The following matters of interest and events have occurred since the report of July 16, 2009:

**Cesar Chavez Democratic Club**
I made a presentation to the Cesar Chavez Democratic Club focused on the current state of education in the current economic climate, the effects upon schools in Santa Cruz County and projections on the future of education.

**KUSP Interview re Budget**
KUSP radio interviewed me to comment on the most recent effects of the State budget on education.

**Migrant Head Start Federal Review**
Maria Castro, Project Coordinator, Migrant Head Start, and I traveled to Modesto last month to be interviewed by the Federal Migrant Head Start Review team as part of the Federal government’s review of the regional Migrant Head Start Joint Powers Agency Board. The Federal review team was very positive in its final analysis of our local MHS program and gave it their highest rating.

**Arts in Schools Programs**
I met with Alberto Rafols, Director of the Santa Cruz Cultural Council, to discuss strategies to align arts programs in schools with local artists through the Arts Education Alliance. Alberto also made a presentation to the district superintendents during our monthly Superintendents Council meeting. I will be interviewed by the Tannery Arts Council in the next week for membership on their Board.

**Superintendents Council Meeting**
District superintendents and I met for the first council meeting of the new school year. In addition to the above mentioned presentation by the Cultural Council, agenda items included

- web-based continuous improvement tools,
- district participation in the Marzano workshop and staff development series,
- a presentation by Theresa Rouse, Senior Director, Educational Services regarding the restructure of the division and services, as well as discussion of districts’ needs,
- Jason Tovani, Regional Coordinator, AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination), presented his program services,
• Jo Ann Allen, Coordinator, Student Support Services, informed the superintendents of the countywide effort on prevention, surveillance, and response strategies to confront the H1N1 flu virus,
• fundraising opportunities
• I informed the superintendents of the County Board’s intent to address a countywide efficiency study
• Barney Finlay briefed the superintendents on the State budget.

Fundraising Opportunities
I have been in contact with Mark Monte to assist in promoting the annual Monte Foundation Fireworks fundraising event in support of local schools as well as Jeremy Lezin, Cruz Car Wash, who will sponsor fundraising events on behalf of schools.

Barbara Boxer Town Hall
I attended Senator Boxer’s recent local town hall presentation.

Marzano Workshop and Staff Development Series
The County Office of Education under the leadership of Theresa Rouse, Senior Director, Educational Services Division, coordinated with local and regional districts to contract with Marzano and Associates to provide leadership and strategic training to districts. The initial event was a workshop presentation by Marzano to a group of over 200 educators on August 7. Participating districts will receive training throughout the school year.

Inside Education
The second cohort of the Inside Education Workshop Series kicked off their season by attending the Marzano Workshop. Twenty participating business and communities leaders are enrolled for the series which will meet on September 16, for an in-depth look at preschool in the County.

CCSESA Board of Directors
Issues discussed at the quarterly California County Superintendents Educational Services Association meeting included a discussion with the State Inspector General regarding Federal stimulus funds. Participating in the discussion were the State Secretary of Education and the Undersecretary. The importance of participation by schools in community outreach for the 2010 census was discussed. Presentations were made regarding the CCSESA Arts Initiative and an initiative for a 55% parcel tax.

Ed Services Reorganization and Retreat
Theresa Rouse, Director, Educational Services Division, conducted a retreat with her division staff last week. Theresa will provide additional information.
SPIN (Special Parents Information Network)
Special Parents Information Network, a nonprofit supporting special needs children and their families, will present the second annual Community Spinners Lucky 8 Awards at a celebration Saturday. Award winners include Seacliff Florist & Gifts, educator Wendy Harrison, volunteer Patricia Golditch, Balance 4 Kids, Dr. Howard Salem Margarian, parent Wendy Gomez, Adam Webster Memorial Fund of O'Neill Sea Odyssey, and Santa Cruz County Superintendent of Schools Michael Watkins. The celebration will be from 3:30-6:30 p.m. at the YWCA, 340 E. Beach St.

Career Technology Education
COE management and I continue our meetings with the Cabrillo Career Technology Education administrators. CTE continues to be a vital priority of district superintendents with a focus on providing instruction for middle school students.

National Steinbeck Center
As a member of the Steinbeck Center board of directors, I encourage community support of the Center which, like other non-profits, is in need to meet the challenges of the economy. The Steinbeck Center provides an excellent schools program including on-line lectures.

Santa Cruz Chamber Mixer
The Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce is hosting a Meet the Educators chamber mixer next Wednesday, August 26, 5:00 p.m. at the 2030 Pacific Avenue condominium project. I will attend and hope trustees will also if your calendar allows.

Orientation
A reminder that the COE Staff Orientation is tomorrow, Friday, the 21st, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Cabrillo College, Room 450.

Regularly Scheduled Meetings

Childrens’ Network
Superintendents Council
Migrant Head Start
Youth Resources Board
United Way