

Subject: Superintendent's Monthly Report to the Board – July 19, 2018

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of May 17, 2018:

### **CCEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

I was in Sacramento on May 23-25, 2018 to participate in interviews for the new CCEE Executive Director to replace Carl Cohn. The committee chose Mr. Tom Armelino, who is currently the executive director of the National Association of School Superintendents. Mr. Armelino served as a superintendent of the Shasta County Office of Education for 11 years and worked in public education for 32 years.

Mr. Cohn, a former member of the State Board of Education, was formerly superintendent of the Long Beach Unified and San Diego Unified school districts. Mr. Cohn is the founding director of the collaborative, and will formally step down from his post in August.

### **OASIS HIGH SCHOOL**

I, along with Deputy Superintendent Faris Sabbah and John Rice, Senior Director, Alternative Education Department, were invited by Oasis High School to have lunch with the new Cabrillo Community College President, Matt Wetstein. Since Oasis High School is located on the Cabrillo College campus, the Oasis staff thought it was important for the new President to see the success being achieved by the Oasis students. Oasis serves approximately 200 students who would typically be under-represented in college were it not for the individualized instruction and guidance they receive. The cooperative relationship between Oasis and Cabrillo has resulted in a 92% completion rate in college courses for Oasis students.

### **PLANTRONICS**

On May 30, 2018, I along with the management team and members of the Board, were invited to Plantronics for a tour of their facility by Joe Burton. Plantronics has been a Santa Cruz company since 1961 and can now be found in every Fortune 100 company helping the world's modern professionals, airline pilots, call center agents, music lovers and gamers perform at their best. With the help of Nehal Pfeiffer, Teacher, Science and Engineering Fair, the COE will be partnering with Plantronics for Girls in Coding and Plantronics will be the official sponsor of the 2019 Santa Cruz County Science and Engineering Fair.

## **BAY SCI KICKOFF**

I attended the BaySci Kickoff at the Seymour Center on May 31, 2018. BaySci is aimed at improving the likelihood that every student will encounter high-quality science experiences within a national and state context surrounding the implementation and convergence of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the Common Core State Standards and the National Research Council's Framework for K-12 science education. The COE has contracted with the Lawrence Hall of Science to train and guide the administrators from all 10 Santa Cruz school districts three times per year for the next two years to increase science learning for students.

## **BOARD RETREAT**

We held our Board Retreat on June 1, 2018 at the Encinal Annex. The retreat was a huge success for both the Board and the staff being able to hear on a number of very important topics facing the COE and the Board.

## **TAMRA TAYLOR RETIREMENT**

I attended a retirement event for Tamra Taylor, Superintendent, Live Oak School District, on June 1, 2018 at the Seacliff Inn. Ms. Taylor served as Live Oak's Superintendent since 2009 and has over 30 years of service to education.

## **KATIE MERCHANT RETIREMENT**

I attended the retirement event for Katie Merchant on June 3, 2018. Katie was a long-time psychologist with the COE, having followed me here at the COE as a learning handicapped program specialist. Katie finished her career at PCS.

## **REGION V COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION MEETING**

I attended the Region V County Offices of Education meeting on June 4, 2018 at San Benito High School. This meeting is for the County Superintendents from Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties to discuss important subjects facing the counties as a whole or issues happening in one county that may affect another.

## **CAREER ADVANCEMENT CHARTER SCHOOL GRADUATION**

I attended the very first graduation of the Career Advancement Charter (CAC) School on June 5 2018 at Sequoia Schools. The first year of this charter school has been very successful and 22 students graduated from the CAC during the ceremony.

## **CCEE MEETING**

I attended the most recent CCEE meeting on June 7, 2018 in Sacramento. During the meeting we discussed the appointment of the new CCEE Executive Director, the 2018-2019 CCEE budget, Renewal of Agreement with legal counsel and received a presentation by the CCEE Advisory Committee and a professional development update.

### **CAAASA SPRING LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

On June 9, 2018 I facilitated the CAAASA Spring Leadership Academy in Hayward. Over 50 administrators attended the conference where we talked about pathways to success, superintendents as thought partners and steps to Superintendency.

### **SUMMER TEACHER LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE**

I attended the Summer Teacher Leadership Institute on June 11, 2018 at the Seymour Center. This institute goes hand-in-hand with the BaySci project (above). Teachers from all 10 districts, along with informal environmental educators (who are learning NGSS together) were in attendance. The institute was for the educators to create and learn how to utilize unit lesson plans for this coming school year. Superintendents were also in attendance to support their teachers in this important work.

### **CENTRAL COAST FOSTER & HOMELESS EDUCATION SUMMIT 2018**

I attended the Central Coast Foster & Homeless Education Summit at Cabrillo College on June 12, 2018. Topics of the summit included: Trauma informed practices for educators, education laws (rights and responsibilities), navigating special education, continuum of care reform 101, transitions to higher education and the keynote speaker, Mr. Patterson Emesibe, who was a foster youth himself.

### **NEW TEACHER CENTER & CAPITOL ADVISORS GROUP, LLC**

I held a conference call on June 20, 2018 to bring together Kitty Dixon, Senior Vice President of Innovation for the New Teacher Center and Kevin Gordon, President and Partner, Capitol Advisors Group LLC, in an effort to work with legislators in finding new funding sources since the Gates Grant will be sun setting.

