The following matters and events have occurred since the report of December 17, 2009:

**Race to the Top**
The day following the December Board Meeting, the Board’s appointed representative, Jack Dilles and Vic Marani, as well as Larry Tousey, President of the Santa Cruz Chapter of the California Teachers’ Union and I met to determine the County Office of Education’s potential participation in California’s bid to participate in the federal Race to the Top education funding program. We determined it to be in our best interest to submit a letter of intent and memorandum of understanding in order to benefit from any potential funding to come to California schools.

**TAC 6**
I am on the education committee of this national effort and continue to work by conference calls as we investigate ways to build sustainability in communities improve the quality of life for all.

**Terry Medina’s Retirement Reception**
I attended the retirement event in honor of Terry Medina, Watsonville Chief of Police. Terry has been a long-time partner with not only schools in the Pajaro Valley but countywide as a participant on many committees and panels addressing issues in schools. Those of us in education who have collaborated also with new Chief Manny Solano look forward to working with him in his new capacity.

**Superintendents’ Council / Safety on Campus and in the Community**
The monthly meeting of district superintendents and myself included discussion with several law and judiciary officials from throughout the county concerning student safety on campus and within the community. Those attending included Judge Denine Guy, Juvenile Delinquency Court Commissioner Irwin Joseph, Yolanda Perez-Logan, Assistant Director, Probation Department; Scotts Valley Police Chief John Weiss; Patty Sapone, Deputy chief, and Captain Steve Clark, Santa Cruz City Police Department; Manny Solano, chief, Watsonville City Police Department; David McCartney, Lt., Watsonville Police Department; Jason Koeher, Resource Officer, Watsonville High School; Michael Card, Chief, Capitola City Police Department; and Bob Payne, Chief Santa Cruz Sheriff’s Office.
**Leadership Santa Cruz**
This month’s session of Leadership Santa Cruz titled Santa Cruz Municipalities Day addressed the history of the county and the municipalities with it. The February 5, session is Education Day. UCSC Chancellor Blumenthal, Cabrillo President Brian King and I are on the planning committee. We will host the session here at the COE.

**Regional Arts Education Leadership Forum**
I was honored to address the CCSESA Regions IV and V and Alameda County Office of Education Superintendents’ Council forum on Arts Education this month in Berkley. Dr Mary Stone Hanley, a nationally recognized expert on the role of arts and overall student achievement was the guest speaker addressing taking action for culturally responsive education strategies.

**Santa Cruz County School Boards Association**
With several of our Board members, I was in attendance at the January meeting of the Santa Cruz County School Boards Association, which Trustee Dilles will report further on later in the meeting.

**Football Pool Potluck**
One of the County Office of Education’s great employee participation events, the annual Football Pool, introduced and overseen by Barney Finlay for the past decade, culminates in the end-of-season potluck lunch and awards ceremony. Those pool participants who at the end of the season score enough total points to place above the median line – the “eaters” – are treated to a potluck lunch prepared by the “feeders” who place below the line. We hope Mary Hart will assume the role of Commissioner so ably performed by Barney over the years.

**Inside Education**
The Inside Education cohort met at the County Office of Education for a briefing on charter school law prior to visiting the Watsonville Charter School for the Arts and Pacific Collegiate Charter School for first-hand observation of students in their classrooms at the two schools. Some participants also attended the early afternoon Alternative Education Program graduation ceremony.

**Alternative Education Graduations**
In three separate ceremonies, the Alternative Education Program conducted exercises for approximately 55 mid-year graduates.

**Project Impact**
As you are aware, Project Impact is our program that provides local instruction to teachers that qualifies them for special education credentials. I recently met with the current cohort of students to gain their evaluation of the program. Feedback was very positive. I will continue to monitor the effectiveness of Project Impact.

**CCSESA / ACSA Quarterly Meetings**
I will be attending both the CCSESA Quarterly Meeting and the ACSA Sessions in Monterey next week.

**Upcoming Events**
Flyers and information on the following upcoming events that are interest to the Board:

**Career Technical Education:** The Second Annual Career Technical Education Summit will be held, Monday, February 22, from 3:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Harbor High School. This event hosts industry and education representatives in an effort to build the Santa Cruz workforce for the future.

**Early Education Forum:** Hosted by the COE Child Development Program, this David and Lucille Packard Foundation funded forum features guest speaker Delaine Eastin, former California State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

**Santa Cruz County Community Coalition to Overcome Racism:** The local organization is sponsoring a two-day workshop to address racism issues in Santa Cruz County. In part prompted by the recent gang related killing of a white student, addresses local issues with our county.

**Symposium: Perspectives on Mental Illness:** Sponsored by Dominican Hospital Foundation, this symposium, scheduled for Saturday, May 15, 2010, will present concepts regarding the state of behavioral health care from the perspective of the consumer, professional provider, and the family member. A review current research and consensus-based findings, along with recent treatment options will be presented.

**Gail Rich Awards:** I have taken part on the panel to select a Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate. The selected candidate will be present at the Cultural Council Gail Rich Awards on January 26.

**Regularly Scheduled Monthly Meetings**

Children’s Network  United Way Board of Directors
Migrant Head Start Board