The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of March 19, 2015

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

On March 19th, I chaired the Criminal Justice Council’s Executive Committee Meeting. Topics discussed during the meeting were: BASTA, AB109, the Santa Cruz Anti-Crime Team, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force and the Youth Violence Prevention Taskforce.

**TOGETHER FOR KINDERGARTEN FORUM**

I facilitated the 6th annual “Together for Kindergarten” symposium at New Brighton Middle School on March 24th. The event was an opportunity for neighboring early educators, kindergarten teachers and administrators to sit together and develop activities that support kindergarten readiness. The forum was presented by the Child Care Planning Council. The featured guest speakers were Delaine Eastin, Former California Superintendent of Public Education and Linda Cochran from the California Preschool Instructional Network.

**STRATEGIES FOR INCREASING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR BLACK MALES IN CALIFORNIA**

I attended a conference call on March 25th, one of a number of Black Male Achievement learning sessions that will be conducted throughout 2015. The meeting concentrated on the current state of black unemployment, learning strategies to increase access to quality jobs, reduce employment discrimination, identify industries that employ black workers and how to develop policies and corporate practices that perpetuate equality in the labor market and end inferior jobs in the black community. We also learned about the UC Berkeley Labor Center’s work to raise the bar to improve the lives of working people through their research on topics such as job quality and workforce development issues and their work with unions, government, and employers to develop innovative policy perspectives and programs.

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CHILDREN’S NETWORK**

On March 25th, I attended the Santa Cruz County Children’s Network Meeting at the Watsonville Library. Topics at the meeting included: CAP Goal Setting and Network Collaboration Plan Results Based Accountability, appointing a Children’s Network RFP Committee, legislative updates from Senator Monning’s Office and Assembly member Stone’s Office as well as the County Board of Supervisor’s Office.
CAPE ON FOR A CAUSE

I assisted the 35th Annual “Human Race” by donning a cape in support of the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County. This annual event raises money for community non-profit organizations, schools and churches. The event will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2015 along West Cliff Drive.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP

On March 26th, I attended the Santa Cruz County Community Corrections Partnership meeting where we addressed on-going monitoring of implementations and outcomes, approved the annual implementation plan and identified and addressed policy considerations.

SECA

We received a request in March from Santa Cruz City Schools to take back three post-secondary COE-operated programs held at Cabrillo College. As a result, I met with the Special Education staff to review the issues involved in making this transfer. Subsequent factors have come into play which may negate this request by Santa Cruz City Schools. As a result, I will keep the Board posted as the situation warrants. If changes are to be made, they will most likely not take place until 2017-2018.

AFRICAN AMERICAN SUPERINTENDENTS’ NETWORKING EVENT

I attended the African American Superintendents’ Networking Event on March 30th at ACSA’s Sacramento Office. Topics covered during the event included: Benefits and Barriers for African American Superintendents, School Board Relations, Legal Liabilities, LCAP/Budget Management and Career Planning/Search Firm impacts.

CALIFORNIA eLEARNING FRAMEWORK

I met with John Watson of the Evergreen Education Group on March 31st. This corporation was involved in helping to support the creation of the California eLearning Framework. The research concept is based on the fact that almost all states, including California, have very little information about the ways in which elearning is being used, particularly in school districts. Typical research efforts such as case studies, profiles, and the CLRN survey have all been based on a self-selecting sample of schools that is not representative of the state as a whole. Therefore, policy and funding discussions relative to educational technology and digital learning are conducted without an evidence-based grounding in knowledge of current conditions, especially in district schools.

CATAMARAN CENTER FOR THE LITERARY ARTS

I attended a reception on March 31st for the presentation of the new Catamaran Center for the Literary Arts at their new space in the Tannery. This new space will be converted into a teaching facility where writing and poetry workshops will be given by Catamaran contributors and qualified local writing luminaries.
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY BUILDING TRADES PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

On April 7th, I visited Natural Bridges High School for a short celebration on the first completion of the Santa Cruz County Building Trades Pre-Apprenticeship program. They honored those that completed and participated in the 140 hour training program.

SCHOOL EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (SEAC)

I attend the SEAC Board of Directors Meeting in Sacramento on April 12th. During the meeting, I was elected to remain on the Board from January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. During the meeting we went over Activity Reports, the Membership Report, the Financial Reports, the Professional Development Report, the Legislative Report, the Direct Services Report, the California Education Coalition for Health Care Reform Report and the Public Employee Relations Board Report.

CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CCEE)

I attended my second meeting of the CCEE in Sacramento on April 13th. The topics discussed during the meeting were: Facilitation Plan for the CCEE (Visioning, Statutory Purpose and Guiding Principles and Values), Overview of the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF), Supporting the development and implementation of the Local Control and Accountability Plans (LCAP), Executive Director Search and the Long-Term Goals for the CCEE.

INSIDE EDUCATION

The latest Inside Education event was held on April 15th. During this event, Special Education’s “the Middle Years-Classrooms Serving Students with Moderate to Severe Disabilities” was featured. Participants visited Del Mar Elementary School and New Brighton Middle School. The attendees also heard a presentation from Jason Borgen, Director Technology Information Center for Administrative Leadership (TICAL) on Technology and Special Education

ELLEN MOIR

Ellen Moir is the Executive Director of the New Teacher Center which is a non-profit organization that we want to collaborate with in acquiring outside funding to shine a light on our successful BTSA program and use it as a model throughout the state.

FERNANDO GIRALDO

Fernando Giraldo is the Probation Chief of the Santa Cruz County Probation Department. We met to discuss the disproportionate arrests and convictions of African American males in Santa Cruz County. We are hoping to work with the Burns Institute for Juvenile Justice Fairness & Equity to raise awareness to this problem. The Burns Institute eliminates racial and ethnic disparity by building a community-centered response to youthful misbehavior that is equitable and restorative and helps to facilitate a collaborative environment where community and system stakeholders strategically use data to reduce racial and ethnic disparities. We hope to host a workshop with law enforcement, probation and the Burns Institute in the future.
SUPERINTENDENT’S COUNCIL

This month’s Superintendent’s Council meeting hosted a number of guest speakers with issues that affect our school districts. Kris Reyes and other local business leaders spoke about coordinated calendars and the effect that has on summer employment opportunities for the teenagers. Marsha Strong and Noel Smith spoke to the superintendents concerning conflict resolution and bullying in schools. Leonie Sherman addressed the group concerning a safety skills program for person safety. Willy Elliott-McCrea spoke about the Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County and Liz Schilling talked to the superintendents concerning the Junior Giants program and how their organization helps the youth of Santa Cruz County.

COE ALL MEETING

We held a COE All meeting on April 14th. Topics discussed during the meeting included: the COE Safety Program, status of changes for the ROP and Special Education Departments, the 2014 Teacher/Classified Picnic scheduled for May 27, 2015 at Harvey West Park and employee recognitions.

CABRILLO COLLEGE ACADEMY FOR COLLEGE EXCELLENCE (ACE)

We are reviewing an opportunity to work with Cabrillo College to offer the ACE Program to inmates at the Rountree Medium Facility for Men in Watsonville. ACE is an educational model that supports student learning, development and transformation. ACE combines affective learning (non-cognitive skill building) and accelerated academics to effectively help students succeed in college. ACE’s pedagogy and classroom curriculum support student formation and increase motivation and persistence. ACE evidence shows successful academic outcomes for students similar to Rountree inmates.