The following matters and events have occurred since the report of February 16, 2012:

**S4C Committee Meeting**
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education contributed $20,000 to support a feasibility study to determine funding of the S4C College Promise program with a resulting first contribution of $1,000,000 towards the goals of the consortium. I met earlier today with Brian King to continue the discussion on funding.

**California Association of African American Administrators**
I attended the annual conference for the California Association of African American Administrators and moderated a panel discussion on new ESEA Legislation and its Impact on African American Students in California. The panel included Congressman George Miller, Dr. LaRuth Grey of New York University, Carrie Jasper from the U. S. Department of Education and Charles Love of the office of Civil Rights. As well, I was honored with the “Sounding the Bell Award” at the Education is a Civil Rights Awards Gala. As we ensure the rights for students of color, we ensure the rights for all students to receive a quality education as we look for qualified teachers for all our schools.

**State Budget**
The initiative process is ever evolving with the Governor and the California Teachers Association now working together to redefine his initiative instead of submitting an opposing initiative on the November ballot. At this point, we should have only two opposing initiatives on the ballot instead of the former three. CCSESA has opted to endorse the Governor’s initiative pending ratification by the general membership.

**Santa Cruz City Adult Education Funding**
Prior to suspending funding of district programs and proposals, funding of $100,000 was approved in support of the Adult Education Program at Santa Cruz City Schools for the next school year. This will be the third year that we have provided funding for this program.

**District Mapping**
According to Ed. Code, our office should have not only maps of the districts but also descriptions of the boundaries. I met with Bill Barr who assisted with redrawing our trustee areas to submit a proposal to meet the Ed. Code requirements. (Ed. Code attached)

**Legislative Committee**
At the request of Leon Beauchman, trustee at the Santa Clara County Office of Education, I participated in a panel testifying to a legislative committee requested by Assembly Member Nora Campos of San Jose on preservation of court school funding. The weighted pupil formula is playing havoc with funding for many programs several of which are run through county offices of education.
Senator Joe Simitian, Assembly Member Luis Alejo, and State Superintendent Torlakson
While in Sacramento on other business, I took the opportunity to meet with State Senator Joe Simitian and California State Assembly Member Luis Alejo to share concerns with proposed budget cuts in the Governor’s budget proposal. I also met with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson regarding current developments in education.

Migrant Headstart – Opportunities
Our office participated in a videoconference with the members of our JPA (Joint Powers Association) in regards to expanding our program. We now have the capacity to expand our program to serve another 42 families. The program has been growing over the past couple years allowing us to reach more of our vulnerable youngsters and give them a foundation for their early school years.

Foster Youth Programs
Through a partnership with National Center for Youth Law, our commitment to programs serving foster youth is expanding. The program will work to improve communication and data-sharing between county child welfare agencies, the county office of education and school districts thereby providing a more stable and supportive environment for foster youth.

Alternative Education for Elementary Student
At her request, I met with Dorma Baker, Pajaro Valley Unified in regards to the emerging need for alternative education resources for elementary students that may need a variety of educational settings not currently available. We will be exploring the possibilities further and may expand our services to meet these new needs in our community.

Credit Recovery Summer School
Our Alternative Education Department will once again provide a Credit Recovery Summer School for all high school students countywide. Last year, we had approximately 1000 students take advantage of this service with at least half coming from other high schools.

YouthBuild Project
We are partnering with Habitat for Humanity to submit a grant proposal under the Department of Labor’s YouthBuild Program to have our students work with Habitat building homes. There will be a training component, a strong connection with our school youth, and a clear path towards possible apprenticeships and eventual jobs in the construction industry. The grant will provide $700,000 to $1.1 million for 3.3 years.

399 Encinal
Suggested uses for the new building at 399 Encinal include:
- Career and Assessment center
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Center (STEM)
- 826 Writing Project (tutoring & mentoring of students)
- Support Expanding Programs, i.e. Migrant Headstart, Alternative Education, Foster Youth Services, Student Support Services
- School Resource Officer
- Education Resource Center
- Volunteer Recruitment Center & Parent Education Center

Brown Act and Conflict of Interest Workshop
Just under 20 people attended the workshop presented by Margaret Merchat. The feedback was very positive.
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center/Save Our Shores
At the request of Fred Keeley, I attended a fundraiser for the Sanctuary Exploration Center under construction near the Boardwalk. When completed, this will be a great resource for schools as well as educating visitors to Santa Cruz on the sanctuary. I also met with Laura Kasa of Save Our Shores to talk about their marine education classes covering everything from plastic pollution to ocean currents and stewardship of our resources.

Santa Cruz Symphony Youth Performances
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education once again this year assisted in the support of the youth performances of the Santa Cruz County Symphony. The symphony does several performances at the Civic Auditorium with children coming from throughout County schools to listen to the music and learn about the instruments used in the performances. We received a wonderful letter of thanks from one of the students – attached.

Classified Staff Development
Between 24 and 28 classified employees have been attending the 8-month staff development presented by the Corporate Development Department of Cabrillo College. Topics covered in the monthly meetings include Building a Positive Workplace, Assertiveness, Building Trust and Creative Problem Solving amongst others.

BASTA Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting
On February 29th, the quarterly meeting of BASTA was held. It was well attended. The group was given updates on the North and South County Operational Team meetings as well as updates from the Sheriff’s office, probation and other law enforcement groups from throughout the county.

Read Across America
I had the wonderful opportunity to once again read to a group of fourth graders at San Lorenzo Valley Elementary School for Read Across America in celebration of Dr. Suess’ birthday on March 2nd. They were a wonderful audience.

Together for Kindergarten
More than 200 early educators, kindergarten teachers, and administrators from throughout the county gathered to hear the keynote by Lupita Cortez Alcala, State Deputy Superintendent of Schools and Camille Maben, Director of Child Development, California Department of Education. They outlined the many cuts to child care in the Governor’s proposed budget. Time was also allocated for Linda Brault, Project Director, WestEd to lead a discussion and activities on Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning. This unique event has been lauded by the participants as preschool teachers are able to consult with kindergarten teachers on preparing preschoolers for the kindergarten curriculum – an experience unique to our county.

Gary Young Reception
At the invitation of Cowell Provost Faye Crosby, I attended the poetry reading and book signing of Gary Young. Mr. Young was Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate in 2010 and has worked with Poetry Santa Cruz and in the public schools.

Muscular Dystrophy “Arrest and Lock Up”
On March 28th, I will go “behind bars” in the annual fundraiser in support of the Muscular Dystrophy Association’s efforts to raise funds to send affected children to camp.
Miss Representation
Approximately 100 people attended the screening of Miss Representation, a documentary focusing on the misrepresentations of women in positions of power and influence. It speaks to the demeaning of women through the media and how to give young women the power to be themselves and not the image put forth through cultural constraints. There will be more community screenings yet to be scheduled.

Criminal Justice Council
A retreat has been scheduled for the members of the Criminal Justice Council in order to elect officers, define objectives, and make plans for the year.

First 5 Grant for Grade Level Reading
Due to our proven success of improved child outcomes in early education, California has selected Santa Cruz County as one of the 16 counties out of 58 counties to participate in the Race to the Top Early Learning Challenge Fund grant. I met with Susan True, Director, First 5 and Mark Stone, Supervisor and Chair, First 5 to discuss the grant being submitted by First 5 for $800,000 over four years to support quality improvements, including those related to improving pre-literacy support and increasing reading proficiency.

Santa Cruz Sentinel Editorial Board
I met with the Santa Cruz Sentinel Editorial Board consisting of Editor Don Miller, Internet Director Mike Blaesser, Ceil Cirrillo - member of the public, and reporter JM Brown. We discussed current developments in education.

Early Retirement Incentive
An early retirement incentive was offered to eligible employees. We have three teachers and one administrator who took advantage of the program. Those positions will be evaluated as to whether to re-fill or not. At the very least, it will save one full time equivalent.

Summer Youth Employment
This coming summer, we will be partnering with Work for Youth Summer Employment Program, a grassroots non-profit championed by local businesses. The program’s impact will be dictated by the donations received. The United Way has already donated $7,000 towards the program. Solicitation of funding will continue through the spring with a youth talent showcase on May 19th. Flyers are provided at your seats – please share with others especially any students who might want to participate in the talent show or anyone who might donate directly to provide as many jobs for youth as possible.

Monthly Meetings
| Special Education Coordinating Agency | Education Coalition |
| Positive Discipline Board Meeting | Superintendents Council |
| United Way Board | Children’s Network Executive Committee |
| Tannery Board | CCSESA Board of Directors |
| Agenda Committee | CCSESA Executive Committee Meeting |
| CCSESA Legislative Committee Phone Conference |

Upcoming Events:
- **March 19th**: Kindergarten Art Show
- **March 21st**: Ag Day Awards Luncheon
- **March 30th**: Countywide Board Luncheon - Vernon Billie
- **May 17th**: Day of the Teacher/Classified Week Celebration (immediately following Board of Trustee meeting)