The following matters and events have occurred since the report of July 21, 2011:

**Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction**
State Superintendent Tom Torlakson is planning a visit to Santa Cruz County to meet with superintendents and local school board trustees. This visit has just been confirmed today therefore we are in the preliminary stages of organizing a luncheon meeting and will release information as it becomes available.

**New Superintendents – Soquel, Pacific, and Scotts Valley**
I met with Henry Castaniada, Soquel Union Elementary; Eric Bitter, Pacific Elementary; and Penny Weaver, Scotts Valley Unified to welcome them to the County and to advise them of the services that our office can offer to their districts.

**Annual Managers Retreat**
The annual Managers Retreat was held yesterday. Managers reviewed updated information on key messages, mission statement, strategic vision, beliefs, and discussed ways in which to implement the strategic areas of focus.

**Bostwick Children’s Center Open House**
An open house was held at the new Bostwick Children’s Center which is housed at the Chrysalis Autism Center in Live Oak. It is a community preschool program which allows for more preschool availability for county residents and mainstreaming opportunities for the Chrysalis program.

**Kate Kinsella Workshop**
Nearly 300 educators gathered at the Coconut Grove for a presentation by Kate Kinsella on *Improving Education for English Language Learners: Research-Based Approaches*. Ms. Kinsella presented in the morning and attendees spent the afternoon working in groups to discuss strategies to take back to their classrooms.

**Administrator Kick Off**
174 administrators attended the annual leadership event presented this year by Sue Gendron, International Center for Leadership in Education. Her presentation was entitled *Planning for the Common Core Standards & Next Generation Assessments*. In an effort to assist the districts in this time of financial challenges, the COE hosted this event as well as, the Kate Kinsella workshop, free of charge for in-county educators.

**Arts & Education in the Local Jails**
I met with County Sheriff Wowak, Jack Bowers of the William James Association, Mark Hodges and Jim Howes of our Regional Occupational Programs to discuss new educational opportunities for inmates in the County jail facilities. I continue to meet with the taskforce looking at how to integrate those being returned from state facilities to local facilities.
BASTA – Broadbased Apprehension Suppression Treatment and Alternatives
Law enforcement, judicial, education and community leaders met to discuss next steps in the continuing work to address youth and gang violence in our community. The formation of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council is moving forward as individual community governmental organizations sign on to support the re-formation of the council. The regional teams continue to meet to address specific problems and situations in their area.

CCSESA Executive Director Search
I participated in the interview process for the new executive director for CCSESA (California County Superintendents Educational Services Association.) Three very talented people were interviewed and Peter Birdsall was appointed to the position. He is a well-respected advocate and consultant for education. He has worked both in the private sector consulting on education and in the California Department of Education. He is known for his ability to develop strong relations with key education agencies and legislative leaders.

CCSESA – California County Superintendents Educational Services Association
As the newly elected President Elect for CCSESA, I attended my first Board of Directors meeting on August 8th to welcome Peter Birdsall to the position of Executive Director for CCSESA. The Board of Directors meets regularly to discuss evolving issues in education, legislation, and current topics of concern to schools and county offices.

CALMHSA K-12 Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention Initiative (Prop 64)
CCSESA has received final approval to move forward with the mental health initiative funded by Prop 64. Our office will be the lead agency for Region V which includes Monterey, Santa Clara, San Benito and Santa Cruz County. We will receive a $1,000,000 grant to identify needs and resources within the region to build capacity for training and technical assistance. The grant is to provide early intervention with a focus on kindergarten through eighth grade by building relationships between local agencies to develop an effective referral process.

CCSESA State & Federal Legislative Committee
In today’s phone conference with the CCSESA State & Federal Legislative Committee, one of the main topics of discussion was the mid-year trigger for cuts to education. The triggers are based on revenues meeting expectations and the placing of a ballot measure on the November 2012 ballot. There is a potential for another $1.5 billion cut to education bringing the total cuts over the last three years to nearly $20 billion. Key dates: December 15th, Department of Finance will assess revenue estimates to see if the triggers will be engaged and February 1, 2012 the cuts would actually occur.

