Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – June 18, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of May 21, 2015

NEW TEACHER PROJECT COLLOQUIUM

I attended the Santa Cruz/Silicon Valley New Teacher Project Colloquium. Participating teachers shared their Inquiry Action Plans and what they have learned about teaching and their impact on student learning this past year.

YOUNG WRITERS PROGRAM

The Young Writers Program Year-End Student Reading took place at Bookshop Santa Cruz on May 26, 2015. The Young Writers Program is dedicated to supporting Santa Cruz County students in grades 4-12 and assisting their teachers in building students’ writing skills and confidence. One student, Colleen Beduya, wrote a personal narrative inspired by José Lozano’s artwork “Los Romantics.”

RUDY ESCALANTE

I met with Rudy Escalante, Police Chief, Capitola on May 27, 2015 to discuss a request by the Criminal Justice Council to create a presentation on the subject of “Race.”

COP REFUNDING

I had a phone meeting with Craig Hill, Principal, NHA ADVISORS, Strategy Innovation Solutions (an Independent Registered Municipal Advisor) and Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent, Business Services concerning a potential refinance of 400 Encinal in an effort to reduce our mortgage costs.

COMMUNITY ACTION BOARD - WIA CONTRACT

Jo Ann Allen, Manager, Student Support Services and I met with MariaElena De La Garza, Andrew Stone and Erin Nelson from the Community Action Board (CAB) concerning the CAB contract with the County Office of Education (COE) and the reduction of funding to their agency. $50,000.00 was restored to their agency to assist with Workforce Development.

CHILDREN'S NETWORK

I attended the Children’s Network meeting held on May 27, 2015. During the meeting we discussed the following topics: Nomination of Executive Committee Members for 2015-2016, Summer Networking, Proclamation designating June as “Father Involvement and Father-Friendly Month”, the Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan, a presentation on PAPAS, a Goal Setting and Network Collaboration Plan, Identifying Action Strategies for the Children’s Network, Funding Recommendations and legislative updates.
MATH CONTEST AWARDS CEREMONY

I presided over the 48th Annual Math Contest Awards Ceremony. Over 400 students in grades 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th participated in the Math Contest that was held at Aptos High School on May 2, 2015. Each 1st place winner in each of the four grade levels received a Texas Instrument Graphing Calculator. 49 students received an award.

ALL STAFF PICNIC

On May 27, 2015 we held our annual All Staff Picnic at Harvey West Park. We had a great time being able to relax and talk to people within the COE that we don’t always have the chance to see very often. The taco bar and the music were outstanding!

2015 CALIFORNIA SCHOOL RECOGNITION AWARDS

I attended the 2015 California School Recognition Awards ceremony in San Francisco on May 29, 2015. The following Santa Cruz County schools were recognized during the ceremony: Branciforte Middle School, Harbor High School, Mission Hill Middle School, San Lorenzo Valley Middle School, Scotts Valley High School and Scotts Valley Middle School.

SILICON VALLEY REGIONAL DATA TRUST

I met with education leaders in Santa Clara, San Mateo and Santa Cruz counties towards the development of the Silicon Valley Regional Data Trust on June 1, 2015 at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. Representatives from the three counties included: offices of education, health and juvenile justice.

The meeting was scheduled 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.

MARKETING COMMITTEE

I met with the Marketing Committee to brainstorm possible topics and themes for professional learning during the 2015-16 year. The committee’s goal is to maintain high quality services and programs for our county’s educational community. Other tasks include: developing key messages that support managers in marketing/promoting their services to districts, analyzing the impact that LCFF has had on the role of the county office, and to encourage the development of local success stories for publication through the COE’s website and media advisories/press releases.

CAAASA QUARTERLY MEETING WITH TOM TORLAKSON

The CAAASA quarterly meeting with State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson was held on June 1, 2-15. This collaborative meeting on the Education of Students of Color went very well.
REGION V COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS LCAP CALIBRATION

I met with the County Superintendents and assistants from Monterey, Santa Clara and San Benito to review the LCAP needs for our counties for the next 3 years. Included in the conversation, was an update on the impact on LCAP because of the May Revise by the Governor’s Office.

