Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
February 20, 2014

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of January 16, 2014

**Alternative Education Staff Meeting**
I met to welcome the teachers and support staff, with discussions about the changes in their department under LCFF, continuing to work together on a smooth transition.

**Risk Management**
I had a meeting with our risk management team to discuss and implement a Back-to-Work Program in regard to Workers’ Compensation injuries. Together we reviewed the COE’s workers’ compensation claims, and although they are in the “moderate” range, our goal is work towards eliminating any future claims.

**Create California**
I participated in a phone interview with Jay Schenirer and Daniel Kaufman of Capitol Impact to discuss Create CA, a Statewide Collaborative for Creative Education, which represents a broad-based, statewide coalition of agencies, educators, business leaders and organizational partners. The purpose is building an education reform movement that views arts and creative education as a central part of the solution to the crisis in California schools.

**Personnel Commission**
I attended the meeting to discuss the issues of the absence of a Human Resource Director for the SCCOE. A job announcement will open February 25th and close on March 25th, with a hire date of July 1, 2014. In the interim, Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent, will be overseeing matters of the Human Resources Department.

**Second District Supervisor Meeting**
I met with Second District Supervisor, Zack Friend for the purpose of collaborating with the County Board of Supervisors on education progression in our county in the arts, tutoring and mentoring, etc.

**Children’s Network**
The Mission of the Children’s Network is to “improve opportunities for young people and their families”. I attended a meeting with a Presentation given on the Criminal Justice Council Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce 2013 Data Report; a Presentation by Judge Denine Guy, on “Keeping Kids in School”; a Legislative Update from the Office of Senator Bill Monning and Assemblymember Mark Stone; discussion on Collaboration & Grant Opportunities.

**Alt Ed Graduation**
I attended the first of four Alternative Education graduations, with 15 graduates from Natural Bridges and Ponderosa High School “walking” and a total of 21 graduates in all.

**Career Pathways Trust Grant**
I met with Ray Kaupp (Cabrillo), Bryan Wall and Mary Anne James to discuss Assembly Bill AB 86, passed in July 2013, which allocates $250 million to school districts, county superintendents of schools, charter schools, and community college districts in the form of one-time competitive grants.

**TICAL**
At this time, there is no interest in Sacramento to support funding categorical programs, including Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL); therefore, I participated in a conference call with Rowland Baker, Jason Borgen and a staff member from Senator Monning’s office, for the purpose of forming a state-wide TICAL Program.

**State Superintendent Torlakson**
I participated in a joint conference call with Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson for the purpose of looking at ways to support disadvantaged youth in education and the adoption of the new LCFF, as part of an effort to improve education outcomes for African-American youth. Superintendent Torlakson and I will be presenting at the California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA) Professional Summit in March.

**Capitol Advisors**
I attended and introduced Barrett Snider and Abe Jajela, Partners of Capitol Advisors, who presented a workshop on the Governor’s proposed 2014-15 Budget here at the COE. It was informative and well-attended by COE and school district staff.

**Capitola Steering Committee (United Way)**
As a member of the Steering Committee, we met to look at my role in defining education goals, which are to be included in the overall goals of the County of Santa Cruz.

**Marketing Subcommittee**
As a follow-up to the formation of a COE Marketing Subcommittee, an interesting press release came out from Houghton Mifflin-Harcourt about the Model Technology Classroom Program in which Jason Borgen (TICAL) and Adam Wade (COE Curriculum & Instruction) collaborated with PVUSD for the last three years. The Press Release is attached.

**CCSESA Quarterly Meeting/ACSA Symposium**
As part of the CCSESA Quarterly Meeting, Cheryl Brothers presented on Inside Education, as well as Julia Chiapella, COE Director, Young Writers Program with Jody Lust, Gault Elementary Teacher, presenting on the Young Writers Program in Santa Cruz County.

**LCAP**
The SCCOE hosted the first LCAP Roundtable discussion forum with our county Superintendents and CBO’s, to discuss the role of the COE and supporting the districts in the development of their LCAP’s.

**California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA)**
I presented to approximately 50 retired teachers focusing on the issues of Common Core, Local Control Funding, Smarter Balanced Assessment, LCAP and the nation’s and state’s priorities as it relates to education.
Centralized Resource Exchange
I participated in a Conference Call with Jason Borgen and Zak Ringelstein @ uClass, in regard to an initiative to join with San Mateo County and participate in a centralized resource exchange for all new Common Core materials created by teachers to share relevant resources, learning objects, lesson plans, and more. Being involved with this pilot would also provide teachers unlimited access to a comprehensive lesson plan database provided by uClass. All resources submitted by teachers can be categorized by standard, grade level, content area, and object type. This is a great opportunity for educators in Santa Cruz County as implementation of the Common Core begins. Mr. Ringelstein also made a Presentation to all of the county Superintendents on February 18.

