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Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – May 18, 2017

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of April 20, 2017:

OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

Superintendent Watkins will update the Board with information concerning the Outdoor Science School incident.

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ WEEK

International Jazz Week was celebrated April 24-29, 2017 at our local schools and at the Santa Cruz Wharf. Once again this year, local jazz musician Prince Lawsha led a quartet of musicians from around the world in performances to our students at Soquel Elementary, Mountain Elementary, Scotts Valley High School, Santa Cruz High School and Sequoia Schools. The tour was highlighted by a performance at the wharf on International Jazz Day on April 29, 2017.

TOGETHER FOR KINDERGARTEN

I attended the 8th Annual Together For Kindergarten event on April 27, 2017 at New Brighton Middle School. Together for Kindergarten helps children and families prepare for school. Recognized dancer, choreographer and arts educator Tandy Beal was the special guest speaker for the event.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP (CCP) MEETING

I attended the most recent CCP meeting held here at the COE on May 1, 2017. Highlights from the meeting included: the Community Recidivism Reduction Grant; the Annie E. Casey Results-Based Leadership Team Race Equity Project; a report on women in the Santa Cruz County Jail; and a proposal to allocate treatment funding for in-custody case management.

50/50 PROJECT AND CHARACTER DAY

I spoke with Makenzie Darling, Producer of the 50/50 Project and Character Day on May 2, 2017. The 50/50 Project explores a gender-balanced world that is better for everyone (women, men, all gender, and all ages) in five different categories: Economy, Politics, Identity, Culture and Home. 50/50 day was held on May 10, 2017. Character Day will be on September 13, 2017 and it centers on groups around the world that screen films on the science of character development from different perspectives and join an online global conversation around the importance of developing character strengths (resilience, grit, empathy, courage, kindness)—all rooted in evidence-based research.

INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST

I attended the Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on May 4, 2017 at the Portuguese Hall. The breakfast is part of an ongoing effort to support regional communication, cooperation, and collaboration. It serves as a great way to connect with fellow community members, and unite through prayer and partnership around issues that need our energy and attention.

THE EDUCATIONAL NETWORK

I attended a conference call presentation with Darlene Washington of the Educational Network on May 4, 2017. The Educational Network shared “Our History, Today!” which uses multicultural lesson plans to teach Multicultural History to All of Today's Youth.

MATH AWARDS

Santa Cruz County students in grades 5-8 participated in the 50th Annual Math Contest at Aptos High School on April 29, 2017. I was very proud to attend the Math Awards ceremony held here at the COE on May 4, 2017. Medals were awarded to both team winners and individual winners. Students in each grade level (5-8) were recognized for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.

COE ALL

We held a COE ALL meeting and breakfast on May 5, 2017 for the COE staff. The presenter for this meeting was Enid Lee. Ms. Lee helped us to better understand and use our cultural norms and core responsibilities in working with our colleagues both inside and outside of the COE. Ms. Lee began her career as a classroom teacher 35 years ago. Today she is an accomplished writer, consultant, facilitator and speaker on anti-racist, inclusionary and equitable education.

ACSA SPRING FLING

I attended the ACSA Spring Fling on May 5, 2017 at Chaminade. The Spring Fling recognizes administrators from Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz Counties for their hard work and dedication. This year Mary Hart, Deputy Superintendent, Business Services was recognized as the Business Services Administrator of the Year and Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Education Services received the County Office of Education Service Recognition Award.

JUVENILE COURT, COMMUNITY AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF CALIFORNIA (JCCASAC) ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

I attended the JCCASAC Annual Conference in Lake Tahoe from May 10-12, 2017. Highlight of the conference was my receiving of the 2017 John Peshkoff Memorial Award. The John Peshkoff Award is presented annually for memorable vision, service, leadership and commitment to JCCASAC students and programs. I also attended a presentation by Denise Sanson, Assistant Director, Alternative Education and Sarah Prescher, court school classroom teacher on transforming a school community with restorative practices. Their presentation was very well received by those that attended their presentation.

CALIFORNIA STATE ELEMENTARY SPELLING BEE

The California State Elementary Spelling Bee was held on May 13, 2017 at the San Joaquin County Office of Education. The two Santa Cruz County elementary spelling champions, Judah Kim and Tristan Torres, were among the seven finalists in the stiff competition.

YOUNG WRITERS SHOWCASE

On May 16, 2017, I attended the fourth annual Young Writers Program End-of-Year Reading Showcase at Bookshop Santa Cruz. The readings featured student writers who participated in one of eleven Young Writers Program projects held throughout the county during the course of the academic year.

COE PICNIC

We celebrated both Teacher Appreciation Week and Classified Employee Week with our annual picnic at Harvey West Park on May 17, 2017. Employees were treated to a “taco truck” menu with Marianne’s ice cream sandwiches for desert. Thanks also go out to our resident picnic DJ, Brian Slugget for playing us some tunes to enjoy during the afternoon.

CABRILLO COLLEGE

I met with Victoria Lewis from Cabrillo College concerning the three COE programs that are located at the two Cabrillo College campuses (Main and Watsonville). Cabrillo is currently in process of updating its space use plan. The three COE programs each have approximately two-years left on their leases with the college. We spoke about the COE’s future of maintaining a physical presence on Cabrillo’s campuses.

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR

42 students from across Santa Cruz County participated at the California State Science Fair in Los Angeles on April 24th and April 25th. Santa Cruz students won 1 First Place Award, 1 Second Place Award, 1 Third Place Award, 2 Fourth Place Awards and 1 Honorable Mention Award. We are very proud of our students and their hard work!

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