Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
February 17, 2011

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of January 20, 2011

**CCSESAs – Quarterly Meeting**
The California County Superintendents Educational Services Agency met January 24-26th. We received information on the state budget, Associate Superintendent Theresa Rouse was approved as the Curriculum and Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) Treasurer, and we approved legislative priorities. Discussion items covered many topics, including elimination of funding for AB 3632 Mental Health Services for 2010-11.

**Region 5 Meeting**
I met with Mike Sanchez, San Benito COE Superintendent, Nancy Kotowski, Monterey COE Superintendent, and Chuck Weis, Santa Clara COE Superintendent to discuss regional programs and opportunities for our counties to collaborate and share resources.

**Mid-Year Alternative Education Graduations**
On January 26th our Alternative Education Programs held three mid-year graduation ceremonies with 73 students graduating from 10 sites. As always, the ceremonies were moving and the student’s journey’s inspiring.

**State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson Reception**
I attended a reception hosted by Tom Torlakson where he discussed his priorities, of which include Career and Technical Education (CTE), technology, full funding for education, and closing the achievement gap.

**Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce Woman of the Year**
On January 29th the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce honored our very own Jody Belgard Akimoto as Woman of the Year at their annual awards dinner. Jody was honored for her contributions to the community over the years, which include being credited with saving the Santa Cruz County Fair.

**Foothill High School WASC Visitation**
I visited Foothill High School, an alternative school, as chair of a visiting Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) team. WASC is recognized as one of six regional associations that accredit public and private schools, colleges, and universities in the United States.
School Administrators Breakfast and County Board Trustees Dinner
On February 2nd SCCOE hosted a breakfast for school administrators from Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz counties at the Cocoanut Grove. We were privileged to have keynote speaker Yong Zhao, a university distinguished professor at the College of Education, Michigan State University and currently Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education, College of Education at the University of Oregon. Dr. Zhao is the author of Catching Up or Leading the Way, a remarkable book that is changing the debate about what is wrong and what is right with American education, and where it should be headed. That same evening SCCOE hosted a dinner for Santa Cruz County School Board Trustees where Dr. Zhao was again the keynote speaker.

Criminal Justice Coordinating Council/BASTA
At the last BASTA meeting the committee recommended that we move forward with re-forming the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council.

Rotary Club of Capitola-Aptos
On February 3rd I attended the Capitola-Aptos Rotary Club’s Comedy Night for Charity 2011. The evening featured comedian and motivational speaker Michael Pritchard. Proceeds from the event support their annual community grants program, of which some of our students are recipients.

Leadership Santa Cruz
On February 4th SCCOE hosted community participants in Leadership Santa Cruz, where their focus was on Education. Participants received information on public schools and the successes and challenges we face, followed by visits to local school sites in north and south county. The day concluded with a visit to UCSC where Cabrillo College President, Brian King, addressed the group.

Human Race Walkathon & Fun Run
I met with leaders of the Human Race to discuss SCCOE participation. The Human Race is a fantastic way to raise money for programs, with 100% of proceeds staying in Santa Cruz County. The Volunteer Center collects 10-25% to offset event costs, and 75-90% of funds go directly to the programs in need. In 2010 Human Race participants raised over $200,000 for local schools and non-profits.

Early Retirement Incentive
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is pleased to announce that it will be offering an Early Retirement Incentive to qualifying employees. This incentive will provide eligible employees with a one-time payment at separation (June 30, 2011) of 15% of salary. The offering is meant to benefit the SCCOE with a combination of cost savings and/or position savings.
**Special Education Staff Meeting**
In response to the article published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel, I met with staff from the special education department on February 15th to discuss the potential effects of Santa Cruz City Schools taking back special education programs.

**Project Impact**
I met with Project Impact instructors at their final class to evaluate this year’s program and determine direction for the program in the future. Candidates are now qualified for tier one and can clear their credentials in December.

**SCCOE Football Team Winners**
Deputy Superintendent (and Co-Commish) Bryan Wall and I took the overall winning football team, Sarah Nava, Diane Oyler, Brenda Ruiz, Christina Herrera, and Sita Moon, also known as team “Bubbalicious”, to lunch at El Palomar to celebrate their team victory. Congratulations!

**Managers’ Meeting**
On February 9th Keenan and Associates gave SCCOE managers a comprehensive presentation on workplace safety and provided staff with useful resources.

**Green Valley Community School**
The Coalition for Adequate School Housing (C.A.S.H.) and the American Institute of Architects, California Council (AIACC) have awarded Green Valley Community School an Award of Honor in the Project in Design category of the 2011 C.A.S.H./AOACC Leroy F. Greene Design + Planning Awards Program. In addition to receiving a Design Award Certificate at the 32nd Annual Conference, our school will be highlighted in a professionally produced video during the awards ceremony.

**CAAASA State Conference**
The California Association of African-American Superintendents (CAAASA) held their state conference in Sacramento February 9-11. As a member of the conference planning committee, I conducted two workshops for aspiring superintendents. My presentations included mentoring and support for future superintendents. I was also presented with an award in recognition of my support and contributions to the CAAASA organization.

**ROP Professional Development**
I attended the ROP Professional Development meeting on February 15th at Watsonville High School. The meeting was focused on infusing technology in the classroom.

**Detention and Equity Reform in Santa Cruz**
Today the Annie E. Casey Foundation Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and Santa Cruz Probation are hosting Celebrate Detention & Equity Reform in Santa Cruz.
Board Retreat – March 4th
The SCCOE Board has a morning retreat planned March 4th at Monarch Cove.

SCCOE Communications Plan
The SCCOE has contracted with the editor of the Press Banner, Peter Burke to assist with the implementation of the SCCOE Communications Plan.

Proposed Partnership with KION
I met with Robert Martinez, Local Sales Manager of KION, Fox 35, Telemundo, and The CW to discuss a comprehensive media campaign to build positive community awareness of programs and opportunities that assist to enrich the student experience in Santa Cruz County. The campaign strategy would be to create and launch a series of vignettes to capture the attention of students, parents, administrators, and local employers.

CCSESA State & Federal Legislative Committee
As a member of the CCSESA Legislative Committee I participated in a conference call where we discussed CCSESA Legislative Priorities for 2011-12. CCSESA seeks to advocate for effective policies and adequate resources through involvement in state and federal legislative processes.

State Priorities Include:

- Efficiency and Effectiveness – Online Learning
- County Superintendents Roles & Responsibilities
- Resources for Public Schools
- Revenue Options
- Standards-based Curriculum
- Academic Support and Assistance.

Federal Priorities Include:

- Association of Educational Service Agencies (ESEA) Reauthorization
- Full Funding for Federally Mandated Programs
- Broadband Access

Senator Blakeslee Roundtable
I have been invited to join Senator Blakeslee for a community leader’s roundtable on Friday, March 4th. The topic will be gang violence and at risk youth. Senator Blakeslee is seeking information on local efforts undertaken by leaders from local government, public safety, and education to combat gang violence and intervene with at risk youth and to how he may assist by engaging the state as a strategic partner and to represent our interest and objectives in Sacramento.