The following matters and events have occurred since the report of June 16, 2011:

2-1-1 First Anniversary Celebration
The United Way is sponsoring a first year anniversary celebration for the 2-1-1 system tonight from 5:00-6:30 p.m. at the Community Foundation. The 2-1-1 system provides support to people who are in need of community resources from assistance with housing, employment and training, senior services, legal and immigration services, and other health and welfare needs.

Alternative Education Graduations
In nine ceremonies over three days, the alternative education department graduated a total of 201 students. We are extremely proud of this program that gives at risk students a chance at a diploma and a better life. Thanks to those trustees who were able to adjust their schedules to attend these graduations.

Summer Schools
Alternative Education – Around 1000 students attended our high school summer school for credit recovery. Approximately half of those students came to us from other high school districts who were unable to offer summer school.

Special Education - Our Special Education Department held their usual summer school with next Friday as the last day.

Regional Occupational Programs - The Regional Occupational Programs held a first time ever summer program called Summer Public Safety Academy. There were two sessions of 18 students and 23 students. It was a very successful and well-received program.

New District Superintendents
We have three new district superintendents for Santa Cruz County. Penny Weaver, who we met today, is taking over in Scotts Valley Unified; Eric Bitter is taking over at Pacific Elementary; and Henry Castaniada is taking over in Soquel Union Elementary District. I will be meeting with them soon to give them an overview of the many ways in which our office is able to assist their district and their schools.

County Office of Education Marketing Strategies
Before you are copies of our current program brochures that have been created to assist us in informing the community as to what we do, how we assist schools, and our collaborations with other organizations throughout the community. The Emergency Response and the SARB brochures are printed in both Spanish and English.
2011-12 State Budget Act Briefing
I attended the School Innovations & Advocacy 2011-12 State Budget Act Briefing at the Santa Clara County Office of Education. They covered many issues related to the recently passed state budget from linkages to the State’s recovery, Prop 98 issues, deferrals, funding for mandates, and budget unknowns.

Santa Cruz Promise
This initiative will improve the college readiness of Santa Cruz County high school graduates, increase success rates for Cabrillo College students earning degrees and certificates, prepare more of Cabrillo College graduates for transfer to California State University Monterey Bay, San Jose State, or University California, Santa Cruz, and increase the percentage of those students graduating with a bachelor’s or advanced degree. A press conference has been tentatively scheduled for September 7th at 2:00 p.m. at Cabrillo College to introduce the Santa Cruz Promise to the community.

FosterEd Learning Lab
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education was chosen to partner with WestEd and the National Law Center to apply for a grant for to be the lead agency for a FosterEd Learning Lab program because of their commitment to serve foster youth. This program designed to assist the educational needs of foster youth will address improved system functioning, increased school stability and improved educational outcomes. This will be accomplished by regular assessment, monitoring, training of parents and relatives and referral of cases to partnering organizations who have the expertise to address concerns as they arise.

Regional Mental Health Grant
Our office is taking the lead on applying for a 3 year, $1,000,000 grant through the California Mental Health Services Authority Statewide Prevention and Early Intervention program. The grant will build on local, sustainable infrastructures and increase local capacity focusing on prevention of mental health issues at the Kindergarten through 8th grade levels. This will be accomplished by fostering a nurturing and supportive school environment and teaching students the skills to respond to situations that are not detrimental to a student’s mental health. The grant will serve Region V which consists of San Benito, Monterey, Santa Clara, and Santa Cruz Counties.

Redevelopment Agency Pass-Through’s to Education
Mary Hart, Associate Superintendent for business, Director of business, Jean Gardner and I met with Mary Jo Walker, County Auditor-Controller and her staff to discuss Redevelopment Agency funds for schools. We received an in-depth presentation on the various RDA’s in the county, which funds the county distributes, how the laws read, timing of changes in the law, funding changes and breakdowns of funding. We were very pleased with the openness of the meeting and the information supplied. We will continue to meet with them for further analysis before determining whether or not to move forward with an audit. Mary passed along information to the districts to keep them up-to-date on information garnered from this meeting.

