The following matters of interest and events have occurred since the report of March 19, 2009:

**Summer Youth Employment Program**
The County Office of Education’s Student Support Services, under the direction of Jo Ann Allen, is partnered with the Workforce Investment Board and volunteer employers to provide summer employment to 400 county youth under a program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Employment applicants must meet Federal low income guidelines to be eligible for the 6-week job program.

**Green Careers Good Times Article**
Attached to this report is a copy of a recent article that appeared in the Good Times relative to local school programs for students interested in entering the green careers workforce. The article includes information on the Regional Occupational Program, Green Careers Center at Natural Bridges High. According to the 2009 California Green Innovation Index, the number of “green” jobs in California increased by 10% from 2005 to 2007, and, despite the current economy, job growth continues in that market.

**ROP Student Art / Watsonville Fly-in Poster**
Associate Superintendent Alice Talnack who has been involved as an organizer of the Watsonville Fly-In and Air Show for many years invited the participation of ROP students in designing this year’s poster. Ross Whitlock, a student in the ROP Computer Graphics course taught by Jenny Angelacos at Aptos High, submitted the chosen entry.

**Science Fair and Awards Ceremony**
The 2009 County Science Fair, co-sponsored by the County Office of Education, Seagate Technologies and UCSC, set new student participation records as well as standards of innovation and creativity. 2800 students participated in their schools’ science fairs and, of those, 426 students representing grades K-12, progressed to the County Science Fair which was held March 21 and 22nd at the Civic Auditorium. Congratulations are extended to participating students, Nancy Serigstad, Program Coordinator, and Ellen Hickey, program secretary for another very successful Fair. We extend our sincere gratitude to Seagate Technologies which funds the program, and to the other organizations and businesses that contribute awards to the students. Two award winning projects will be presented to you by the student researchers later in the meeting. Thank you to Trustees Dilles and Levine for volunteering your time and interest to participate as judges at the event. The awards ceremony, was conducted Monday, March 30th at which time it was announced that Santa Cruz will send 40 projects to the California State Science Fair.
**Letter of Acknowledgment**
I was provided a copy of a note of appreciation from a staff person at the Pajaro Valley Unified School District Human Resources Department acknowledging the support from Debbie Stanbra, COE Information Technologies Manager, in assisting the District in bringing up a new computerized personnel information system and responding to assistance inquiries following installation.

**Inside Education March Session**
The March Inside Education session introduced participants to the concept of What Does it Mean to be Well Educated”. Pancho Rodriguez, Principal, Pajaro Valley High School addressed the question prior to visits to Scotts Valley High School and San Lorenzo Valley High School. A closing presentation on the topic was made by Theresa Rouse, Senior Director, Educational Services, County Office of Education.

**CTE Summit**
The first of what is planned to be an annual Career Technical Education Summit was hosted by the Santa Cruz County CTE Community Collaborative on April 1, at Cabrillo College. Co-hosted by Cabrillo and the County Office of Education, middle and high school district superintendents, the county superintendent of schools and college administrators met to share where CTE programs and systems are currently, responses to the economic crisis, and professional development strategies. That audience was later joined by community and industry representatives to look for common elements across partnerships.

**Region 5 Superintendents Meeting**
The four county superintendents and key administrators met at the County Office to discuss current regional programs, how to more effectively and efficiently provide services to schools and districts in the region and to investigate opportunities to provide new partnerships that provide needed services to school districts. Among programs discussed are Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP), and District Assistance and Intervention Team (DAIT). The group will continue to meet with a goal of defining services for the 2009-2010 school year.

**United Way Campaign Celebration**
On April 2nd, Brunella Deeds and I had the opportunity to receive an award on behalf of the County Office of Education staff. The United Way of Santa Cruz County hosted their Community Recognition and Celebration event. Staff was awarded a Gold Award in recognition of being among the top contributors to the 2008 United Way Campaign. Brunella received personal recognition as United Way Campaign Coordinator of the Year. The County Office of Education is one of fourteen Gold Award recipients from a total donor list of sixty-eight businesses, organizations and agencies. This award recognizes that our staff is a model of community involvement even in these most difficult of times.
Senator Simitian Presentation
Several trustees attended the education forum presented by State Senator Joe Simitian on March 26th. The event was well attended by the education community in Santa Cruz County and audience participation in the question and answer forum was thoughtful.

