Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
January 17, 2013

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of December 20, 2012:

**Mid-Year Graduation**
The Alternative Education Department will be holding two mid-year graduations on January 30th at the Portuguese Hall. The department has sixty-nine students graduating with fifty-seven participating in the ceremonies. The graduations are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and all trustees are encouraged to attend. If you will be attending, please let Cindy know.

**California Budget**
With the passage of Proposition 30 and the Governor’s new proposed local funding formula (LCFF), school districts and county offices are facing a new and different financial future. The proposal suggests a base grant of approximately $6816 per ADA and additional funding for EL students and free and reduced lunch students. Under the formula some school district will see increased funding while others may experience flat funding or potential decreases. As more information becomes available, we will continue updating. Please contact Mary Hart with your questions.

**Board Retreat**
A preliminary conversation began with President Gina Locatelli and Vice President Jack Dilles on planning of the Board Retreat. Robert J. Henry of School and College Legal Services has been contacted to facilitate the retreat. He is a well-respected authority on schools and has presented this workshop to a former Santa Cruz County Board and in Los Angeles, Alameda, Sonoma, Mendocino, and Marin Counties. He is well-versed in school law and has an understanding of the unique circumstances related to a County Board of Trustees and the relationship between the Board and an elected County Superintendent of Schools.

**Safe Schools Consortium Emergency Protocol Review**
The Countywide Emergency Response and Crisis Management (ERCM) protocols were developed in 2005 and last reviewed in 2009. In light of recent events, The Safe School Consortium will be meeting on January 29th to receive updates on approved Law Enforcement Lockdown Protocols, do an overall review of the planning manual, review the 6 page Emergency Response Plan, make additions, changes or deletions to the current manual, and discuss a central depository of individual school site maps. Law enforcement, emergency services and all school districts will be represented at this meeting.

**Black History Month**
We are planning a kickoff event for educators in celebration of Black History Month tentatively for February 5th. Our keynote address will be presented by Dr. David Anthony III, associate professor, UCSC History Department.
**Watsonville Youth City Council**
I attended a planning meeting with the Watsonville Youth City Council and the leaders of the Interact clubs from Pajaro Valley High, Watsonville High, and Ceiba Charter Prep. These students meet to focus on three issues concerning the youth of Watsonville: public safety for youth, education, and promoting youth-oriented business. They regularly meet with the adult Watsonville City Council to share their ideas for solutions.

**Santa Cruz County Symphony**
Mary Anne James and I met with Lee Duffis, Santa Cruz County Symphony. He introduced us to the Brummitt Taylor Music Listening Program for possible implementation in a pilot program somewhere in the county. The program consists of CD’s of symphonic music and the supporting teacher materials to take 5 minutes a day to teach students music appreciation.

**Linked Learning Pilot Program**
We are one of twenty education agencies selected in California to participate in a pilot program for Linked Learning. Authorized by AB 790, The Linked Learning Pilot Program is based on delivering an academically challenging course of study that focuses students in project-based classroom activities and provide a supportive school climate through small learning communities.

**CAP Steering Committee**
As a member of the United Way, I attended a meeting of the CAP Steering Committee. The committee reviewed the indicators used in previous reports for revising and updating.

**California County Superintendents Educational Services Adminstration (CCSESA)**
With my new responsibilities as President of CCSESA, this past month, I have participated in phone conference calls for Agenda planning for Executive Committee and the next quarterly meeting the end of January; the Executive Committee conference call; and a review of the schedule of meetings for the year.

**Inside Education – Charter Schools**
On Wednesday, January 16th, I welcomed the current group for Inside Education and gave them an overview of charter schools before they headed out for visits to Ceiba College Preparatory Academy and Linscott Charter School. Upon returning to the County Office of Education, they were presented with information on the Kahn Academy by Jason Borgen, TICAL Project Coordinator.

**Inquiry, Inspiration, & Innovation**
I attended and gave the welcoming address for the 6th Annual Bay Area Leadership Forum held on January 9th at the Newark branch of Ohlone College. The theme for this year’s forum was Inquiry, Inspiration, & Innovation. Topics covered included understanding the changes being brought about by the new Common Core Standards, new strategies, structures, and relationships needed to provide optimum learning experiences for children and introduction of innovative teaching strategies using technology to foster student engagement.

**Escuela Popular Followup**
Rogelio and June Ponce, Pajaro Valley growers, are exploring the Escuela Popular Dual Language Academy model to support the parents and children of their farm worker families. We have been assisting them in connecting with resources to provide education for the entire family.
Coordinated Calendar Committee
The Coordinated Calendar Committee headed up by Deputy Superintendent Bryan Wall met this past Monday with nearly all districts represented. For the most part, districts will be starting the year within a day of each other and we have coordinated nearly every other vacation day throughout the year.

School Site Visits
When I am out and about going to meetings, I have been trying to take some time to visit school sites, both district schools and our own programs. Bryan Wall will be coordinating visits to sites for each of our programs for those trustees who are interested in seeing the programs.

Young Writers Program
The Young Writers Program is holding its first celebration at Gault Elementary today from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. where I will be introducing the students of Judy Lust’s fifth grade class who have put together a book of their writings and will be performing a skit about the process.

Capitol Advisors Group, LLC
I met with Kevin Gordon, president and Jack O’Connell, partner of Capitol Advisors Group. They formed an organization to advocate for education in Sacramento. Their main services include strategic consulting, public relations, and assistance with all aspects of school facility construction and advocacy. They will be providing our office with support in these areas.

Monthly Meetings
Children’s Network Superintendents Council
CCSESA Finance Committee CCSESA Executive Committee
Agenda Committee Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance