Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
February 21, 2013

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of January 17, 2012:

New Hires
We have hired two new managers, one in Business and one in Educational Services. They will join us at our next meeting for introductions. Rebecca Olker has been hired to replace Kyle Rucker who resigned his position in the Business Department. Sophia Sorensen has been hired for the rest of this year and next to work in the Curriculum & Instruction area in support of English Language Learners. She comes to us from Pajaro Valley Unified.

Financial Systems Review
More than 70 district personnel in the areas of payroll, human resources and accounts payable spent four days at the County Office of Education reviewing two proposed new financial systems in order to make an informed decision on replacing our outdate and inadequate current system. The final decision on a replacement should be made by the March Board meeting. (see attached memo from Mary Hart, CBO)

California Budget
At the last CCSESA Quarterly meeting, more information was presented on the Governor’s proposed local funding formula (LCFF), with many questions remaining on funding for county offices. In light of the uncertain future for COE funding, we are keeping a close eye on expenditures.

School Services has published estimates of how this new formula will affect school districts:

- No school district or charter school will receive less than it did in 2012-13.
- The vast majority of school districts and charter schools (approximately 1,700) will receive moderate to significant funding increases with the implementation of the Local Control Funding Formula (Formula).
- On a statewide basis, funding levels are projected to grow by approximately $2,700 per-student over the first five years of Formula implementation.
- Districts will receive substantial additional funding based on the number of English learners, students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals, and foster youth they serve.

Board Retreat
We are currently looking at a date in early to mid-April as we were unable to find a date that would work for everyone. As soon as we hear back from Mr. Henry on his availability, Cindy will be canvassing all other participants to find a suitable date.

Santa Cruz Writes
I was honored to introduce the 5th graders at Gault School who had written books through the new Santa Cruz Writes program. It was heartening to see the results of this new program that was given their seed funding by the County Office of Education.
**CISC Annual Conference (Curriculum & Instruction Steering Committee)**
The annual CISC Conference was held in Monterey. As the president of CCSESA, I was asked by the symposium chair to give the welcome for this year’s conference. Author Daniel Pink was the keynote. He has written three books including “A Whole New Mind,” and “Drive: The Surprising Truth About What Drives Us.”

**CCSESA Chief Business Officers (CBO) Conference 2013**
As the president of CCSESA, I did the traditional welcome at the CCSESA CBO Conference in Sacramento on February 21st. Much of this year’s conference centered on the new funding formula and its consequences for districts and county offices. They also touched on Common Core Standards, Smarter Balanced Assessment, CBO Mentor Program update, the State budget and economic outlook, and upcoming legislation.

**Connect Ed**
At the invitation of Gary Bloom, superintendents attended a presentation from ConnectEd: The Center for College and Career. They are dedicated to advancing practice, policy and research aimed at helping young people prepare for both college and career. They support educational communities in developing high-quality Linked Learning pathways by developing tools, supporting demonstration projects, providing technical assistance, collaboration, and promoting policies that expand pathways for students.

**Tobacco Free Schools**
The County Office of Education received Certificate of Recognition from State Superintendent Tom Torlakson for our exceptional effort to promote the health and well-being of students, employees and visitors by adopting and enforcing a Tobacco-Free School District Policy.

**David Lyng Real Estate**
At the request of Megan Lyng, I spoke to a staff meeting of the David Lyng Real Estate group, giving them an overview of education and some tools to assist them when investigating amenities like schools located in the service area of a property.

**Doug Fischer**
Mr. Fischer returned to present his second workshop in his series, the Purposeful Classroom. There will be a third and final presentation before the school year ends. This workshop has been well attended and well received by district staff.

**The Future of Work**
A contingent of ten employees attended the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce luncheon presentation entitled “The Future of Work.” It was very informative and timely for the Career Technical Education group and Alternative Education staff who are preparing our students for careers.

**Watsonville High School Small Learning Communities**
At the invitation of Principal Elaine Legorreta, I attended the ninth grade recruitment fair for the Watsonville High School’s Small Learning Communities. They have seven partnership academies aligned to the Career Technical Education pathways and all are dependent on our Regional Occupational Programs. Areas covered include: Health Careers; Environmental Science & Natural Resources; Business & Technology; ETech; Video Academy; and Academy of the Arts.
**EdLeader21**
Ken Kay, CEO, EdLeader21 met with district superintendents to discuss his company’s national network of school and district leaders focused on integration the 4C’s (critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity) into the classroom and how he might be of assistance to local schools.

**School and Workplace Safety**
A workplace violence and intruder workshop was held for the in-house staff at the County Office of Education. Santa Cruz City Lieutenant Dan Flippo presented the workshop. School lockdown and intruder workshops are being held with school site staff. George Lopez is looking into changing out locks that are appropriate to these situations and David Barnett is working on an alert system for the main office.

