Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
June 20, 2013

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of May 16, 2012:

**Retirements**
We have a number of employees retiring as of June of this year:
- Business Department: Janis Stanger, Tim Bell
- New Teacher Project: Cathy Potts, Sales
- Special Education: Candace Aliberti, teacher
  Penny Norquist, teacher
  Roberta Smith, instructional aide

**Graduations – Alternative Education & Special Education**
Seven Alternative Education graduations and one Special Education graduation were held the week of June 10-14th. Eleven Special Education students graduated from our Post-Secondary program and over 200 students graduated from our various Alternative Education Programs. I was able to attend almost all of the graduations and want to thank those trustees that were able to fit them into their schedules.

**Distinguished Schools Awards**
I attended the Distinguished Schools Awards in Santa Clara. Aptos High School, Scotts Valley High School, and Scotts Valley Middle School were honored this year for excellence in educational programs. State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Tom Torlakson assisted with handing out the awards to the schools.

**Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF)**
The team of 10th graders from San Lorenzo Valley High School, Natalie Gallagher & Connor Lydon, received an Honorable Mention from the American Meteorological Society for their project entitled, *The Secrets of San Lorenzo Valley's Atmosphere*.
We congratulate these students for their outstanding projects.

**S4C Day at Cabrillo College & University of California, Santa Cruz**
Fourth grade students visited Cabrillo College for the day on May 17th in an effort to get them thinking early about working towards a college degree. Seventh graders visited the University of California, Santa Cruz campus on May 21st to acquaint them with a college campus.
Math Contest Awards Ceremony
The annual Math Contest Awards Ceremony took place on May 21st in the Tech Center. I was honored to give out awards to the many students who won in the different grade levels and awards categories from individuals to teams.

New Teacher Project Colloquium
I stopped by the New Teacher Project Colloquium where our newest teachers presented their final projects for the year, displaying the concepts that they have learned in their first year of teaching. A second colloquium was held at the Pajaro Valley Unified District Office for their cohort of teachers.

UCSC Interns
Four interns from UCSC met with me late in May to discuss ways in which they might intern for the summer with some of our programs. Regional Occupational Programs, Alternative Education Programs and Student Support Services will be benefiting from these students as they assist the staff and students.

Criminal Justice Council
The Criminal Justice Council is working on a conference for August. As a member of the Executive Board, I am assisting in the planning of the conference. We anticipate around 300 attendees. Plans are very preliminary at this time but we will keep you posted as the plans are finalized.

Real DUI in the Schools
Star Community School held a Real DUI Court with Judge Denine Guy presiding. I was there as a real drunk driving defendant was tried, sentenced and then addressed the students. Real DUI hopes to lower the number of teens that drink and drive by including them in the process of adjudicating a real case.

Economic Vitality Strategy Meeting
I attended a meeting of representatives of various agencies and businesses to create an Economic Vitality Strategy for the County. Key industries were identified along with economic trends. In September, the County will be hosting four regional workshops on the draft report to acquire more information.

Mentoring Network
I welcome the participants to the Mentoring Network Meeting at the Community Foundation. This group of stakeholders composed of non-profits dealing with youth like Big Brothers Big Sisters, probation, and Foster Youth were brought together to find ways to enhance outcomes and opportunities for youth by bridging community resources, schools and stakeholders.

Annual High School Poetry Contest
I attended the Annual High School Poetry Contest sponsored by Poetry Santa Cruz. Winners read their poems to the audience and received awards. The winning poems are included in an anthology of all poems submitted.

Aptos High Visitation
I visited the classroom of the Teacher of the Year, John Simms at Aptos High School. It was great to see him interact with his students and see firsthand why he was nominated for this honor.
**Capitol Advisors Group, LLC**
Capitol Advisors Group presented a budget workshop after the May Revise for school districts throughout our region here at our office. Jack O’Connell, former State Superintendent is a member of this Sacramento-based group. They will be presenting another workshop in our office on Monday, July 15 from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. As trustees, you are welcome to attend. We will send you the link to the registration page. (Flier provided)

**Scotts Valley Unified School District Visit**
I assisted with the administrators of Scotts Valley Unified School District in serving a special staff appreciation barbeque at Siltanen Park. It was a great event that allowed for interacting with those who work so hard in the classroom to teach our students.

**Chief John Weiss – Scotts Valley Police Department**
Chief Weiss and I met to discuss the implementation of a pilot program of the TipNow Program. This program allows the sender to text information on a possible crime or safety issue directly to the police department anonymously. The message is encrypted and routed to designated personnel. It also allows for two way communication without giving up the identity of the sender. We are looking at this program to give students the ability to report issues that they hear about regarding the safety of their school or crimes in the community.

**Santa Cruz Youth City Council Meeting**
I attended the meeting of the Santa Cruz Youth City Council where they presented the results of their Youth Public Safety Survey. The students spoke of the results of their survey, how parents, gangs, schools, drugs, friends, alcohol, and after school programs affect youth safety. They also present some possible solutions for improving safety for young people in Santa Cruz. The audience was invited to join in at the end of the program.

**Foster Grandparents Program**
I met with Bob Campbell and others from the Foster Grandparents Program. We have signed an MOU to place mentors in our classrooms throughout the year. We have started with one helping out this summer with the high school summer school program.

**NLET – National Laboratory for Education Transformation/GOORU**
I met with Rod Ogawa and Gordon Freedman to discuss upcoming activities of NLET. They introduced me to Gooru, a state-wide resource for educators, an upcoming presentation to the CCSESA Quarterly Meeting in June and how NLET and Gooru can work together. A visit to Gooru was planned and executed the next week. Gooru is a search engine for learning that quickly searches through the web to find a varied selection of resources and webpages. We have a link on the ‘front page’ of our website that will take you to their page. Prasad Ram, founder and CEO of GOORU, will be presenting to the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association’s quarterly meeting this coming week.

**Forestry Challenge**
I received a copy of the California Forestry Challenge’s 2012 Annual Report for Forestry Educators Incorporated. The date for next year’s Santa Cruz Challenge is November 6th -9th and will take place at Redwood Christian Park in Boulder Creek.
**Project Zero Classroom**  
I am working with Louise Music, Alameda County Office of Education to make important changes and improvements in California Public Education. We have begun the planning for a statewide Integrated Summer Institute. I will be joining a team of educators including Ms. Music at a weeklong Project Zero Classroom Program at Harvard Graduate School of Education in July. The purpose of the Institute is to infuse public education leaders across our state, with the inspiration, knowledge, tools, strategies and relationships to lead for a creative and responsive teaching and learning system that will support the success of each and every child in school, career and citizenship.

**Education Superhighway - Upgrading America’s K-12 Internet Infrastructure**  
I spoke with Evan Marwell, CEO and Co-Founder, Education SuperHighway. Education SuperHighway is a non-profit working to remove the roadblocks to high-speed Internet for students and teachers by finishing America's assignment of bringing learning-ready Internet infrastructure to every school in America.

**Monthly Meetings**  
- Superintendents Council  
- Board Agenda Committee  
- Special Education Coordinating Agency (SECA)  
- CCSESA Executive and Board of Directors meetings  
- CCSESA Finance Committee Conference Call  
- CCSESA Quarterly Meeting Prep Call