The following matters and events have occurred since the report of January 15, 2009:

**Budget Related Meetings and Activities**

**Meetings with Senator Simitian, Assemblyman Monning and Glen Thomas, State Secretary of Education**
On Thursday, February 5th, I met individually with Senator Simitian, Assemblyman Monning and Glen Thomas, State Secretary of Education, to discuss the consequences of the Governor’s proposed budget upon education as well as the added burden placed upon the education system created by the Legislature’s failure to adopt a State budget.

**CCSESA Webcast**
This live webcast, hosted by the County Office of Education, was well attended by district board trustees and superintendents as well as the County Board of Education trustees. The presentations by representatives of the California School Boards Association, School Services of California, The Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA), addressed education policy issues related to the impact of the state budget crisis were relevant, insightful and assistive.

**Staff Meetings**
Barney Finlay and I have conducted meetings with each of the managers and department staffs of the County Office of Education (ROP, Alternative Education, Special Education, Educational Services and Business Services) to address budget related issues including cost-saving measures, possible implications to programs and services dependent upon the various scenarios a final state budget might create, and to seek management input on how the COE can most effectively and cost-efficiently continue to provide quality services to the districts and students.
Teleconference with Sam Farr
At the invitation of Congressman Farr, I participated with other Central Coast County superintendents and district superintendents on a telephone conference with him just prior to the Senate vote upon the Federal Stimulus Bill. Congressman Farr clarified various components of the bill as well as both the process and limitations on allocation of funding directed to education.

Non-Budget Related Items:

Alternative Education Graduations
Two mid-year graduation exercises were conducted by the Alternative Education department on January 21st. Diplomas were bestowed upon thirty-two graduates in ceremonies conducted at the County Office of Education. Students, parents and families and the dedicated Alternative Education teachers and aides are all to be congratulated for their accomplishments. I want to express appreciation on behalf of all involved to the board trustees who were available to attend and participate in these celebrations.

Inside Education
Several Board trustees were available to accompany the Inside Education participants on the January introduction to the charter school process and visits to Pacific Collegiate, Tierra Pacifica and Delta Charter Schools. The presentations instructional and the Inside Education a worthwhile community involvement program.

Salude Para la Gente
I met with Sister Julie Hyer, President of Salud Para la Gente, to investigate means of collaboration to improve health care services to students and youth in the county. Salud Para la Gente is a community health center in the Pajaro Valley that provides comprehensive and accessible health care services to low-income families regardless of their lack of resources to pay for care.

Dientes
Will Hahn, Director, Dientes, and I met to discuss collaborative efforts to provide dental services to the youth of low-income families. Dientes is implementing a Children’s Outreach Pilot Program that will provide services to children grades 1 through 3 and health education to children in grades 1 through 6. Dientes has received a grant to partner with the County Office of Education and six schools in the county to implement the program. The six schools will be those identified by county and school data as those with the highest proportion of economically disadvantaged youth. The data will not include the migrant population as Salud Para la Gente intends to provide dental screenings as part of the Migrant Education Program.

ACSA Superintendents’ Symposium
The annual Association of California School Administrators, Superintendents’ Symposium was conducted for three days the last week in January in Monterey. The Symposium is an opportunity for district and county superintendents to engage in
professional learning and share ideas. Workshops and interactive sessions addressed critical issues including fiscal planning, legislation, leadership, legal issues, accountability and, of course, the economic forecast for the state and education.

**CCSESA Quarterly Meeting**
The California County Superintendents Educational Services Association (CCSESA) three-day quarterly meeting immediately preceded the ACSA symposium in Monterey. Topics of discussion focused on the Governor’s proposed state budget, state and federal legislation, integrated school district academic support and assistance with an emphasis on teacher quality initiatives, and the CCSESA Arts Initiative.

**Teacher Pipeline Project**
I continue to meet with Rod Ogawa, UCSC, to advance implementation of the Teacher Pipeline Project. The Teacher Pipeline Project is a collaboration between UCSC and the public schools in Santa Cruz County to promote a “home-grown” teacher workforce.

**California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators Conference**
I attended the CAAASA state conference in Sacramento the first week in February. The theme of the conference was Education is a Civil Right an Agenda for Academic Success. Presentations and discussion focused on the low achievement of many African-American students, the achievement gap and the effects upon their quality of life in adulthood. I participated as a panelist that addressed current and new practices.

**Appearance on Community TV**
I was invited by John Silver to appear last week on the What’s Happening in Education segment on Community TV to address various aspects of the state of education including, of course, the challenges exacerbated by the current budget crisis.

**Annual Lincoln Celebration**
I wish to thank Trustee Marani for the invitation to join him at the Lincoln Celebration and for the opportunity to promote public education. Among the guests was State Insurance Commissioner Steve Poizner.

**Project IMPACT**
The first full cohort of teachers enrolled in the Project IMPACT credentialing program met for the first time in late January for their first class. Eighteen interns are enrolled in the Special Education intern program.

**Mock Trial**
The three-day Mock Trial competition was conducted last week and this past Monday at the Watsonville Court House. Seven high schools participated in the elimination rounds culminating Monday in the final between Santa Cruz High and Harbor High. Santa Cruz High emerged the winner in a very close finish for the top spot.

**Superintendents’ Council Meeting**
Collaboration among the districts and the County Office in meeting the many challenges imposed by the proposed budget and the absence of a budget at this time was the focus of the meeting. Pat Johns and John Kegebein addressed the superintendents relative to marketing, promotion and quality of presentations by the education community at the September County Fair.

**Regularly Scheduled Meetings Attended**

Pre-school Steering Committee
Steinbeck Executive Committee
Superintendents’ Council
PVPSA

Migrant Head Start Board
Children’s Network Executive Committee
SECA