The following matters and events have occurred since the report of May 17, 2012:

**County Office of Education Graduations**
Alternative Education Programs held seven graduations with 190 students graduating this year. As always, graduations were emotional, gratifying, and well-attended. Thank you to all trustees who were able to fit in a graduation or two.

Nine Special Education students graduated in a ceremony held in the Tech Center. It was a joyful and awe-inspiring time. Again, thank you to trustees who were able to attend and add to the festivities.

**Special Education Fun Day**
Special Education students and their families were once again treated to games, activities such as horseback riding, face painting and a picnic at the Sheriff’s Posse ground. The Posse does an outstanding job of hosting this event each year and we are extremely grateful for the amazing time they offer to our students and staff.

**Leadership Santa Cruz**
Dave Vincent, Executive Director, Leadership Santa Cruz has asked me to address this year’s graduating cohort at a dinner this evening. I participated in the program two years ago and this year’s graduating class includes COE employee, Michael Paynter, Student Services.

**Ken Barrick**
I met with the California County Boards of Education president, Ken Barrick, trustee from Alameda County Office of Education to discuss collaboration and advocacy efforts with CCSESA, California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.

**Scotts Valley Leadership Team**
The Scotts Valley Leadership Team held a two day retreat at our offices. I welcomed them on their first day. We will continue to support their professional development needs. On today’s agenda we have an item regarding the donation of portables at Brook Knoll Elementary to the Scotts Valley district.

**Autism Training**
Dorothy Raab, Megan, Booth, and I met with representatives from Pajaro Valley Unified including Human Resources Director Albert Roman to discuss providing an autism training for their 70 special education staff. We will be providing the training at a reduced cost to assist their staff in earning the Autism certification.

**Redevelopment Agency Dissolution**
Mary Hart and I met with Mary Jo Walker in regards to recent developments in the dissolution of the redevelopment agencies and the potential impact on Santa Cruz County schools.
Dr. Brian Simmons, CSUMB
Along with Nancy Kowtowski, Monterey County Superintendent and Mike Sanchez, San Benito County Superintendent of Schools, we met with Dr. Brian Simmons, dean, California State University Monterey Bay College of Professional Studies to discuss collaborative efforts in education.

100 Men Who Care
I attended the fundraiser for the 100 Men Who Care, an organization that supports PAPÁS an organization supporting positive fathers and/or father figures, father involvement, and co-parenting. Children with loving and involved fathers are more likely to be successful in school and life in general. The 100 Men Who Care supply male role models to fathers and children in our community.

Day of the Teacher & Classified Employees Week
Our annual celebration in honor of our teachers and classified employees was held once again at Harvey West Park. Thanks to the staff that worked so hard to make it happen – especially George Lopez who takes on the cooking responsibilities each year.

High School Poetry Contest Reading and Awards Ceremony
Our office once again hosted the High School Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony in the Tech Center. The contest is sponsored by Poetry Santa Cruz, a group of adults promoting poetry in the schools. They present awards to the top students and compile all the top poems in an anthology. The event is recorded by Community Television and can be seen on their line up of programs.

School Days & San Francisco Mural Tour
On May 18th, some of our Regional Occupational Program students participated in Schools Days at the Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History. Students were doing live, interactive demonstrations in Media Arts while other student who are musicians performed for the attendees.

On May 31st, a group of Regional Occupational Program students from Renaissance High traveled to San Francisco to participate in a cultural tour of the murals of the Mission District. This was an exceptional experience for some of these students had never been to San Francisco before. The experience brought to life many of the concepts they had learned in the classroom and planted the seed that there is a whole world to experience beyond their community.

New Teacher Project Coloquium
Teachers who had received mentoring this year from the New Teacher Project were given the opportunity to share what they have learned throughout the year with each other, their mentors and invited guests. A session was held at the COE and another in South County to accommodate all the teachers.

BRAVO!
Cabrillo College was the host for BRAVO!, 1st Annual Youth Talent Showcase, a fundraiser for the Summer Youth Employment Program. It was a great success earning approximately $70,000 to support the effort to employ approximately 100 youth this summer.

Regional Foster Youth Services Meeting
I addressed a regional meeting of Foster Youth Services personnel. Twenty-two counties were represented along with the National Center for Youth Law and the California Department of Education at the meeting in our office. They met over the course of a day to share methodologies being used to support foster youth.
CCSESA Quarterly Meeting
The spring meeting of the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association was held in Sacramento. Many of the discussion centered on the budget and other challenges facing education. The Weighted Student Formula was discussed and the Governor addressed the group for an hour on budget and taxes. An upcoming meeting will be held for county superintendents to hear from Molly Munger, author of the tax initiative challenging the Governor’s initiative on the November ballot.

Natural Bridges Spoken: Stories From Santa Cruz Youth
Students from Natural Bridges High School produced a one hour radio program broadcast on KZSC-FM telling stories from their experiences as young people in Santa Cruz County. Stories include tracing family roots from the 16th Century to the impact of moving from San Francisco to Santa Cruz. It was the culmination of an 8 week workshop led by recent UCSC graduate and former KZSC Program Director Tyler P. Wardwell.

Santa Cruz Writes
A number of retired teachers are working together with Nineve Calgari, co-founder and former executive director of 826 Valencia in San Francisco to create Santa Cruz Writes, a writing program consisting of an after school program, as well as a classroom component. The program assists students with their writing skills to both give them a love of writing and to improve their skills which will translate into a more productive school experience. They held a roundtable discussion on May 23rd, Milk and Cookies, for school personnel to introduce the program and gain support for it. They recently met and worked on their plan and hope to be ready to implement the program in the fall.

