Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
May 16, 2013

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of April 18, 2012:

**Superintendent Retreat**
County superintendents, along with their curriculum and instruction staff, met with Michael Watkins, Bryan Wall, Mary Anne James, and Educational Services department to discuss results of teacher staff development surveys, curriculum & instruction needs, identifying trends and priorities for professional development. This discussion will be the framework for the work of the Educational Services Division for the upcoming year.

**Day of the Teacher and Classified Employee Week**
A celebration for Day of the Teacher and Classified Employee Week was held at Harvey West Park on May 15th. We are honored to have some of the hardest working and most dedicated professionals in Santa Cruz County.

**Graduations – Alternative Education & Special Education**
Graduations are coming up June 12th through June 14th. You have an invitation for Alternative Education graduations that gives you all the dates and times. All of those graduations will take place at the Portuguese Hall. As well, you will find an invitation to the Special Education graduation that will take place in the Tech Center on June 13th from 10:00 a.m. to noon.

**CCSESA (California County Superintendents Educational Services Association)**
I joined a contingent of other California County Superintendents on a Federal Advocacy trip to Washington, D.C. to speak with legislators regarding educational needs. The attached schedule shows the legislators as well as the representatives of various agencies of the U.S. Department of Education. (see attached)

**CCSESA/CSBA/CCBE Meeting**
A meeting was held between representatives of CCSESA, CSBA (California School Boards Association), and CCBE (California County Boards of Education) for a dialogue of ways to work collaboratively to further the challenges faced by education in California. Beyond new relationships, topics covered included legislative issues, and trainings. As president of CCSESA, I think it is important that we form as many partnerships statewide just as we do in our office to further the education agenda and make our limited funding produce the greatest results for students and educators.
Annual Science Fair
Adam Wade and Pam Crowell are currently escorting three students to the International Science Fair in Phoenix. The students make up one team of two from San Lorenzo Valley High and an individual student project from Pacific Collegiate Charter School. They are presenting with the top 1611 projects from 70 countries around the world! The awards ceremonies take place Thursday evening and Friday morning. Just being in attendance is a great honor for these students. As well they are able to network with students from other States and Nations. You can follow our finalists on Twitter - @surfrteach or check out all of the action by following #intelisef

Spelling Bee
The State Spelling Bee took place on Saturday, May 11th. Two students from Santa Cruz County placed in the top ten. Andrew Miller, Ocean Grove Charter placed seventh with Ava Badger, San Lorenzo Valley Middle School placing 9th. We congratulate these students for their outstanding effort.

PTA Conference
As president, I was honored to represent CCSESA, at the 114th Annual California State PTA Convention on May 2nd. Their theme for this convention was “Imagine what we can do together for children!”

Santa Cruz Writes
Santa Cruz Writes has been doing an exemplary job in its first year and we look forward to continuing their work next year. There last publication party was held this past Tuesday at Mission Hill Middle School. I was pleased to attend and speak to the program and its amazing value to our schools. We will be supporting them again next year.

Ken Kay
A conference call was held with CCSESA to discuss continuing work with Ken Kay on EdLeader 21 to create 21st century schools.

Math Contest
433 students participated with the winners being recognized this coming Tuesday, May 21st at the annual awards ceremony in the Tech Center.

Student Authors Fair
The annual Student Authors Fair was held at the Capitola Mall. Students read excerpts from their books in the Writer’s Circle. As always, this event was well attended and students beamed as they shared their literary works with visitors. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education is honored to support this reading organization.

Lakeview Middle School
I was invited to come by Lakeview Middle School on May 7th to engage with students and give encouragement and support to them as they began their annual testing program.

ACSA (Association of California School Administrators) Annual Awards Dinner
The annual ACSA Awards Dinner was held on May 6th. The Administrator of the Year Award was given to Roger Gallizzi, Superintendent of Palmdale School District. The Every Student Succeeding Award was also presented along with recognition of those superintendents that are retiring this year.
Breakfast Roundtable - Enid Lee
Enid Lee, educational consultant on equity issues of language, culture, and race and their roles in education and organizational development returned to speak with administrators at a Breakfast Roundtable. She was so popular the first time she spoke that attendees asked to have her back for a more in-depth conversation. They would like to continue the conversation next year.

6th Annual PVUSD Art Show
At the invitation of Lyn Olson, PVUSD Gate and VAPA Coordinator, I attended the 6th Annual PVUSD Art Show and addressed the audience about the importance of keeping art in the schools. Ms. Olson also expressed her thanks for all that the County Office of Education has done for the arts including the work of Assistant Superintendent Mary Anne James and art coordinator Mary MacLaughlin.

Escuela Popular
Escuela Popular is a comprehensive charter school from Santa Clara County that works with Hispanic families from the students to the parents in promoting education. They have programs to teach the parents to speak English to tutorial assistance for students encouraging them to seek higher education. I met with Mike O'Farrell, Community Foundation president, Dorma Baker, Faris Sabbah, and Murry Shekman from Pajaro Valley Unified, along with representatives of Escuela Popular to familiarize Pajaro representatives with the program and how a similar program might assist the Pajaro Valley Unified School District with their English Language Learners and their families.

S4C Board Meeting
I attended the Quarterly Meeting of the S4C Steering Committee. The Executive Board met just before the Steering Committee and reviewed plans for the annual S4C Day at Cabrillo College. This Friday, fourth grade students will visit Cabrillo College in an effort to get them thinking early about working towards a college degree. Likewise, middle school students will be visiting UCSC next week to tour the campus and ask questions of student outreach personnel.

Tutorial and Mentoring Interns
At the invitation of Will Rosse, I spoke with his class of interns that provide tutorial and mentoring assistance to students throughout the county. The class of 14 students consists of seniors at UCSC in education or psychology.

16th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards
I was unable to attend this year’s Queer Youth Awards Ceremony due to conflicts in my schedule. But I did want to let you know that Yoli Gallardo, county office employee, was honored for working with parents of GBLT students to help them become more supportive as parents of a GBLT student and to inspire queer youth to be themselves. Her expertise is in working with Spanish speaking families as well.

Inside Education Celebration
The cohort gathered at the County Office and then proceeded to the Outdoor Science School where they spent the morning interacting with students and learning more about the program.
**School Site Visitation**
I visited Pajaro Valley High School to observe the life science programs. I also visited the classroom of John Simms, Teacher of the Year at Aptos Junior High and the 21st century classrooms that the Santa Cruz County Office of Education funded.

**JCCASAC Annual Awards**
I was honored to present the John Peshkoff Award for Exemplary Leadership and Service to JCCASAC to Jeanne Hughes, retired, Kern County Office of Education. In my many years in Alternative Education, I worked with Jeanne. She gave tirelessly to her students, Kern County Office of Education and JCCASAC.

**Distinguished Schools Awards**
On Friday, I will be attending the Distinguished Schools Awards in Santa Clara. Aptos High School, Scotts Valley High School, and Scotts Valley Middle School are being honored this year. Santa Cruz County has many reasons to be proud of its schools and it is always encouraging when they are recognized statewide for their excellence.

**The Eddy Awards**
Last night I attended The Eddy Awards, held at the Kuumbwa Jazz Center, where several awards were given to honor the Santa Cruz City Schools community.

**Monthly Meetings**
CCSESA Executive Phone Conference       Children’s Network
Inside Education Planning Meeting        Board Agenda Committee
Managers Meeting                         CCSESA Executive and Board of Directors meetings