program brings volunteers into the classroom to work on teacher-initiated writing projects. The program also runs the Word Lab and the Chamber of Heart & Mystery, an after-school writing center and adjacent gallery at the Museum of Art & History in Santa Cruz.

SUPPORT MUSIC COMMUNITY FORUM

I was invited by Beth Hollenbeck, music education teacher at Scotts Valley High School to open the Support Music Community Forum on February 23, 2017. The Forum was brought to Scotts Valley High School in conjunction with the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation and the Lennon Foundation in order to discuss music education in our schools.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY NIGHT

A Career Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Night was held at the Cabrillo College cafeteria on the evening of March 1, 2017 for all high school and college ROP/CTE teachers in Santa Cruz County. The purpose of the meeting was to help the teachers fulfill one of their advisory committee meeting requirements for the year.

CABRILLO COLLEGE 4TH GRADE EXPERIENCE

The Cabrillo College 4th Grade Experience was held on March 3, 2017 at Cabrillo College. The experience is designed to inspire elementary school students from Santa Cruz County with enthusiasm to attend college. The event is open to all 4th grade students in public schools across Santa Cruz County to visit Cabrillo College's campus, touring the classrooms, attending special classes taught by Cabrillo College faculty, and visiting special locations. Students also attend micro classes taught by Cabrillo faculty rendered especially for the visiting youth with hands-on learning and involvement. Studies show if you get a student to step onto a college campus by 6th grade, they are more likely to attend and complete college.

CHANGESCALE

On March 6, 2017, I along with Amity Sandage, The California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Coordinator met with Kirk Anne Taylor from Changescale and Jedda Forman from the Lawrence Hall of Science. Changescale's mission is to ensure that every generation is inspired with the environmental know-how to create health communities and a healthy planet through advancing the cohesiveness, effectiveness, and prominence of the environmental education field in the San Francisco and Monterey Bay Areas. They are looking to advance their mission into Santa Cruz County.

SILICON VALLEY REGIONAL DATA TRUST

I met with Rod Ogawa and his team from the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust (SVRDT) on March 6, 2017 to discuss implementing the grant from the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative. The \$3 million dollar grant will be used to develop software and create a datazone through Health and Human Services in San Mateo, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. The SVRDT believes that a well-managed regional data trust will provide a comprehensive understanding of factors contributing to student failure and success. By applying advanced data analytics, SVRDT 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.

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPERINTENDENTS AND ADMINISTRATORS

I was asked to be a presenter and facilitator at the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) Statewide Professional Development Summit from March 7 – 10, 2017. I presented and facilitated during the session titled “Aspiring and New Superintendents Academy”.

SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER

The Second Harvest Food Bank held its Annual Awards Dinner on March 8, 2017 at the Paradox Hotel. Ten of our COE employees were on hand as the COE received the “Big Step” Award for raising 10,780 meals for the Second Harvest Food Bank during its 2016 Holiday Food Drive. Also, Jim Guss was named Coordinator of the Year for helping guide the COE to such a successful campaign.

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS LUNCHEON

Ten of our COE Employees attend the Your Future is Our Business (YFIOB) annual luncheon on March 10, 2017 at Twin Lakes Church. YFIOB is dedicated to providing every Santa Cruz County student with opportunities to forge a path to a fulfilling and successful career.

TEACHER JOB FAIR

The Human Resources Department held a Job Fair here at the COE on March 11, 2017. All of the larger districts in the county were represented at the fair as well as employees from the New Teacher Project. Classified employees, who were recently awarded a grant through the Classified Teacher Program, were also in attendance receiving guidance on how to interview with districts for possible employment next school year. The Human Resources credentialing staff was on hand as well to help nearly 100 potential teachers learn about the credentialing process and also about substitute teaching.

TEACHER HOUSING

On March 14, 2017, I met with Nikki Lowy and Ian Magruder, Director of Partnerships from Landed, Inc. This organization helps teachers buy homes in expensive communities through community-based down payment support. They partner with schools to identify community investors who put down half of a standard down payment in exchange for 25% of the appreciation (or depreciation) at sale or refinance.

I also met with Hanna Peterson and Antonio Villegas who are students at UCSC doing a research project on the roots and impacts of the local affordable housing crisis in our region. Being an education minor, Hanna is particularly interested in how the housing issues have affected K-12 students, teachers and staff in our area. She has done extensive research into how elementary school teachers compensate for children living in poverty throughout various districts in California. Antonio is a sociology and Latin American/Latino Studies major who is interested in the housing crisis and the ways in which it affects schools on multiple levels. His mother is a high school teacher, so this topic is very relevant to his life.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION

I met with Stephanie Guzman from Scotts Valley on March 15, 2017 concerning the possibility of implementing an educational program in our middle schools and high schools to address domestic violence prevention. One in three women is a victim of domestic violence. Mrs. Guzman has identified two evidence-based curricula that are geared toward middle school and high school and is currently working with Scotts Valley to implement a domestic violence prevention education program.

ROTARY AREA SPEECH CONTEST

I was asked by Doug Deaver from the Capitola/Aptos Rotary to be a judge at the Rotary Area Speech Contest that was held at Seascape Golf Course today. Contestants were judged on presentation, style and content, as well as their ability to hold their audience, while incorporating Rotary values into their topic.

TEACHER CREDENTIALING PROGRAM

The COE is planning to re-institute a Teacher Credentialing Program by January 2018 in conjunction with the Tulare County Office of Education. This program will allow the COE to partner and grow our own teachers during this critical teacher shortage in California.

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