Catamaran Literary Reader
I met with Catherine Segurson of the Catamaran Literary Reader at the Tannery Arts Center to discuss possible collaborations between her and our Santa Cruz Writes group in support of student and adult writing efforts.

Improving Teacher Quality Grant
Judith A. Scott, Ph.D., Director, Undergraduate Programs, UCSC Education Department reported that the ALLIES Project (Alliance for Language and Literacy Instruction Effecting Standards) has received a $249,981 Improving Teacher Quality Grant to continue professional development work and research with Pajaro Valley Unified’s middle and high school writing and English teachers for the 2012-13 school year. Diane Elia, Director, Curriculum and Instruction at the COE is a co-director for the project.

Retirement Celebration
I attended a retirement event for Chuck Weis, County Superintendent of Schools, Santa Clara County. He did a tremendous job for Santa Clara and will be missed.

JCCASAC, Juvenile Court, Community, and Alternative School Administrators of California
I attended the JCCASAC Conference this year. I was asked to participate in a discussion on best practices for at-risk youth, state funding issues, and professional development.

FosterEd Initiative
The prototype program that we are working on with the assistance of the National Center for Youth Law has received financial support in the form of grants: $250,000 from the Annie E. Casey Foundation and $50,000 from USA Funds. The funds will be used to provide intervention programs for foster youth throughout the county.
**Migrant Headstart**
The governing body for our regional Migrant Head Start Program received a training covering purpose, Head Start structure, shared governance, and responsibilities of the governing body. It is a requirement to be met every year but especially this year as the program will be having a Federal review.

**Cabrillo College’s High School Principal and Superintendents Meeting**
I attended the annual meeting of high school principals and superintendents sponsored by Cabrillo College. This is an annual meeting where Cabrillo College personnel update principals and superintendents on English, Math and Counselor Collaboratives, new enrollment priorities, college readiness data and strategies for preparing students to move on to college after graduation.

**Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California (CCREC)**
Ron Glass, Director, has invited me to join the Advisory Board for the Center for Collaborative Research for an Equitable California. The organization links university researchers, community-based organizations, and policy-makers in collaborative projects to achieve creative solutions to the state’s interconnected crises in the economy, education, employment, environment, health, housing, and nutrition.

**Football Pool Luncheon**
After overcoming scheduling conflicts, Bryan Wall and I treated the winning team from this year’s Football Pool to their luncheon. The winning team consisted of Carla Miller, Sharon Clapman, Cindy O’Conner, Brunella Deeds, Bryan and myself.

**Alternative Education Baseball Game**
I joined some of our Alternative Education students in a game of baseball and a picnic at the Polo Grounds on June 1st. It was a fun afternoon with wonderful students.

**Tannery Arts – Artspace Ribbon Cutting & Tour**
As a member of the Tannery Arts Board, I participated in the ribbon cutting and reception for the newly finished artist studios complex. The new building is an opportunity for artists who do not live at the complex but wanted to have a centrally located studio in which to work and present their art to the community.

On June 7th, I joined Rachel Anne Goodman and fellow board members as she toured representatives from the Ford Foundation, Artspace, Inc., and Movimiento de Arte Y Cultura Latino Americano (MACLA) from San Francisco through the Tannery Arts complex. They were very impressed with what Santa Cruz has been able to accomplish on the former tannery site.

**Mary Alice Copp**
A couple years ago, Mary Alice Copp, local artist, painted portraits of some of our Alternative Education staff and students. We currently have most of the pictures up in our Alternative Education department. Mrs. Copp has donated the pictures to our office and they will be permanently on display. We thank her for her donation which is on today’s Consent Agenda.

**Administrators’ Breakfast**
A committee of district superintendents have been working on the program for our annual Back to School Administrators’ Breakfast that takes place in August. They have created an agenda designed to allow principals and other administrators to share information on current challenges faced in districts.
**Soquel Union Elementary’s Literacy Program**
I participated in the filming of a video outlining the English Language Learner program that the County Office assisted in funding as a pilot program. Henry Castaniada will be showing the video and discussing the program with the Board at today’s meeting.

**Anti-Bullying and Cyberbullying**
I met with Monica McGuire and staff as a follow-up to the screening of the movie that the COE sponsored on bullying and cyberbullying. We are looking at how we can work directly with schools to address these concerns that so impact our students’ lives.

**Cultural Council**
I met with Michelle Williams, Executive Director to talk about accomplishments this past year and plans for the coming school year including the involvement of the Council in the elementary schools through the SPECTRA Program.

**Mentoring Science Fair**
I met with several residents of Pajaro Valley Unified School District including Ron Manabe on increasing Science Fair mentoring possibilities so as to encourage more participation from their schools.

**Save Our Shores**
We will be partnering with Save Our Shores to increase environmental educational opportunities in our county schools. They will be presenting assemblies, coordinating clean-up of beaches with student involvement, and inland clean-ups along waterways.

**S4C**
An executive director has been hired and work is continuing on planning outreach and fundraising to support our efforts. Events planned include College and Career Nights, 4th Grade Experience (college visitation), and Middle School Summer Institute.

**Managers Retreat**
We have planned our annual Managers Retreat for August 15th. I would like to recommend that the Board members join our meeting at noon on that day and then remain after to hold a Board Retreat from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. – details to follow.

**Monthly Meetings**

- **Agenda Committee**
- **S4C Steering Committee**
- **CCSESA Board of Directors**
- **CCSESA Executive Committee**
- **Superintendents Council**
- **Special Education Coordinating Agency**
- **Workforce Investment Board**