**Supt's Update**

**August 2019**

**Our Mission**: To lead an equitable and innovative learner-centered education system.

**Our Vision**: Engaged learners and leaders who have the social, emotional, academic, and technical skills to thrive in a changing world.

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**Aug 14** - Over 150 administrators from all over the county participated in a “kickoff” with a focus on Science and Equity. The highlight of the day was the participation of students who demonstrated how science education inspired them in school and beyond.

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**Strategic Plan Finalized**

**Aug 15** - After a year’s worth of work, under the expert facilitation of Nicole Young, the COE finalized the Strategic Plan to guide our work for the next 5 years based on input from hundreds of stakeholders and organizations. Next, we will be conducting community forums across the county to present the plan and our new initiatives to the community.

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**School is Back in Session**

Schools across Santa Cruz County are currently welcoming students for the 2019-20 school year. We are committed to supporting districts ensuring that school environments are welcoming and supportive of the whole child. I will be joining school districts who have invited me to their welcome events to reaffirm the COE’s commitment to supporting our students, their families, and our schools.

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**Upcoming Events**

- Aug 15 - County Board Meeting
- Aug 18 - PV Pride celebration (Watsonville)
- Aug 19 - All COE Staff Orientation (Sequoia)
- Aug 21 - First Day of COE Schools
- Sep 19 - County Board Meeting

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**Homeless Shelter**

**July 25** - I had the opportunity to tour the impressive Santa Cruz Homeless Shelter with Deputy Director Rebecca Steckler. The facility offers 4 housing shelters and medical facilities for nearly 230 people. We discussed the possibility of the COE providing educational resources to this population.
Division Updates

Public Charge Rule Finalized
The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) finalized the "public charge" rule. If litigation does not prevent the rule from taking effect, the policy will become effective in 60 days, on October 15th 2019. This rule is the latest attempt by the Trump administration to limit people with modest-to-low-incomes, and especially people of color, from becoming permanently interwoven into the tapestry of United States society. Local and nation leaders and educators oppose this policy and will continue to fight against the policy itself and the widespread consequences it can have.

Student Support Services
The Student Support Services Department and Superintendent's Office partnered with Complete Count California through a grant application process to receive funding to help districts become "safe messenger" sites for the 2020 Census. We are also collaborating with the Community Action Board, the County of Santa Cruz and the U.S. Census Bureau to align efforts that involve schools in this important endeavor.

National Night Out
Aug. 8 - I joined community members in Watsonville for National Night Out at the Mesa Village Park for National Night Out. Great food and great company of Sheriff Chief Deputy Mitch Medina and other members of the Sheriff’s Office.

Alternative Education
The CAC and Alternative Education had successful summer school sessions. All three programs, including Cypress Charter HS, are ready to begin the new school year on August 21st. The CAC will start with an additional 1 FTE teacher to meet increased student demand. The CAC will also be expanding its services into the new Probation Center for adults at 303 Water St. beginning August 21st. Alternative Education’s Oasis program will now be serving students on both Cabrillo Campuses - Watsonville and Aptos. And finally, we are looking forward to a great school year and to Cypress Charter High School joining the Alt. Ed. Family of schools.
Division Updates (cont.)

**Educational Services**

The Ed Services department came together to collaborate towards the success of the Admin Kick Off, supporting the keynote speaker, recruiting 37 students to share their science experiences, and highlighting 4 groups of student speakers to the SC County Administrators. The department also sponsored a Writers Workshop training for SLVUSD, SVUSD, SCCS and SUESD, for two days, to support the consistent use of the Lucy Calkins workshop model in our county. Math plans are up and running, with a new model of collaboration in the planning stages called Math NIC (Math Network Improvement Community). This model will support schools to identify teams and create a plan to increase mathematics achievement. Lastly the department will have a retreat on August 28th to set goals and visions for the 19-20 school year.

**Technology, Innovation, and Communications**

The Technology, Innovation, and Communications Division has been working diligently to get schools up and running for the 19-20 school year. In the last few weeks the team has deployed new devices to Sequoia High School/Sueños program and helped set up all of Cypress’ devices to be transitioned from Live Oak to Santa Cruz COE. This included all email addresses and online files for students and staff. We also have been working on operationalizing the Communications Plan. The Communications Team recently met to discuss specific actions around the plan. The 19-20 Operational plan will be focused on getting information about the strategic plan out to the public and highlighting our work around the efforts.

**Human Resources**

HR has been busy processing new hires for this upcoming school year. HR is also coordinating workshops and training for the 19-20 school year for COE employees and local school districts.

**Business Services**

We are in full swing on the new Escape system. The first Countywide payroll went out July 31st and we continue to close the 2018-19 fiscal year and start the new 2019-20 fiscal year. We expect it will be a GREAT year.