AB 86 PLANNING MEETING

I met with Dr. Laurel Jones, Superintendent/President of Cabrillo College, Dorma Baker, Superintendent, Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Kris Munro, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools and Rock Pfotenhauer, Dean of Instruction at Cabrillo College concerning Assembly Bill (AB) 86. AB 86 outlines expectations for consortium development as well as planning and implementation requirements to establish the Adult Education Consortium Program. The intent of AB 86 is to expand and improve the provision of adult education, via these consortia, with incremental investments starting with the 2015-16 fiscal year.

ILLUMINATE

I spoke with Karin Lundquist, from Illuminate Education on June 3, 2015. There continues to be interest from the superintendents in Santa Cruz County to migrate to a shared uniform data and assessment system as well as a student information system. Illuminate is a company that can help them achieve this goal.

CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CCEE)

I was in Sacramento on June 4, 2015 for the CCEE Board meeting. During the meeting we discussed the following items: Conflict of Interest Policy, Executive Director Search, Pathways to the CCEE (process and protocols for Local Education Agencies (LEAs)) to obtain advice from and the assistance of the CCEE, the similarities and differences between the Fiscal Crisis Management Assistance Team (FCMAT) and the CCEE, Models of District Collaboration and the CCEE vision, purpose and guiding principles: revisiting the guiding principles and statements of purpose.

ONLINE BLACK HISTORY LESSON PLANS

I, along with Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent, Education Services and Johnny Rice, Senior Director of Alternative Education attended a webinar on June 8, 2015 presented by Darlene Washington of the Danielle Ashley Group. They gave a very well-conceived presentation of their online Black History lesson plan to see if we would be interested in incorporating their lesson plans into our programs. Alternative Education was very impressed with the presentation.

SUPERINTENDENTS COUNCIL

The Superintendents Council met at Café Cruz in Capitola for our end-of-the-year superintendents’ luncheon. During this meeting we discussed Illuminate, The Santa Cruz County Plan for Educating Expelled and At Risk Youth and the annual renewal of the Foster Education Initiative.
SB 124 – SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR JUVENILES

I met with Merle Lustig, a volunteer with the Ella Baker Foundation concerning Senate Bill 124: Solitary Confinement for Juveniles. The Bill is aimed at limiting the use of solitary confinement for children and youth in juvenile facilities in California. I plan on bringing this topic before the Board to consider a resolution at the July 16, 2015 Board Meeting.

MANAGERS MEETING

During June’s Managers Meeting, we discussed: The Governor’s May Revise, Emergency codes and drills, union negotiations updates, Personnel Development, Digital Schools, managers retreat and graduations.

GRADUATIONS

I attended numerous graduations this year including graduations for our Alternative Education students and our Special Education students.

S4C RETREAT

The S4C Steering Committee (UCSC, CSUMB, Cabrillo and District Superintendents) held a retreat to strategize on the future of the collaboration.

SCCOE LIGHTHOUSE PROGRAM

Due to the closure of the NorCal group home, SECA voted to close the SCCOE Lighthouse program. This program predominantly served the students residing in this group home. A resolution was adopted June 9, 2015 to reduce Certificated Services by one position and the Classified Senior Instructional Aides Services by 3 positions. All employees were offered reassignments as a result of resignations and retirements during the 2014-2015 school year.

BRIGHT BYTES

I met with Kathy Hurley and Sara Skinner from Bright Bytes. Bright Bytes is an educational research organization that provides solutions for measuring the impact of technology on learning, predictive early warning dropout prevention, and measuring the impact of educational leadership traits on student success.

CABRILLO ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM SUMMER ACADEMY

I met with Karen Lemon, ROP Photography Instructor at Renaissance High School, concerning the Cabrillo Advancement Program Summer Academy. The program is a 4 day, half-day program serving 120-130 students. Students come from six different middle school sites across the county. By providing high-interest and hands-on activities for the students in a variety of industry sectors, their goal is to engage students in interest in prescribed career pathways, allowing them more informed choices for their future academic and career goals.
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