### **WATSONVILLE PREP SCHOOL (NAVIGATOR CHARTER SCHOOLS)**

Watsonville Prep School (Navigator Charter Schools) appeared before the Board during Public Comment on June 21, 2018 to appeal their denial by the Pajaro Valley Unified School Board to open a charter school in Watsonville. Since the Board meeting, we have obtained legal counsel support from School and College Legal Services, assembled a review team to investigate the merits of the petition and discuss findings, and clarified petition questions with the charter school in order to best support the Board with their decision.

### **MARY ANNE JAMES RETIREMENT**

We celebrated Mary Anne James on her retirement on June 20, 2018 at Bargetto Winery. Mary Anne has played an integral role here at the COE over the past six years as head of the Educational Services Team and is retiring with 33 years of service in education.

## **CCSESA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

I attended the CCSESA General Membership Meetings in Santa Barbara from June 22-26, 2018. Some of the most interesting topics during the meetings centered on upcoming changes to the Dashboard expected this fall, a superintendent's guide to the LCAP and the change of executive director for the CCEE.

## **CAPITOL ADVISORS BUDGET ACT WORKSHOP**

Capitol Advisors came to the COE on June 28, 2018 to present their Budget Act Workshop. The workshop focused on the details of the 2018-19 budget deal and provided guidance to school leaders looking for insights as to where school finance discussions will go in 2019 under a new Governor, Legislature, and State Superintendent. Topics included: Prop 98, the future of LCFF, one-time funding, fiscal transparency, CTE, Special Education, Early Learning, school facilities, STRS/PERS, election dynamics and emerging issues.

## **JASON PROJECT**

Nehal Pfeiffer, Teacher, Science and Engineering Fair, and two middle school teachers from Live Oak Elementary School District went to George Washington University Virginia Science and Technology campus in Ashburn, Virginia from June 27-29, 2018 to learn about the Jason Project CTE and NGSS curriculum. They spent three days learning teaching theory, practices and content from some of the leading scientists from NOAA, the Smithsonian, the University researchers and the JASON development engineers. The teachers also became pilot instructors for the new BOSE (speaker) and JASON Waves curriculum that was created here in the Monterey Bay with Marine scientists and engineers. JASON is organizing a trip to Santa Cruz with two trainers to train any other interested teachers in the county with their curriculum.

## **THE WORLD'S SHORTEST PARADE**

I was asked to be the Grand Marshall for the "World's Shortest Parade" in Aptos on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to bring a focus on education to the community. The parade was a lot of fun and allowed me the opportunity to discuss the status of education here in Santa Cruz County.

## **CHECK FRAUD**

I want to alert the Board that counterfeit checks are being produced and distributed using our bank account information. This activity started in May and we continue to receive phone calls and emails daily from people around the country who have received these checks and want to know if they are valid. We reported this to local law enforcement and the Santa Cruz County Sheriff has taken the lead on the investigation. No funds have been lost by our office or any school district in our county. The counterfeit checks that are being produced are vendor checks with no counterfeit activity on payroll checks.

We believe, based on our own research and discussions with law enforcement, that a check mailed to a vendor was likely stolen, whitewashed and then the information sold. After this, a high volume of counterfeit checks were sent to people in an attempt at various types of scams. Currently, more than 250 checks (totaling over \$1 million) have been rejected by the County Auditor's office and returned unpaid.

We have created an alert on our website and our staff is working closely with local law enforcement, the County Auditor's office and the Fraud Division at Bank of the West in order to do whatever we can to assist in the investigation.

### **ART & POETRY**

I met with Mr. Jack Bowers on July 11, 2018. Mr. Bowers would like to bring art and poetry to our schools and also to our local jails in collaboration with the William James Society. Mr. Bowers is a gifted pianist, composer, and educator, whose career roots stretch back to the late '60s psychedelic era. A firm believer in using the arts for positive social change, Jack has also been active in promoting and teaching music workshops for prison inmates. In the late 70s, Mr. Bowers co-founded the Santa Cruz Songwriter's Guild. This led to an invitation to teach a songwriting class at Soledad Prison.

Since retiring from full time prison work in 2007, Mr. Bowers has resumed his musical career, composing, recording and performing throughout the Bay area and he also continues his commitment to bringing music and art to underserved populations, as an active Chair of the Board of Directors of the William James Association Prison Arts Project.

### **SANTA CRUZ COUNTY LIBRARIANS**

I met with five librarians from the Santa Cruz Public Libraries on July 11, 2018. They are working on a statewide initiative to give library access to every child in the state. Their goal is to give every first grade student in Santa Cruz County a library card when they begin elementary school.

In a major move towards their goal, the Santa Cruz Public Libraries have eliminated overdue fines on all children's and youth items, including books, audio and video materials. They are also working toward waiving previously accrued overdue fines on all cards held by young people, so that everyone is able to use their library cards for education and pleasure. This should help reduce the fear held by many parents that they will be responsible for their children's late fees. The libraries will only charge for lost or damaged items. The libraries plan to issue full service student cards to every first grader that would not expire until they leave the district or graduate from high school

### **LOU DENTI**

I met with Professor Lou Denti, Ph.D. professor from the Department of Education and Leadership at CSUMB on July 17, 2018. During our meeting, Dr. Denti discussed the possibility of creating a partnership with the COE in order to do training with our Special Education teachers.

### **BASTA SUMMER SPORTS CAMP 2018**

The BASTA (Broad-Based Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment & Alternatives) Summer Sports Camp 2018 has come to a close. The camp, as always, was a huge success and this year 40 students, both boys and girls, participated in the camp.

**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**