CCSESA Quarterly Meeting
County superintendents met for the quarterly meeting on March 19 and 20th in Monterey. Agenda items included challenges and opportunities for county superintendents related to implementation of state and federal funding for 2008-09 through 2012-13, particularly in providing guidance to districts on use of flexibility options, interplay among district budget decisions and county provided programs, the impact of federal stimulus funding on district and county programs, and initiatives on the May 19 special elections ballot.

College Awareness Month Kick-Off Event
I attended the Santa Cruz/Live Oak Education Collaborative, College Awareness Month Kick-off Event the first of this month. Carrol Moran, Executive Director, UCSC Educational Partnership Center, and Alex Fey, Executive Director, Boys and Girls Club of Santa Cruz, emceed the event. I had the opportunity to make a presentation as did Santa Cruz Mayor Cynthia Mathews, Chancellor George Blumenthal, Steve Reed, Associate Vice President, CSU Monterey Bay, Margery Regalado-Rodriguez, Dean of Instructional Development, Cabrillo, and Karen Edmonds, Principal, Santa Cruz High School.

Visit to Homeless Shelter
Trustee Marani and Mrs. Marani joined me in an invited tour of the Santa Cruz Rebele Family Homeless Shelter and an introduction to Dr. Douglas Loisel, Executive Director. The goal of the Homeless Services Center is to provide both emergency and transitional services to homeless individuals and families that will enable those who avail themselves of the services to achieve self-sufficiency.

Beach Flats Community Center Auction and Art Exhibit
I attended the Auction and Art Exhibit fund-raising event for the Beach Flats Community Center. The Center is a community and family resource center in the largely low income, Latino neighborhood and provides much needed social and health services to residents of the area. The Center is in its first year of funding independent from the City of Santa Cruz.

The California Endowment, Partners for Peace / Healthy Communities Event
On Tuesday evening of this week, I was a panelist at an event in Los Angeles sponsored by the California Endowment and the Center for Healthy Communities. Other panelists were Nane Alejandrez, Director, Barrios Unidos, Nora Benavides, activist and neighborhood developer, Scott MacDonald, Chief Probation Officer, Santa Cruz County Probation Department, Otilio Quintero, Assistant Director, Barrios Unidos, and moderator, Patt Morrison, Radio KPCC host and Los Angeles Times columnist. The event, titled Partners for Peace: Barrios Unidos and the Movement to End Violence.
focused on the Santa Cruz partnership as a replicable community model on violence prevention.

**Meeting with Phil Wowak**  
Phil Wowak, nominee for Santa Cruz County Sheriff, and I met to discuss partnerships between our agencies relative to Safe Communities, partnering on an Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Grant, and to brainstorm new ways to engage youth in educational and community activities.

**Central Coast Energy Services**  
I met with Dennis Osmer, Executive Director, Central Coast Energy Services, Inc. Central Coast Energy Services, located in Watsonville, delivers the U.S. Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program to low income families in Monterey, San Benito, South Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties. The program stands to receive considerable funding under the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. Mr. Osmer hopes to partner with education agencies to ensure funds reach targeted low-income families in south county.

**Follow-up Meeting with Pajaro Valley Unified School District Superintendent**  
I met with Superintendent Dorma Baker in order that we could debrief and discuss many issues brought forth during the County Board of Education Retreat conducted in Watsonville, April 19th. Included in our discussion were maintenance of Regional Occupational Programs, drop-out prevention, professional development support and District Assistance and Intervention Team programs. Superintendent Baker and I will again meet on April 27th with representatives from Adult Education, Alternative Education, Migrant Head Start, and ROP to begin strategic development.

**Monthly/Periodic Meetings**

- Children’s Network  
- SECA  
- New Teacher Steering Committee  
- Superintendents’ Council  
- Migrant Head Start Board Meeting  
- First 5 Commission  
- Pajaro Intergovernmental Relations Committee