Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
May 17, 2012

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of April 12, 2012:

**Inside Education**  
Inside Education has met twice since our last Board meeting since the meeting was a week earlier. In April, the cohort visited Alternative Education sites and learned more about the many programs we offer for at-risk youth. Yesterday, they had the fun visit to our Outdoor Science Program in Corralitos. When visiting the program, they get to go on hikes with the students and participate in other fun activities.

**National Youth Law Center**  
The Plan for Educating Expelled and At-Risk Youth was updated by districts and signed by superintendents. The Plan lists all the resources available for our at-risk population. They have agreed to data sharing and tracking of Foster Youth as they are moved from home to home to ensure they are receiving the services they need to succeed.

**WASC – Western Association of Schools & Colleges**  
The Alternative Education Programs participated in a WASC Review. The report-out by the reviewing committee was very positive with the Chair commenting that the self-study done by the department was one of the most complete he had ever seen. The actual term of accreditation will be announced once the report is reviewed by the WASC personnel. I want to thank all of the staff for the great job they do on a daily basis and especially for the comprehensive report for the WASC team.

**Superintendent’s Training**  
The last of the Professional Learning Communities training for our superintendents took place on 5/26 at the Monterey County Office of Education. It consisted of four different trainings to cover various aspects of leadership.

**UCSC Interns**  
At the invitation of Will Rosse, I addressed his class of UCSC psychologist interns. I spoke on various topics of interest to them including counseling and mental health needs in schools, funding issues, testing, English Language Learners amongst others.

**Santa Cruz County College Commitment**  
Approximately 3000 fourth-grade students, descended on Cabrillo College for “Samper Fourth Grade Experience” to give them a taste of college and get them thinking in terms of making college attendance a goal. They visited classrooms and participated in lectures on finance and accounting. Next year, a new crop of fourth graders will visit with fifth graders making the journey to California State University Monterey Bay and to UCSC the following year. It is hoped that more children will follow the path of a college education by making them comfortable with the idea early in their education pathway. (email from Murry Schekman, Assistant Superintendent, PVUSD attached)
SEAC – School Employers Association of California
I attended the SEAC Board meeting in Sacramento followed by a day of visiting various legislators and others to lobby them in regards to the challenges faced by schools in these tight budget times and to try to alleviate further cuts to classrooms.

Louden Nelson Community School
At the invitation of students and teachers, I attended a luncheon at the Louden Nelson Community School. Students are taught about nutrition, growing food, and cooking what they grow. They did an amazing job of cooking a wonderful lunch.

Education Coalition
I attended the monthly meeting of the Education Coalition in Sacramento. Topics discussed were the State budget, the Weighted Pupil Formula and how to advocate for education in these challenging times.

Pajaro Valley Unified
I met with Dorma Baker, superintendent, and Brett McFadden on several topics including Adult Education, Foster Youth, and possible alternative programs for elementary students.

Classified Professional Development
With the close of the professional development program for our classified staff, a celebration was held. Participants shared how the program had influenced how they do their jobs and a celebratory luncheon followed. I was honored to attend and hear of the positive impact of the program.

Student Author Fair
I attended the Student Author Fair at the Capitola Mall and was impressed again with the participation of schools throughout the county. It was wonderful to see all the books written by children of various grade levels.

Math Contest
The annual Math Contest was held at the beginning of May with the awards ceremony to be held on May 22nd at 5:00 p.m. in the Tech Center. The contest is for 5th through 8th grade students with both individual competitions and team competitions. Winners are on the website.

Prison Re-Alignment
Meetings continue with Sheriff Phil Wowak, Mark Rodgers, Jim Howes, Scott MacDonald from probation and myself in regards to providing educational opportunities for inmates at the Rountree Facility.

Regional Occupational Programs (ROP) Recognition Event
ROP held its picnic recognizing staff for their hard work throughout the year. They are often unable to attend our Teacher Appreciation Day event so hold their own when it will fit the schedules of these many teachers.

Pacific Collegiate Charter School
Cabinet members met with representatives of Pacific Collegiate Charter and legal counsel to discuss facilities, foundation formation and other current issues.

Pajaro Valley Unified Student Art Show
I spoke at the annual Student Art Show at the Watsonville Civic Center. In partnership between the City of Watsonville and the students of Pajaro Valley Unified School District, student art work is displayed at the Civic Center with a reception for the student artists.
Bully – the Movie
The County Office of Education sponsored a showing of the movie BULLY at the Aptos Cinema on Saturday, May 12th. Over 200 people attended the showing with approximately 60 remaining after to discuss the movie and its implications for Santa Cruz County and how we might fight the epidemic of bullying in our schools.

15th Annual Queer Youth Leadership Awards
I was honored to once again attend the Queer Youth Leadership Awards where students, adults and organizations are honored for their work in supporting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. The event began with a resource fair and culminated with the awards, a dinner and dance.

Senator Simitian’s Town Hall
I attended the Town Hall meeting held by Senator Simitian at Santa Cruz High. He addressed the usual concerns of the education community including the Weighted Pupil Formula, the State Budget and Transitional Kindergarten among other topics.

Juvenile, Court, Community and Alternative Administrators of California (JCCASAC)
I attended the annual conference for JCCASAC in San Diego where I was asked to speak to the participants and was honored to introduce one of the keynote speakers, Dr. Yong Zhao, Presidential Chair and Associate Dean for Global Education, College of Education at the University of Oregon. The conference gives administrators the opportunity to review education code, review Average Daily Attendance funding mechanisms, and analyze best practices as they apply to enrollment, transition, special education, and working with partner agencies.

New Teacher Project Colloquium
I was honored to attend the New Teacher Project Colloquium where this year’s mentored teachers were able to share their successes in the classroom. It is heartening to hear how the New Teacher Project has made an impact in the lives of our new classroom teachers and how their students benefit from the unique support they receive.

Monthly Meetings
Agenda Committee
CCSESA Board of Directors
S4C Steering Committee
Children’s Network
United Way Board

Agri-Culture Board of Directors
CCSESA Executive Committee
Superintendents Council
Criminal Justice Council

Upcoming Events:
May 17, 2012  Day of the Teacher and Classified Employees Week Celebration (following the Board meeting)
May 17, 2012  High School Poetry Awards Ceremony @ Tech Center 6:30 p.m.
May 18, 2012  Special Education Fun Day
June 14, 2012  Alternative Education Graduations @ the Portuguese Hall (9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m.)
June 14, 2012  Special Education Graduation @ Tech Center (10:00 a.m.)
June 15, 2012  Alternative Education Graduation (10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m.)