The following matters and events have occurred since the report of June 21, 2012:

**Community Foundation Survey**
I participated in a survey with the Community Foundation to assist in setting priorities for the coming year. Many other leaders throughout the county participated in small group discussions to explore the role of the foundation and create a vision for their future.

**Alternative Education WASC Accreditation Review**
Our Alternative Education Programs went through a WASC Accreditation Review this past month and received a 6 year renewal which is the best term you can be given. I want to thank the many staff from the program and, especially Johnny Rice, Project Director, for all their hard work to accommodate the review team, prepare for the review and get the best results possible. We are fortunate to have outstanding programs in both Alternative Education and Regional Occupational Programs that receive these 6 year terms.

**Leadership Santa Cruz Graduation**
Dave Vincent, Executive Director, Leadership Santa Cruz asked me to address this year’s graduating cohort at a dinner on June 21st. I had spoken on Education Day and was asked to update the group on the State budget and recent developments. Michael Paynter, Student Services participated in the series this year.

**Collaboration Between California County Boards of Education and California County Superintendents Educational Services Association**
I met with Ken Barrick, president, California County Boards of Education; Peter Birdsall, Executive Director, CCSESA; and Stan Mantooth, superintendent, Ventura County Office of Education to discuss collaboration between these two organizations to empower the two organizations since their goals and mission are symbiotic and in support of county offices.

**Michael Paynter**
Michael Paynter, Student Services for Foster Youth and Mental Health Services was been named a Community Hero by the United Way for his work with Foster Youth. We are very proud of Michael and his work and congratulate him on this communitywide honor. He will receive his award at a celebration in the fall.

**Mentoring Makes a Difference**
Community member Rose Felicetti is spearheading the writing of a grant for mentoring services for female students. The Federal grant application is pending to hire a county mentoring coordinator and the steering committee held its first meeting to discuss the status of the grant, what’s currently available, where are the gaps, and next steps in providing this mentoring for girls.
Mini Mermaid Running Club
I met with Joe Trautwein to discuss the possible implementation of a Mini Mermaid Running Club in a school in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. It is an afterschool program to teach girls the value of exercise, improve self-esteem and self-image and hopefully culminating in participation in the Mermaid Series 5K run in November in San Francisco. The program is free to schools with a 65% or greater population of students that qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Summer Art Institute
Mary McLaughlin coordinated a summer art program for teachers. Twenty-five elementary classroom teachers, two middle school teachers, and five teaching artists attended the seminar to learn more about integrating art into the curriculum. Arts coordinators from the Museum of Art & History, the Cultural Council and Santa Clara County Office of Education also attended to learn more about our program and how to run their own. There will be three follow-up sessions, individual coaching, and specific art projects throughout the year to support the teachers. Seminar topics included:
• Best Practices in teaching the Arts
• Building trust and community in the classroom
• Standards (Visual and Performing Arts and Common Core)
• Elements and principles of the 4 art forms
• The creative process and what it means in the classroom
• What the arts bring to learning

Migrant Headstart
Our Migrant Headstart Program will be reviewed by the Federal Government this coming week. These reviews are done at certain intervals and provide valuable feedback to the program. I will be participating in an interview by videoconference and the reviewers will visit programs throughout the county.

Cabrillo Music Festival Performance
One of the pieces to be performed at the Cabrillo music festival on August 4 at 8 p.m. will be the world premiere of Emmy award-winning composer John Wineglass’ Someone Else’s Child narrated by Broadway actor, singer, writer, and inspirational speaker Charles Holt. Commissioned by philanthropist David Kaun, Wineglass’ symphonic poem was inspired by and integrates poems by kids in the Santa Cruz juvenile detention center and poignantly describes the life and thoughts of incarcerated youth in America today.

Redevelopment Realignment
Mary Hart and I continue to meet with Mary Jo Walker, County Assessor to discuss progress on the Redevelopment Agencies realignment committee meetings. I also met with Bonnie Lipscomb, Santa Cruz City Director of Economic Development regarding distribution of funds that are in dispute due to conflicting formulas being used to divide assets.

Social Media Discussion
Discussions are taking place to ascertain how the County Office can make better use of the social media to get the word out to the community about what we do and the importance of what we do to districts and their students.

Science Mentoring
I met with teacher Miguel Anzar, community member Ron Manabe, and Adam Wade, Science coordinator from our office to continue the discussion of community mentors for grad school students in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to encourage increased participation in the Annual Science Fair.
**Community Transformation Grant**
I met with Bob Kennedy, Chief of Public Health, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency to discuss participation on a Leadership Council for the community Transformation Grant that the county is writing. We have written a letter of support for the project. It will address health issues throughout the county, including tobacco use, obesity, health food options, baby friendly hospitals, and support of school day physical activity amongst others.

**Santa Cruz Writes - Young Writers Project – Julia Chiapella**
We are supporting the development of the Young Writers Project, Santa Cruz Writes with the hiring of a coordinator to work with teachers, train volunteers, facilitate Advisory Committee, and coordinate sustainability through fundraising and teambuilding.

**Catamaran Literary Reader**
A reception is being held this evening at the offices of Catamaran Literary Reader in the Tannery Complex. This magazine project focuses on the Central Coast with environmental art and literature featured. Our office is collaborating with them to provide tutoring for students in the area of writing.

**Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)**
I was interviewed by Stephanie Zamorano, research assistant with the Public Policy Institute of California as they take a close look at a more comprehensive understanding of the educational system at the county level. They were looking at relationships with other entities from the State Department of Education to the districts and other county offices. They were interested in how our role has changed over the years and how our services affect the students in the county. They will be formulating new policy recommendations as a result of the survey.

**TGC Group**
TGC Group works with schools in a number of ways. They have a program for teaching Chinese, a program for environmentally restructuring of schools, and employee retirement programs for districts. I met with them to receive an overview of their products.

**Assistant Superintendent – Educational Services**
The process for hiring a replacement for Theresa Rouse is continuing. We have sixteen applications that have been screened. We are hopeful to have someone in place before the school year begins.

**Monthly Meetings**
- **Agenda Committee**
- **CCSESA Board of Directors**
- **First 5 Commission**
- **CCSESA Executive Committee**
- **Superintendents Council**
- **Criminal Justice Council**