**CCSESA Quarterly Meeting**
The CCSESA Quarterly meeting was held in Monterey during the last week of January. This was my first meeting as president of CCSESA and I was kept quite busy attending various meetings and receptions. State Superintendent Tom Torlakson presented to the meeting and updates were given on the Local Control Funding, the Regional Arts Initiative, and legislation.

**Leadership Santa Cruz**
Leadership Santa Cruz held its annual Education Day at the County Office of Education. I welcomed the group and turned them over to Brett McFadden, Pajaro Valley Unified’s CBO to hear about school finance. They went out to school sites to visit Regional Occupational Programs and returned to a presentation by Jason Borgen on technology use in schools and after which I gave them an overview of education in Santa Cruz County. In the afternoon, they were presentation on higher education.

**ACSA Superintendents Symposium**
I attended the annual ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) where the agenda revolved around professional learning, networking and advocacy. The Governor’s budget took center stage as did discussions of the new Common Core Standards. This is always an amazing time for superintendents to network with others and find new solutions to situations that arise from day to day.

**Cabrillo College Theater**
I met with Skip Epperson, Chair, Theater Arts Department of Cabrillo College to explore how the old theater might be utilized by schools and the community. Talks are continuing on possible collaborations.

**Cal Fresh**
I met with Deb Freidman to talk about the Cal Fresh Program (formerly known as Food Stamps Program) and how we might increase visibility of the program so those who are eligible can take advantage of the program to ensure that students come to school well fed and ready to learn. We will be arranging some meetings with school principals to see how best to spread the information to those who are in need of the services.
Community Forum on Civic Engagement and Volunteering
I met with Peggy Flynn to hear about her concept of a community forum on civic engagement and volunteering. I will be serving on a steering committee to investigate a half day event of panelists, discussions, and resource tables made up of community groups. They have asked me to participate in order to explore ways to involve more of the community’s young people in volunteering.

Black History Month
We celebrated the beginning of Black History Month with a gathering of educators who were treated to music provided by Salif Kone, originally from Mali, Africa; a presentation by Marie Kagaju-Laugharan and her experiences from her native Rwanda; and a presentation by Dr. David Anthony, UCSC Associate Professor of History who spoke of his personal journey of “Africa, African America, and Me.”

Health Smart – Digital Edition
I met with four executives of ETR Associates including Chief Information Officer Eric Blanke as they introduced me to the Health Smart Digital Edition website. The website is a resource for teachers of middle and high school students to teach personal health issues from nutrition to emotional and mental health to violence and injury prevention.

Inside Education
The Inside Education group learned more about Alternative Education. I welcomed them in the morning and along with staff gave an overview of the various programs we offer. They had many really great questions which rounded out the morning’s discussion. They then visited the Santa Cruz Small Schools and Natural Bridges Alternative Education Program.

Community Foundation
I participated on a phone survey for the Community Foundation to investigate issues that are uppermost in importance for the education community in order to create a roadmap for the future of the foundation. Different segments of the community were surveyed to round out the discussion of the most pressing issues in Santa Cruz County. I will be meeting with two of their Board members in the next week to discuss the findings.

DACA – Deferred Action
I met with representatives of the Immigration Project to discuss DACA – Deferred Action which is the project that is trying to reach students who came to the U.S. as undocumented children to make them aware of the program whereby they can receive protection from deportation, become eligible for work authorization, have a Social Security card and receive a driver’s license. They would have to be under the age of 31 on January 15, 2012, be at least 15 years old now, lived continuously in the U.S. since June 15, 2007, and either be in school or have earned a diploma or GED and have not been convicted of a violent crime.

2013 County Mock Trial
The semi-final and final rounds of the 2013 County Mock Trial competition is tonight at the Watsonville Court House beginning at 5:00 p.m. The semifinalists are from: Santa Cruz High, Harbor High, Soquel High, and Scotts Valley. The top two teams will compete to determine the winner at 7:30 p.m. and the winner will be announced right after the competition. The county winner will compete at the State competition in March in Riverside County. Thank you to all our community partners and the school staffs for making this competition possible.
**Criminal Justice Council**
Along with representatives of law enforcement and the judiciary, I met to discuss the most recent developments in youth violence, reports from the operations teams, possible new funding sources, and bringing the community together for a CJC Conference and Training in the Spring.

**FosterEd Santa Cruz County**
The official launch of FosterEd Santa Cruz County will take place tomorrow, February 22nd at noon in the Jury Assembly Room at the Watsonville Court house. I will be speaking at the event along with Judge Guy, Judy Yokel, Ph.D., Human Resources Department, and Lisa O’Conner, National Center for Youth Law.

**Digital Learning Day**
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education and local districts participated in the Digital Learning Day. This national campaign is designed to celebrate innovative teaching and highlight practices that make learning more personalized and engaging for students. Teachers were awarded certificates for finding innovative ways to teach their students through the use of technology.

**Monthly Meetings**

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