Potential Candidates for Board Trustee Information Forum
The ten school district superintendents and the COE will host a forum for potential board trustee candidates in the November election. The forum is scheduled for June 19 at 6:00 p.m. which follows the County Board regular June meeting. The proposed format is a panel presentation by a representative board member and the superintendent from each district and the County Board followed by a question and answer session.

PVUSD Board Meeting
Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay and I attended the April 23rd, Pajaro Valley Unified School District Board meeting to address that Board relative to the District 2008-09 budget.

State Budget
Associate Superintendent Finlay provided a brief update on the latest reports from Sacramento. I encourage you to attend the teleconferenced May Revise which Barney will host tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. here at the COE.

Encinal Update
Associate Superintendents Talnack and Finlay will provide an update on progress and issues related to the relocation.

Project Impact/Special Education, Intern Teacher Recruitment
Traci Hart, HR Director, and Nancy Serigstad, Project Coordinator, have taken the lead in our effort to launch Project Impact, an intern teacher recruitment program modeled on a successful program operated by the San Joaquin COE. Project Impact is designed for teachers who want to complete their California Ed Specialist Mild to Moderate Level I and II credential while teaching full-time in Santa Cruz County. We are targeting Special Education because of the need in the area for qualified special education teachers. It is our
goal to expand the program to include Math, English and Science. Twenty potential candidates attended an introduction meeting the evening of May 8th.

**Autism Task Force**
I attended an Autism Task Force meeting this past Tuesday. The task force is composed of SELPA, COE and District administrators to address challenges and issues in educating the growing number of autistic students and to make recommendations to the SELPA.

**Bay School Early Intervention Program**
I visited the privately owned Bay School early this month to observe their autism program. An Autism Task Force meeting was conducted at the COE this past Tuesday evening.

**Spectra Arts Wards**
Spectra and the Cultural Council of Santa Cruz hosted a students arts awards event at Seagate this past week which I attended. In addition, Spectra is currently displaying student artwork at the County Government Building.

**Mental Health Grant**
Jo Ann Allen, Coordinator, Student Support Services, has procured a $250,000 grant to integrate mental health and schools in a north county partnership for the purpose of ensuring all students have access to the social and emotional support needed for healthy development and success in school. PVUSD was not eligible to participate because they have an existing Safe Schools Healthy Students Grant. Implementation will link to current efforts under the Mental Health Services Act, prevention and early intervention, school emergency response mental health protocol, safe schools planning and the Student Attendance Review Board.

**ROP/Cabrillo College Grant Collaborations**
ROP, along with the Career Technical Education Community Collaborative, was awarded a chancellor’s grant of $450,000. The grant will continue middle school outreach, articulation of ROP courses to Cabrillo and will help sustain the Public Safety Partnership, the Health Careers Partnership and the Industrial Technology Collaborative.

The Middle School Outreach grant has been extended for another year as has the Teacher Pipeline Grant. The grant is a collaborative among ROP, Cabrillo Ed Department and Cabrillo Industrial Tech Department. ROP will provide training to Cabrillo tutors in ROP classes hoping to recruit the tutors as future teachers.

**DUI Court in Schools**
The Administrative Office of the Courts awarded the COE Student Support Services Department funding to conduct three DUI Court in Schools assemblies this school year. The DUI Court in Schools is part of a countywide effort to curtail alcohol use among minors. The program provides high school students with an opportunity to witness the consequences of adult DUI sentencing hearings, hear testimonial speakers, and discuss the hearing process with peer youth facilitators, speakers and judicial staff. Last Thursday, I attended the DUI Court in Schools assembly at Santa Cruz High School. The event was conducted on the day of the school senior prom. The peer speaker was a young man who was involved in a fatal
DUI accident in another county. Future assemblies are scheduled at Cabrillo on Friday, May 16, and at Pajaro Valley High School.

