Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – February 19, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of January 15, 2015:

**OHSER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE**

I was invited to speak to “How it Works, Santa Cruz County” a group from UCSC in partnership with the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. We discussed the demographics, agencies, major players and some of the political issues of importance right now in education. Osher Lifelong Learning Institute provides continuing educational opportunities for adults who are committed to lifelong learning.

**INSIDE ED: CHARTERS/MIDDLE SCHOOLS**

I gave a short introduction to Charter Schools detailing the history and growth of Charter Schools in Santa Cruz County. After the presentation, we visited Ceiba College Prep Academy where the 86% of the student population come from economically disadvantaged homes, 95% are of Hispanic or Latino origin and 35% are English learners. Nearly all of Ceiba’s students will be the first in their family to go to college and many will be the first in their family to graduate high school. In addition, we held an Inside Education series on middle schools. Jeff Calden, Principal, San Lorenzo Valley Middle School, gave a wonderful presentation on the issues confronting middle school students. The group also visited Lakeview Middle School and Aptos Junior High School.

**BEYOND API: RETHINKING ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE LCFF/LCAP ERA**

I was asked to be a discussant for Linda Darling Hammond’s presentation on “Supporting Continuous Improvement in California’s Education System”. The conference also presented “The Challenges and Opportunities of a Systems Approach to Accountability”. Both presentations highlighted the changes that are underway in California’s accountability system and what it means for the state’s schools and students. The event was sponsored by Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) and included participation from CDE, West Ed, Children Now and the State Board of Education.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TASK FORCE MEETING**

The Special Education Task Force is reviewing a number of issues facing Special Education to present to the California Department of Education and the Governor. The Task Force was convened to come up with recommendations and an implementation plan for policy changes that would align services, supports and pedagogy to ensure that students with disabilities are also prepared for success in college, careers and life. The 40 member Task Force spent the entire year compiling the report and listening to the community.
CAAASA QUARTERLY MEETING WITH STATE SUPERINTENDENT

I attended this meeting of CAAASA in which State Superintendent, Tom Torlakson gave both the opening and closing remarks. We received an update on the health and equity issues institutes statewide and the 2015 Statewide Professional Development Summit concerning early childhood education, chronic absenteeism and the truancy taskforce.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION GRADUATION

I was a speaker at two Alternative Education graduations. 59 students graduated from nine different schools/programs throughout the county with a number of these students being college-bound next Fall.

UNITED WAY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT MEETING

I participated in the United Way meeting to help redevelop the Community Assessment Survey questions for Santa Cruz County. This survey is intended to learn about the family of the survey respondent, for example, their conditions, behaviors, knowledge and attitudes.

COE HAPPY NEW YEAR LUNCHEON

The Facilities Advisory Committee (FAC) sponsored the annual Holiday/Happy New Year Luncheon at the COE. Everyone enjoyed wonderful food and music and a chance to look forward to the year to come. The FAC event assists in promoting a positive work environment.

CCSESA QUARTERLY MEETING

I attended the CCSESA Quarterly Meeting in Monterey from January 25th through January 28th along with the Region 5 superintendents (Dr. Nancy Kotowski/Monterey, Jon Gundry/Santa Clara, and Krystal Lomanto/San Benito). During the conference, the membership approved the CCSESA 2015 legislative priorities which will be used to guide CCSESA’s advocacy efforts throughout the year. I, along with Dwight Bonds (Executive Director, CAAASA) and Ramona Bishop (Superintendent, Vallejo) gave an update on behalf of the CAAASA to the membership. The Region 5 superintendents also had the opportunity to meet separately with CCSESA Executive Director Peter Birdsall.

LEADERSHIP SANTA CRUZ EDUCATION DAY

30 participants with Leadership Santa Cruz County came to the County Office to learn about the variety of programs we offer to the students of Santa Cruz County. I gave the participants an overview of our programs and then they received an overview of ROP before heading off to Harbor High School to see our programs in action. The participants then returned to the COE Annex in time for a fantastic lunch provided by the students of the Culinary Arts ROP Program. After lunch, the participants were given an overview of the new LCAP and LCFF guidelines followed up by a Q & A panel with three district superintendents.
QUEER YOUTH TASK FORCE AND SAFE SCHOOLS PROJECT

I met with Ron Indra, Director, Safe School Project of Santa Cruz County. The purpose of our meeting was to discuss how school districts in Santa Cruz County have implemented practices and policies in maintaining safe school environments for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) students both physically and mentally. In addition to pursuing grant funding, this group is not only trying to raise awareness of the myriad of issues that many of these students have to confront but to also provide professional development for teachers and superintendents.

ILLUMINATE

Karin Lundquist from Illuminate Education met with the District Superintendents and their staffs to show them a system that can aid the districts to migrate to a uniform data and assessment system. Illuminate serves the K-12 educational market with innovative, web-based products and services for all data needs. Illuminate’s technology solutions are designed to maximize efficiency, feature user-friendly interfaces, and support practical and progressive needs at the county, district, site, classroom, parent and student levels.

EPINEPHRINE AUTO INJECTORS & MEASLES

I met with Dr. Lisa Hernandez, MD, Health Officer/Medical Services Director, County of Santa Cruz, to discuss measles and the use of epinephrine auto injectors in schools. Dr. Hernandez recently published a letter to parents concerning the measles outbreak and the need to vaccinate their children. She also spoke at the Superintendent’s Council where she discussed ways to set up temporary clinics at elementary schools for kindergartners who have not been vaccinated.

TICAL

I met with Rowland Baker and Jason Borgen, TICAL, concerning the preservation of TICAL. TICAL is a statewide project that has been placed into Tier III for elimination. Rowland has been meeting with the Governor’s staff in an effort to get legislation to continue funding this very valuable and worthwhile project.

ROP

I held multiple meetings with the district superintendents regarding their ROP programs and the state of funding for this program. Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley have had their respective Boards sign the MOU. Santa Cruz City Schools and Pajaro Valley are still discussing; however, we will need a signed MOU from each of these districts as soon as possible if we are to provide services to these districts in the 2015-16 school year. The 2015 ROP Expo will be held on March 5, 2015 at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium from 4:30-7:00pm.

PACIFIC COLLEGIATE CHARTER SCHOOL (PCS)

I was invited to be a speaker at today’s ground breaking ceremony at PCS for their new school site.
## Regular Monthly Meetings

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