Second Harvest Foodbank Facility Dedication & Grand Opening
I was honored to be one of the speakers for the dedication and grand opening of the new Second Harvest Foodbank facility. This organization does an amazing job of ensuring that families are fed countywide. Over the past several years, their commitment has grown and the community has answered their call by supporting their mission to feed children and their families.

Positive Discipline Community Resources
The Santa Cruz County Office of Education will be sponsoring a series of parent education classes entitled Positive Discipline for Parenting Teenagers. The classes will be offered in both English and Spanish and will take place in both North and South County.
Santa Cruz County College Commitment
Another planning meeting was held for the Santa Cruz County College Commitment. Plans are coming together and a press conference is tentatively scheduled for September to introduce and explain the program to the community.

Santa Cruz County Pro
I met with Norma Milete, Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors to discuss my participation in their education series Santa Cruz County Pro. They have asked me to speak to the Association members in December regarding the future of education and our local districts in the next 10-15 years.

Child Welfare Services Systems Improvement Planning (SIP)
Theresa Rouse, Educational Services represented our office at the Child Welfare Services SIP meeting. Update information on federal, state and county budgets was presented along with a review of progress on the 2011-2014 SIP Strategic Plan. An overview and evaluation of the Families Together program were presented.

Tannery Arts Reception
I attended the Tannery Reception this past month with a focus on engaging the community to support the continuing renovations to the Tannery site including the construction and remodeling for performance arts facilities. The Board is planning ongoing fundraising opportunities to create this amazing arts resource for the entire Santa Cruz County community.

Firelight Foundation
I met with Peter Laugharn, executive director, the Firelight Foundation. The foundation works to help children in Africa affected by AIDS and poverty. I was speaking to him in regards to partnering with the foundation and the local Model United Nations organization to bring a more global awareness to high school students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Orientation Day
The staff will be meeting on Monday, August 29th at the Coconut Grove for our annual welcome back to the school year event. Food service begins at 7:45 a.m. with the program to begin at 8:30. We will once again recognize employees for longevity, introduce new employees, and have a guest presentation. Trustees are invited to attend.

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 free of cost to the districts. We are looking forward to a very informative evening with these two experts in the field.

Soquel Union Elementary School
At the invitation of Superintendent Henry Castanaida, I will be speaking on Supporting Our Children at their district-wide staff meeting on August 22nd.
League of Woman Voters
On September 16th, I will be speaking to the League of Woman Voters on Confronting Issues and Creating Solutions for Schools in the 21st Century. The luncheon meeting will take place in our Tech Center and a flier is attached for your information. (flyer attached)

FoodWhat
Tonight I will be attending the FoodWhat End of Summer party to celebrate their work with students, including ours. They have a garden to table program where students learn all the ins and outs of raising their own food. Students will share their experiences and the impact of this program on their lives.

ACSA Welcome Back Event
Each year, the local chapter of ACSA, Association of California Administrators Association, holds a breakfast meeting to bring together administrators from Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey county to share new information and set the tone for the new year.

Inside Education
Inside Education’s schedule of meetings is attached to your copy of my report. The monthly meetings will begin on September 21st with a look at preschool education. If you know of anyone who might be interested in attending this series that educates the public about all aspects of education, please let us know so we can put them in contact with the program’s coordinator. Every year we receive rave reviews from participants who thank us for the opportunity to learn about such a variety of topics regarding education. (dates attached)

Monthly Meetings
Superintendents Council   Children’s Network
CCSESA Finance Committee (phone conference) Museum of Art & History Taskforce
Children’s Network Executive Committee Migrant Headstart Board
PVPSA – Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance
SECA – Special Education Coordinating Council