**COE Sponsored High School Events**
COE staff, yesterday, attended a presentation by Benjamin Ajak, author, lecturer and refugee of the Sudanese civil war. Mr. Ajak, one of the “Lost Boys” of Sudan, at age five escaped the attack of government troops in the civil war and made a thousand mile journey through Sudan, Ethiopia and Kenya, eventually arriving in New York on September 11. Following his presentation at the COE, he presented at Harbor and Santa Cruz City High Schools. His inspirational speech focused on education, confidence and hope.

**Cabrillo College Principals’ and Superintendents’ Meeting**
I attended the breakfast meeting hosted by Cabrillo President Brian King at Cabrillo College at which discussion included Cabrillo’s Master Plan, the Basic Skills Initiative, the Honors Program, international students programs, and other programs of mutual interest.

**Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC) Review Team**
Johnny Rice, Assistant Director, Alternative Ed, and I conducted a midterm visiting committee WASC review at Leadership High School in San Francisco on April 24th. Leadership High is an urban charter high school serving 250 traditionally underserved students in terms of color and socio-economic backgrounds.

**PVUSD Adult Ed WASC**
I attended the PVUSD Adult Ed program’s WASC review as a community partner.

**Green Careers Program**
Alternative Education, ROP, and Santa Cruz City Schools Adult Education Program. Are collaborating to offer a Green Careers Program to students in all three programs. Courses will be available to ROP students at both Santa Cruz High and Harbor High. First year courses will include Ag Business, Digital Media, and adult GED programs. Second year courses will add a “farm-to-table” pathway consisting of organic gardening, Ag business, and culinary arts, as well as solar installation and green construction. A number of grants funding applications have been submitted.

**Children Can Change the World Film Festival**
I participated as a panelist at the film festival on April 26th at Cabrillo College. The event was cosponsored by the Child Abuse Prevention Council, Cabrillo College Early Childhood Education Department and Cabrillo College Human Services Program.

**Queer Youth Leadership Awards**
Also on April 26th, I attended the annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards event at New Brighton Middle Schools, which honors the talents and activism of young leaders.

**Watsonville Water Summit**
I attended the April 30th Watsonville Water Summit which was a community presentation and discussion of solutions for the Pajaro Valley. Keynote Speaker was John Garamendi,
Lieutenant Governor of California who spoke of the state perspective on water issues in California.

**Ceil Cirillo Retirement Celebration**
I also attended the retirement celebration for Ceil Cirillo, director of Economic Development and Redevelopment for the City of Santa Cruz. The event was also a fund raiser for the Tannery Arts Center.

**County Regional Transportation Commission**
I met with George Dondero, Executive Director, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission regarding his efforts to garner support for .05% percent sales tax approved by the voters to improve the county transportation system.

**Student Authors’ Fair**
I attended the annual event at the Capitola Mall on May 4th. The event is sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Reading Association, Schools Plus and the COE. This display of books written by students of all ages is a presentation that I encourage everyone to attend.

**Day of the Teacher and Classified Employees Celebration**
All staff celebrated with each other by attending the staff picnic at Aptos Park. Thank you to Jack and Arnie for attending. I also attended the ROP Appreciation Day, a separate event for their staff last week, as ROP teachers are also teachers at their home district sites.

**Health Improvement Partnership Forum on Health Care Reform**
On Friday I will attend the second annual Health Care Reform Forum. Given the failure of state reform, the forum will focus on what can be accomplished at the local level.

**COE Logo**
Carol Mulford, Program Coordinator, introduced the new COE logo.

**Upcoming COE Events**
**Special Ed Fun Day**
I invite all trustees whose schedules allow, to attend the Special Education Fun Day, tomorrow from 9:00 to noon at the Sheriff’s Posse Grounds.

**Graduation Ceremonies**
Alternative Ed and Special Ed graduation ceremonies, a schedule of which are included in the Agenda.

**Annual Poetry Contest**
Next Tuesday, May 20th, (Time) in the Tech Center

**Math Contest Awards**
Awards will be presented to winning participants in the annual Math Contest next Thursday evening, May 22nd, 5:00 p.m., in the Tech Center

**Regularly scheduled meetings**
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