The following matters and events have occurred since the report of January 19, 2011:

**Administrators Breakfast**
Our annual Administrators Breakfast featured Dr. Anthony Muhammad, a leading expert on organizational change. We had 175 administrators from school districts all across the county. Reviews of the presentation were very positive and we plan on bringing Dr. Muhammad back later in the year to work more in-depth with administrators.

**Rachel Goodman**
The new executive director of the Tannery Arts Center, Rachel Goodman, met with me to discuss strategies and possible partnerships to maintain arts education in the public schools.

**Santa Cruz Rotary Club**
I spoke at the Santa Cruz Rotary Club meeting on January 20th focusing on our services to districts from business services, to fiscal oversight, staff development and direct student services such as Career Technical Education through our Regional Occupational Programs and Special Education classes. They had an outstanding turnout for the meeting and my presentation was well received.

**CCSESA Quarterly Meeting**
The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association met for its quarterly meeting on January 23-25th in Monterey. Topically discussions included the Governor’s budget, dismantling of redevelopment agencies, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) Initiative, and implementation of the K-12 Student Mental Health Initiative.

**ACSA Superintendents Symposium**
The end of January, I attended the annual ACSA (Association of California Administrators) Superintendents Symposium. State Superintendent Tom Torlakson spoke to the gathering along with other impressive speakers focusing on the challenges facing today’s school administrators.

**Alternative Education – Mid-Year Graduations**
On January 27th, our Alternative Education Programs held a mid-year graduation for 58 students. The graduations were held at the Portuguese Hall which provided a better sized room for the graduation and the required parking. Thanks to Arnie Levine and Gina Locatelli for attending and participating in this important event.

**Roberts A. Hartman School Graduation**
I attended the graduation ceremonies at the Hartman School at the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall. Two students participated in the ceremonies. Special thanks to teacher Bonnie Dankert for making this a very special event in these students’ lives.
Redevelopment Agencies
I having been meeting with Mary Jo Walker, city managers, mayors, and superintendents and their CBO’s as the process of dismantling Redevelopment Agencies continues. Oversight committees must be formed for each agency and as County Superintendent of Schools, I am required to appoint one member to oversee the interests of the affected school districts. There are five agencies and a different school CBO has been appointed to each depending on the area they cover.

Science Collaboration
Adam Wade is leading the effort to provide a networking system for science educators throughout the county. I was able to do the welcome at the first meeting held on January 31st. Science educators across the county will come together regularly to share information on curriculum and resources.

High School Voter Registration
Ron Glass and Jonathon Fox, UCSC professors, met with me to discuss registration of students 18 years and older. We discussed how registration could possibly be incorporated into the high school curriculum.

Revolution of Electronic-Based Instruction
The San Mateo School Boards Association held a joint meeting to discuss the evolution of online learning and other electronic-based resources for students and schools. Jason Borgen represented our office at this meeting.

New Teacher Center Symposium
The focus for this year’s New Teacher Center Symposium was ‘Shining the Light on Good Teaching’ and featured a number of keynote speakers. I was able to attend one day of the symposium where I was able to learn more about the 826 Writing Project that is the basis for the Santa Cruz Writes program being proposed by Jory Post and his collaborators.

Santa Cruz Writes: Young Writers Program for Grades 4-8
Retired educator Jory Post and his colleagues have been meeting with me to discuss the development of a new program emphasizing a passion for learning and the necessity of good writing and thinking skills in grades 4 through 8. The program is currently still in the planning stages and will be piloted in the spring of this year.

Criminal Justice Council
The rejuvenated Criminal Justice Council held its first meeting in January. This Council existed many years ago, was dismantled but has been brought back to assist in the continuing emphasis on the abatement of youth and gang violence. It has grown out of the BASTA meetings that are held 3-4 times a year and is made up of a smaller group of people representative of the judicial, law enforcement and education.

Agri-Culture Board Meeting
Topics discussed included: Twenty seven applications have been submitted for participation in this year’s Focus Agriculture workshops. The National Ag Day luncheon has been scheduled for March 21st. The annual scholarship for students entering or continuing college studies in agriculture has been doubled to $2000. The annual poster and poetry contests are in full swing. Winners of the contests get a $200 savings bond.
Inside Education
Inside Education participants met on February 15th to learn more about middle schools. They visited Aptos Junior High and New Brighton Middle School. Brian King, president, Cabrillo College spoke to them about SC4, Santa Cruz County College Commitment, a program to instill in children in elementary schools the aspiration to go to college.

Pajaro School Bond
Mary Hart and I met with Dorma Baker and Brett McFadden to discuss the possibility of and strategize in regards to placing a bond issue on the November ballot.

Leadership Santa Cruz
We hosted the Leadership Santa Cruz cadre for Education Day. They began the day at our office with a breakfast and presentation. They then visited Watsonville and Harbor High Schools and returned to lunch and a presentation on school finance by Brett McFadden, CBO, Pajaro Valley Unified. The afternoon was spent with Brian King, president, Cabrillo College and Chancellor George Blumenthal from University of California, Santa Cruz.

Football Pool Luncheon
The annual Football Pool Luncheon was a fun event with much camaraderie and good food. The “below the line” people supplied a great lunch to all of those who scored above the line. Kirk Osborn, Tina Dinsmore, Pam Crowell, Melanie Martin, and Bryan Wall did a great job of coordinating this activity that brings employees together for some fun competition.

Freshman Transition Study
Lori Butterworth, Executive Director, Boomerang Foundation met with me to share the results of a freshman survey on transition to high school and how the instruments developed for this study might be used countywide.

Support to Districts
Discussion has begun on how the County Office of Education will support the districts of Santa Cruz County in the next school year whether through our personnel or other resources in support of the education of our county’s children.

Rama Khalsa’s Retirement
I attended the retirement celebration for long time Health Services Agency administrator. Ms. Khalsa worked closely with the schools in promoting community health and childhood wellness. She has been replaced by Poki Stewart Namkung, MD who is very familiar with the department having worked with Ms. Khalsa for many years.

Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
I will be meeting with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson next week to discuss improving the graduation rates for high school students. I will also be testifying in a legislative hearing on programs and adequate funding for alternative education programs. Having successfully instituted innovative alternative education programs in our county, I have been asked to elaborate on our programs and how to replicate these throughout the state.

Monthly Meetings
Tannery Board
Agenda Committee
Migrant Headstart Videoconference
CCSESA Executive Board Phone Conference
Children’s Network Executive Committee
Inside Education Planning Committee
Superintendents Council
CCSESA Legislative Committee Phone Conference.