BASTA Update
The North County Operations Team, consisting of all law enforcement agencies, school districts, children’s mental health and probation have met seven times in its first year of operation. The purpose of the team is to keep all agencies appraised of gang trends, activity, and at risk youth behaviors to help keep our community safe. Individual student cases will now be referred to an intervention team created by the larger team for mentoring and counseling as a preventative measure to intervene in younger students lives.
**Community Corrections Partnership**
Talks are continuing on how to accommodate the prison population that will be returned to counties. We are looking at an educational partnership to provide training and basic educational services to these inmates. We are also talking with Jack Bowers of the William James Association in regards to providing arts experiences which have been shown to reduce disciplinary problems, strengthen ties between the incarcerated and the community, and integrate into the rehabilitation of inmates prior to their release.

**San Jose Mayor’s Gang Prevention Taskforce**
I accompanied District Attorney Bob Lee, Watsonville Mayor Daniel Dodge, and other members of the community to a presentation on the San Jose Mayor’s Gang Prevention Taskforce. Their focus is on Prevention, Intervention, and Suppression with a Mission Statement of “a plan to break the cycle of youth violence and foster hope.”

**Summer Arts Institute**
Mary Mc Laughlin, Arts Coordinator, hosted approximately 35 classroom teachers for a week long art institute held at the McPherson Center. They learned how to integrate art into daily lesson plans. Evaluations were very positive with many expressing how they had newfound talents that they did not realize. Others felt motivated, inspired, and energized – ready to integrate the arts into all subject areas. The experiences taught many that you don’t have to be a professional artist to bring art into the classroom.

**Renewed Ambition Task Force Meeting**
I attended the bi-monthly meeting of the Renewed Ambition Task Force that is looking at the short-term and long-term goals and financial stability of the McPherson Center Museum in downtown Santa Cruz.

**Agri-Culture Board of Directors**
I attended my first meeting as a member of the Board of Directors of Agri-Culture and am pleased to report that their booth at the California State Fair won a Gold Medal. They had won the Silver for a couple years but finished at the top this year. Other counties spend thousands of dollars to furnish a booth whereas the Santa Cruz County booth was done by volunteers with donations.

**Historical Contributions of LGBT Americans**
I was interviewed by KION TV on the bill that passed the California legislature and was signed into law by Governor Brown to include the accomplishments of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Trans-sexual Americans.

**SB 1381, The Kindergarten Readiness Act of 2010**
Signed into law in 2010, this law changes the age if children entering Kindergarten. They must now turn 5 by September 2nd instead of the former December 2nd deadline. To accommodate the children born between September and December, the new law provides for a year of “transitional Kindergarten” giving those children a year to mature and develop the skills they need to succeed in Kindergarten. The Child Development Resource Center will take the lead on implementation and coordination of this bill with districts. (more information attached)
CCSESA – California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
At the quarterly meeting of CCSESA, I was confirmed as the President Elect for 2012 and the President for 2013. It will involve increased responsibilities on a statewide basis for these upcoming years. Fortunately many of the meetings are conducted by phone conference and/or videoconference. I am looking forward to the challenges of this provisional position.

CCSESA Executive Director Search
I will be spending the day in Sacramento to assist in the interviews for a new Executive Director for CCSESA with Governor Brown’s appointment of Sue Burr as Secretary to the State Board of Education. We will be interviewing candidates and hopefully will find a replacement that can pick up where Director Burr left off.

COE Solar Energy Project
Work is continuing on installation of solar panels on the Encinal building. The Sustainability Study done in April 2010 is being reviewed, bids are being received and a decision should be made in the near future.

Countywide Board Dinner
Superintendents and their trustees have been invited to a Countywide Board Dinner to be held on September 7th at the Coconut Grove at 6:00 p.m. John Watson, Evergreen Education Group and Michael Horn, Innosight Institute will give presentations on 21st Century Learning. The County Office will again host this event cost free to the districts. We are looking forward to a very informative evening with these two experts in the field.