Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
April 21, 2011

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of March 17, 2010:

**Childhood Obesity Forum**
I attended the Childhood Obesity Forum featuring Dr. Robert Lustig, UCSF pediatric endocrinologist as the keynote speaker. He was well-received with almost 190 attendees from the medical personnel, educators, childcare providers and others attending. Congress Member Sam Farr and Assembly member Bill Monning also addressed the forum. We received a letter from Congress Member Farr thanking us for the opportunity to speak at the event and hear the concerns of attendees. (attached)

**BASTA**
I chaired the meeting of the BASTA Steering Committee made up of educators, law enforcement, probation, county agencies and other interested parties to discuss youth and gang violence prevention. It was decided to move forward with the re-establishment of the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council.

**Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC)**
The first meeting of the newly revived Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council met on March 23rd to reinstate the conduit for dialog between law enforcement, probation, mental health, and judicial representatives to better serve the needs of juveniles going through the judicial system. Projects and grants were reviewed and the current JJCC Plan was approved.

**Parent Education Panel**
Law enforcement and probation officials along with education personnel formed a panel to educate parents on the signs of gang affiliation and how to interpret their student’s changes in behavior that might signal involvement in gangs and/or drugs. The County Office of Education hosted the event with Bryan Wall representing the office.

**Long Beach College Promise Concept**
I met with Felicia McGinty, Vice Chancellor, UCSC; Brian King, President, Cabrillo College; Gary Bloom, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools and others to discuss a possible countywide summit of educators to hear of this collaboration between Long Beach Unified, Long Beach City College and California State University Long Beach to guarantee the opportunity for high school students to receive a college education.

**Foothill High School WASC Review**
On March 27-29th, I led a team of reviewers to evaluate the program at Foothill High School, a continuation school in the Eastside Union High School District. It was a very positive experience with staff, students and parents providing a validation of all the hard work and achievements of the school.
**Big Brothers Big Sisters**
Big Brothers Big Sisters had a Board Brainstorming session to find potential board members who care about the mission of BBBS and will be able to assist them in outreach, fundraising, leadership and strengthening ties to South County. If any Board members are interested in learning more and possibly serving on this Board, I can furnish you with a contact.

**California County Superintendents Educational Services Association**
The quarterly meeting of CCSESA covered topics including but not limited to:
- California Mental Health Services Authority Application;
- State & Federal Legislative Updates
- Charter Schools Task Force Report
- Arts Initiative
- Transitional Kindergarten Implementation

**Tom Torlakson Phone Conference**
I participated in a conference call with State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson strategizing on ways to inform the public and legislators of the dramatic impact of a potential $5 billion cut to education. A follow-up call will take place after the Governor’s May Revise.

**Pajaro Preparatory Academy - Mitch Barlas**
Mitch Barlas, petitioner for Pajaro Valley Preparatory Academy met with Theresa Rouse and me after having been denied by Pajaro Valley Unified School District. He will be presenting our office with the petition on Friday, May 22. This date of acceptance by our office will work with our regularly scheduled Board meetings with the public hearing at the May 21st meeting and the final decision on the petition at the June 16th meeting.

**Tierra Pacifica Charter School**
It was my pleasure to visit Tierra Pacifica Charter School. The school has multi-graded classrooms and a focus on the arts integrating them into all subject areas including the sciences and math. Principal Linda Lambdin and Development Director Nga Trinh-Halperin provided the tour of their classrooms.

**Leadership 3.0**
TICAL’s Leadership 3.0 Symposium took place in Irvine this year. I was honored to speak to the group regarding partnerships and collaboration and to introduce Dr. Yong Zhao who spoke at our Countywide Board dinner earlier this year. His presentation was again dynamic and thought-provoking and well-received by attendees. Special thanks to Jason Borgen, Theresa Rouse, and Rowland Baker for their work with ACSA, Association of California Administrators and CUE, Computer Using Educators to coordinate this important event for educators.

**Online Learning Summit**
In conjunction with the Leadership 3.0 Symposium, Theresa Rouse hosted an online learning summit to introduce key trends and implications for California’s students, as well as, key issues to consider when starting or managing online and blended learning.

**Psychiatric Medicine Training**
At the invitation of Judge Denine Guy, I attended a training on use of psychiatric medication for people working with foster children and youth in community, residential and educational settings.
Coordinated Calendar Committee
After discussion at Superintendents Council, representatives from every district in the county were convened by Bryan Wall to discuss calendar development and how to better coordinate student holidays. At this point we are very close to agreement on all the longer breaks and have agreement to work together each year moving forward in an effort to have all students on breaks at the same time as much as is possible.

Santa Cruz County Library System Partnership
Theresa Rouse and I met with Teresa Landers, director, Santa Cruz Public Libraries to discuss a partnership that would provide after school tutoring at select branches of the library beginning in the fall. We also discussed collaboration on parent education services that might be offered as well.

Santa Cruz County Administrator, Teacher and Classified Employee of the Year
For the first time in many years, the County Office of Education has been coordinating the effort to recognize an Administrator of the Year, a Teacher of the Year and a Classified Employee of the Year for Santa Cruz County. Applicants were nominated by either their peers or their administrators. Award recipients will be recognized at our May meeting.

IMPACT Teen Drivers Assemblies
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education partnered with the California Highway Patrol, Youth Services, Friday Night Live, school administrators, and Allstate’s ‘X the TXT’ Campaign to hold assemblies in the county’s high schools to combat the tragedy of young lives cut short by automobile accidents. The theme was distracted driving caused by inattention, texting and other such activities.

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events
Student Author’s Fair April 30 Capitola Mall 10:00 – 4:30
Annual Math Contest May 7 Aptsos High
Celebration for Day of the Teacher and Classified Employees May 11 Harvey West Park TBD
Santa Cruz Poetry Contest May 17 Tech Center TBD
Awards Ceremony

Monthly and Regularly Scheduled Periodic Meetings
CCSESA Legislative Committee Migrant Headstart Videoconference
First Five Tannery Arts Board of Directors
Agenda Committee United Way Board
Superintendents Council
Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting