Supt's Update

October 2019

Oct. 5 - The Superintendent was thrilled to participate in the annual Queer, Trans, & Allied Student Summit at Watsonville High School

County Board Action
This month, the Santa Cruz County Board of Education is engaging in a three day policy workshop to review and update all of their Board Policies with the input and expertise of staff from various COE departments.

At the October Board meeting, they will discuss Local Indicator Dashboard Reports for all programs in the COE family of schools, a new countywide data initiative that houses student data from birth-to-career, and will be reviewing the PCS Annual Report and Diversity Plan.

They will also consider the following resolutions for adoption:
- Resolution to Support Student and Community Safety in regard to Gun Violence
- Resolution regarding Gann Amendment Appropriations Limit

Upcoming Events
- Oct 17 - County Board of Education Meeting
- Oct 23/24 - Board Policy Workshop
- Oct 24 - Inside Education (Elementary)
- Oct 25 - Monterey Bay Economic Partnership
- Nov 7 - Inside Education (Charters)
- Nov 21 - County Board Meeting

Countywide Counselor Curriculum

Oct. 15 - The Santa Cruz County College and Career Commitment (S4C) is continuing to offer opportunities to support our shared mission to give students the skills and opportunities to succeed in their post-secondary goals. We invited Trish Hatch to offer Counselors a series of workshops that will help develop a countywide Counselor Curriculum. This articulation will help ensure that all students will have access to high quality academic guidance and support.

Supporting Community Non-Profits
Sep. - Oct. - We are fortunate to live in a community rich with non-profit agencies dedicated to supporting our community. September and October are months often dedicated to celebrating these agencies and all that they do.
Division Updates

Student Support Services

The Student Services Department recently joined the multi-agency Santa Cruz Trauma Consortium (SCTC), and as a part of this, attended the 7th Annual Fall Trauma Conference on October 4th. The theme was Trauma and Opioid Misuse and Treatment, which included workshops on harm reduction, trauma counseling in Medication Assisted Treatment, overdose prevention, and a keynote by Dan Press, general counsel for the federal Campaign for Trauma Informed Policy and Practice. Through joining SCTC and attending this conference, we are aiming to build new connections with community partners, as well as deepen our trauma informed practices so that we can better serve the students in our programs who have experienced trauma.

Alternative Education

English as a Second Language, culinary, and Digital Nest elective courses are off to a great start and filling fast at the Career Advancement Charter (CAC), partly due to availability of childcare. The CAC High School Diploma Program is in full swing at the new Adult Probation Center at 303 Water St, Santa Cruz.

Our new Oasis Watsonville program is focused on dual enrollment and college readiness. We are piloting the UC Scout Online Learning program and have more than 25 students enrolled in a-g and AP courses. All Alt. Ed. programs completed 2 of 3 all day staff development trainings recently that are focused on Equity, Social Emotional Learning, and academic rigor. Our third day is planned for October 25th.

We hosted our annual Teen Attorney training on October 3rd with youth representation of Aptos High, El Nido, Pacific Collegiate School, Soquel High, Santa Cruz High, and Watsonville High. We had a full house! Teens will be prosecuting and defending real cases on November 6th at the Watsonville Courthouse at 4pm. Teen Peer Court is open to any and all teens. Please help in spreading the word about this wonderful opportunity for youth civic engagement.

Oct. 2 - Mountain ESD Superintendents for a Day visiting the COE.

Oct. 16 - 11th grade students at Cypress will take the PSAT. Fifteen seniors will also take the SAT that day. Cypress recently participated in National Coming Out Day.

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Division Updates (cont.)

**Educational Services**
The Ed Services department has been busy offering multiple trainings for the districts and schools. In math, the Silicon Valley Math Initiative (SVMI), in conjunction with our math coordinator, launched the first of a series of trainings on math engagement strategies, with over 50 teachers in attendance. Additionally, ten district schools are involved in the Santa Cruz County Math Network Improvement Community (SCC Math NIC). Thank you to the 66 teachers, instructional coaches, principals, administrators, and partners who were able to attend! The Multilingual Network was launched to engage teachers and administrators in implementation of the EL Roadmap. Science is supporting teachers with NGSS and preparing for the next BaySci meeting in early November. The entire department is also receiving training in Improvement Science to support districts and schools with the continual improvement process.

**Career Technical Education Partnership**
There was a nice article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel written by Elaine Ingalls and published on September 23 featuring a new Santa Cruz County Office of Education CTEP course "Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation" CTEP partnered with the Seaside Company to create this unique opportunity for student to earn credit and money taking this course.

**Human Resources**
The COE hosted a "Legally Defensible Practices Regarding Section 504" workshop on October 8th. Eighty administrators, counselors, teachers, school psychologists and other educators attended. It was a well attended event and a topic of high demand from our local school districts.

**Technology, Innovation, and Communications**
The Technology, Innovation, and Communications Division (Tech+) is excited to kick off their Gmail and Google Calendar Early Adopter program. We have close to 25 employees who will be moving and have moved to Gmail and Google Calendar exclusively. These early adopters will be trained in communication efficiency with email and calendaring on October 22nd. This group will then become the support group as we move the entire organization over to Gmail and Google Calendar on December 30th.

Tech+ has also convened their first Teacher Innovation Network meeting with secondary teachers. These teachers represent many different districts in our county and are the lead innovators at their sites/districts when it comes to instructional strategies. The teachers had a chance to learn, network, and share best practices of innovation and instructional technology. We even had a visit from the California State Parks. They run a virtual field trip program called Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) where rangers from all over the state will engage students in better understanding state parks via classroom video conference!! The Teacher Innovation Network will be bringing all learning and relevant content back to their sites for dissemination. The Elementary Teacher Innovation Network will be starting soon!