Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – May 21, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of April 16, 2015

NEW TEACHER PROJECT COLLOQUIUM

The Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project will be holding four colloquiums over the next week at the COE (5/20/15), Castroville (5/21/15), Watsonville (5/26/15), and Hollister (5/28/15). Participating teachers will share their Inquiry Action Plans and what they have learned about teaching and their impact on student learning this past year.

ACSA EQUITY TOOLKIT

I was asked to join ACSA in the development of ACSA’s equity toolkit which they hope it will be a valuable and quality product that will serve as a resource for its members. ACSA is committed to playing a major role in serving its diverse membership with intentional efforts to address their needs through the sharing of similar experiences both personally and professionally and to encourage ongoing networking for optimal support and advocacy.

WATSONVILLE/APTOS ADULT EDUCATION COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL

I attended the final meeting of the year for this very important program. We summarized and closed the 2014-15 school year with an update on the Institute of Language and Culture and the plans for opening the 2015-16 school year to include the Business Expo with the Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce. Finally, we recognized the students of the year.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONALS DAY

We celebrated Administrative Professionals Day on April 22, 2015. Cabinet members took our administrative professionals to lunch at Firefish Restaurant on the Santa Cruz Wharf.

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENT SUCCESS AND RACE RELATIONS

I spoke with Chris Lee, Practice Associate, The Education Trust, Dwight Bonds, Executive Director, CAAASA and Ramona Bishop, Superintendent, Vallejo Unified City School District, concerning promoting achievement for African American Students. We spoke specifically about strategies that address academic achievement, graduation and reduced suspension/expulsion rates.
REGIONAL DATA TRUST

I met with Rod Ogawa Ph.D., Professor, UCSC, concerning the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust. The Trust will be a collection of elected officials, agency and education leaders in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties. The Trust plans to explore the creation of a regional, integrated data system framework including the attendant governance, collaboration, and data sharing agreements required to realize this goal. This data system, while respecting privacy, would allow data sharing between county agencies, non-profits and school districts to inform regional policy, research and practice, and improve outcomes for the Valley’s children.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

I attended the National Public Health Week 2015 Breakfast Celebration and Accreditation Kick-Off on April 24, 2015. The event highlighted the success of Public Health in Santa Cruz County and the process of accreditation. Accreditation for Santa Cruz will assist in continuous quality improvement, assure a uniform set of standards that define public health, assure a process by which the state can ensure local level capacity to address core functions and to provide a mechanism for accountability.

LATINO YOUTH IN DETENTION

I met with James Bell, Founder and Executive Director of the W. Haywood Burns Institute and Fernando Gurlado, Chief Probation Officer for Santa Cruz County, concerning Latino youth in detention.

CCSESA

I attended the CCSESA General Membership Meeting in San Francisco from April 26 – 28, 2015. Two major topics discussed during the meeting were LCAP and Vergara v. California.

STEM CORPS 21

I met with Bruce McFadden, Professor and Curator, Florida Museum of Natural History, who would like to bring a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Corps 21 Program to the students of Santa Cruz. The STEM Corps 21 program will foster innovative partnerships among secondary schools to bring active scientists to K-12 classrooms. Bruce would like to bring “Wonder and Amazement” to the students 10 days per month through multiple science initiatives.

INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

International artists Prince Lawsha and Alain Brunet celebrated International Jazz Day by giving performances to our students at Santa Cruz High School, Soquel High School, Scotts Valley High School and Watsonville High School. Their tour was highlighted by a performance at the wharf on International Jazz Day on April 30, 2015.
PVUSD FCMAT

Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services and I attended the PVUSD Board Meeting on April 29, 2015. We attended the meeting due to the district receiving a “Negative” certification on their 2nd Interim Report and also wanted to hear the findings from the Fiscal Crisis & Management Team (FCMAT) Report. The FCMAT Report had 17 recommendations that the district should adopt.

SANTA CRUZ REDWOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

I met with Laura Kasa from the Santa Cruz Redwoods National Monument Campaign. She wanted to find out how to get students involved in the campaign. The focus of this campaign is 5,800 acres of redwood forests, coastal prairies, canyons, grazing lands and watersheds, locally known as “Coast Dairies,” located on the Santa Cruz coast inland of Highway 1 just north of Wilder Ranch State Park and south of Swanton Pacific Ranch.

DEMOCRATIZING EDUCATION

I met with Gordon Freedman, President of the National Laboratory for Education Transformation (NLET), concerning the CA K12 Data Lab. We met to discern what data we want to collect at the district level and what role the county can play in democratizing education data.

DATA ANALYTICS

On May 5, 2015, I met with Rod Ogawa Ph.D., Professor, UCSC, Ron Glass Ph.D., Executive Director, California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) and Rebecca London Ph.D., Assistant Director of Research and Policy at CREEC. They are interested in developing a comprehensive data system with a full complement of analytics to inform and drive instruction and improve student achievement.

COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD

I met with MariaElena De La Garza, Executive Director of the Community Action Board to discuss moving forward with the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) contract.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE COALITION COUNCIL

I attended the Criminal Justice Coalition Council meeting on May 14, 2015. We received reports from the Santa Cruz Anti-Crime Team, BASTA, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Task Force and the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force. There was a presentation by the Crisis Intervention Team and we discussed Race Relation in the Criminal Justice System.
YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

I attended the Santa Cruz County Youth Violence Prevention Task Force meeting on May 18, 2015. A plan was developed to improve school discipline rules, fund evidence-based support programs and track the improvement of the county’s youth. Leaders want to use the plan in part to apply for state, federal and private grants to fund programs that are proven to keep young people out of trouble. More than 300 people participated in the strategic plan, including leaders from schools, nonprofit groups, police, County Probation, Juvenile Hall, youths and others. It aims to reduce youth violence, raise school attendance and increase youth employment and job training.

PROBATION PRESENTATION ON AFRICAN AMERICANS

I gave a presentation to Fernando Giraldo, Chief Probation Officer, Santa Cruz County and members of his staff concerning the plight of African American students and young people. The presentation focused on the challenges that young African American face in education, obtaining employment, finding safe housing and the criminal justice system.

FIBER INTERNET FOR SANTA CRUZ COUNTY SCHOOLS

I met with Chris Neklason and James Hackett from Cruzio on May 19, 2015 concerning Cruzio and a project with the City of Santa Cruz to build a gigabit fiber network to every parcel in the City. They would like to engage with the COE to connect the local schools and the COE to this new network.

SB 277

I continue to engage with parents concerning their views regarding SB 277 Public Health: Vaccinations.

LIVING HISTORY FARM STUDY

I met with John Kegebein, CEO of the Agricultural History Project (AHP), who is seeking community input on AHP’s proposed plans to add a Living History Farm experience to its Museum and Center at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds. They are looking to find out what benefits the community might derive from a Living History Farm, what activities such a farm should include, and how it should be structured for maximum community engagement.

FISHTREE.COM

I met with Steve Niederman, Executive Consultant for Fishtree.com and Andy Stone, Director of the Santa Cruz Workforce Investment Board concerning Fishtree’s learning platform that solves the problem of scaling one-to-one instruction. The platform combines standard-aligned resources and social media-based tools with world-class analytics to save teachers time, and help students learn.
This morning, members from the Capitol Advisors team came to the COE to discuss the Governor’s May Revise.

The May Revise provides both a significant boost in LCFF spending ($2.1 billion over the January Proposal) and more the tripling the amount of discretionary one-time spending (increase from $1.1 billion to $3.5 billion). What does this mean? If an LEA is below or far below the LCFF entitlement target, the large increase in on-going LCFF spending helps close the implementation gap. On the other hand, if an LEA is already at or above the LCFF target, it will at least receive an increase in funding through the share of the one-time spending that is sent to all LEAs on a per ADA basis. So, while some LEAs get more than others, all LEAs get something from this budget proposal.

The Prop. 98 guarantee for 2015-16 is now projected to be $68.4 billion, an increase of $2.7 billion over the January projection. The total increase to the Prop. 98 guarantee (over three years) is $6.1 billion, with the following increases attributable to each fiscal year:

- 2013-14 – $241 million
- 2014-15 – $3.1 billion
- 2015-16 – $2.7 billion

The COE will host the Santa Cruz County High School Poetry Competition tonight (May 21, 2015) in the Tech Center. High school students from around the county submit poems (typically 350 to 450 poems) to be read and judged with the top 50 or so chosen to be included in a printed anthology.

The PVUSD Technology Services Department will hold its Tech Fair Showcase on Thursday, May 21, 2015 from 4:30 – 6:30pm in the Watsonville High School cafeteria. Teachers will share the technology digital portfolios and lessons they completed this year for the Technology Integration Cadre and students will share their best innovative technology-infused digital lessons.

During Superintendents Council we shared best practice methods especially as it pertained to our six county Distinguished Schools: Branciforte Middle School, Harbor High School, Mission Hill Middle School, San Lorenzo Valley Middle School, Scotts Valley High School and Scotts Valley Middle School. I will be in San Francisco on May 29, 2015 to recognize these Gold Ribbon Schools. We also discussed School Board Trustee Training for each of the districts to be presented by the law firm of Lozano Smith. Training topics will include: The Brown Act, Public Records, District email policy, Foundations and Fundraising (in the name of the district). Lastly we discussed concerns brought forward by Public Advocates, Inc. in relation to WestEd’s most recent recommendations regarding the Evaluation Rubrics.