ROP Expo
I attended the ROP Expo @ Soquel High, as well as other COE Administrators on February 5. It was very apparent all the hard work that the entire ROP Staff put into making the Expo successful. They did a wonderful job showcasing all the ROP Programs and current and former students were proud and forthcoming in their testimonials. It was well-attended by parents and community partners and deemed a “huge success”.

New Teacher Symposium
I attended the Symposium in San Francisco in order to meet with regional education agency colleagues from Iowa (one of 13 partners). The Grant Wood (Iowa) Area Education Agency (AEA) has been meeting with other CEOs from the other eight AEAs for the possibility of replicating the NTC induction model.

Leadership Santa Cruz
I presented to the Leadership Santa Cruz Group, focusing on the multitude of programs the COE offers, the role of the COE in the Community, state and county demographics and data, primary and secondary issues, charter schools and the nation’s and state’s priorities. I also addressed LLCF & LCAP, followed by questions and answers.

Poet Laureate
I participated on a six member panel to screen nominations and make recommendations for the 2014-15 Santa Cruz Poet Laureate. The selection was made; however, it has not been formally announced.

Board Retreat
On February 12th, we had a Board/Superintendent Retreat facilitated by Cynthia Balthaser, which focused on collaboration, Board goals and self-evaluation.

CASA Luncheon
I attended the 10th Annual “For the Love of Children” Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Luncheon. CASA is a child’s voice in dependency court, providing advocacy, stability, and hope to children who have been abused, neglected, or abandoned.

Black History Month
As part of the celebration of Black History month, the COE helped fund (through the Arts Council) two residencies (Live Oak and Del Mar Elementary) for Yasmina Porter, a dancer/storyteller and currently a Dance Professor at Cabrillo College. She has been working with students at each school, teaching various forms of dance, culminating with a performance by all participating students.
SCCOE Football Pool Luncheon
I attended the annual SCCOE Football Pool Luncheon, which had a total of approximately 45 participants this year and creates much camaraderie throughout the office. Kirk Osborn did an outstanding job as “Commish” and facilitator with Tina Dinsmore as his vital Assistant. As always, the Luncheon was well-attended, with great food with a major focus being the fact that George Lopez, the SCCOE Director of Maintenance & Operations, finished as an “eater” for the first time in COE Football Pool history.

Migrant Head Start Meeting:
I met with Janet Orvis-Cook and Karen Pekarcik from Stanislaus County Office of Education’s Migrant Head Start Program, for the purpose of the expansion in the overall Program Delivery Model in Santa Cruz County.

Superintendent’s Council
Zak Ringelstein presented to the Superintendents on Uclass. Also, Laurel Jones and Rock Pfotenhauer from Cabrillo were present to discuss a S4C Executive Director draft Proposal and AB 86/Adult Education, the proposed Rachel’s Challenge Presentation coming to Santa Cruz County, LCFF and LCAP, and an upcoming California Retired Teachers Association (CalRTA) Presentation.

Inside Ed: Middle Schools
The February Inside Education Program focused on Middle Schools, with visits to Scotts Valley Middle Schools and San Lorenzo Valley Middle School. The Lunch “Hot Topic” was, Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C).

School Employers Association of California (SEAC) Special Board Meeting
I participated in a teleconference for the purpose of nominating three candidates for the Board of Directors. Dr. Theresa Rouse, former SCCOE Associate Superintendent of Ed Services and now current Superintendent of King City Union School District, was one of the three nominations.

Insight to Impact
A meeting was held on my behalf between John Rice, Assistant Director, Alternative Education Programs and Insight to Impact, Inc., a software company that focuses on more predictive initial assessments and more customized and effective interventions, in order to create an ability to handle increased youth caseloads while simultaneously raising program and staff performance, increasing staff morale and reducing staff turnover as well as administrative costs.

Curriculum & Instruction Steering Committee (CISC) Leadership Symposium
I am attending the CISC Leadership Symposium 2014 and proudly introducing featured speaker, Sugata Mitra, education researcher and 2013 TED prize winner. Dr. Sugata Mitra’s “Hole in the Wall” experiments have shown that, in the absence of supervision or formal teaching, children can teach themselves and each other, if they’re motivated by curiosity and peer interest. In 1999, Mitra and his colleagues dug a hole in a wall bordering an urban slum in New Delhi, installed an Internet-connected PC, and left it there (with a hidden camera filming the area). What they saw was kids from the slum playing around with the computer and in the process learning how to use it and how to go online, and then teaching each other.
**Regular Monthly Meetings**  
Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting  
Migrant Head Start Videoconference  
Criminal Justice Council  
CCSESA Executive Board  
CCSESA Agenda Committee  

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