Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – August 20, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of July 16, 2015

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA MIGRANT HEAD START PROGRAM

I met with Tom Changnon, Superintendent/Chairperson and Linda Cooper, Regional Program Specialist on July 21, 2015 for a Governing Board Meeting to discuss reorganization, strengths and challenges concerning the Migrant Head Start Program for 2015-16.

YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION TASK FORCE

I met with Sarah Emmert, Community Coordinator, from the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force on July 23, 2015 to discuss working with Alternative Education Department to implement safe school strategies. The Task Force has over 60 members representing relevant sectors such as schools, law enforcement, government, youth, community volunteers and program service providers. The goals of the Task force are to reduce youth violence in Santa Cruz County by addressing critical issues in the following focus areas: Ensure supported and functioning families; Foster safe and vibrant neighborhoods; Promote positive youth development; Increase program and system effectiveness and Community Engagement.

CALIFORNIA COLLABORATIVE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE (CCEE)

On July 27, 2015, the Board of the CCEE held interviews for an Executive Director. After interviewing five excellent candidates, the Board voted unanimously to select former State Board of Education member and long-time educator, Dr. Carl A. Cohn, to serve as the first executive director of the recently-formed statewide agency tasked with advising and assisting student achievement across the state via the new Local Control and Accountability Plans.

MIGRANT HEAD START BOARD MEETING

I attended the Migrant Head Start Board Meeting (via phone conference) on July 28, 2015. Highlights from the meeting included: Region XII Annual Visit, Adoption of the 2015-2016 JPA Budget and the 2016-2017 Funding Distribution and Service Areas.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY COLLEGE COMMITMENT (S4C)

I attended a meeting at Cabrillo College on July 29, 2015 concerning S4C. During this meeting, the group approved the Gates Grant; approved the S4C goals for 2015-16; approved the revised S4C Governance Structure; reviewed and approved job descriptions and priorities for 2015-16; established a hiring committee; elected Kris Munro as the 2015-16 S4C Steering Committee Chair; modified the bylaws and created a tag line “Students Today, Leaders Tomorrow.”
FOOTSTEPS 2 BRILLIANCE

I met with Gregory Spencer, Director of Footsteps 2 Brilliance on July 29, 2015. Footsteps 2 Brilliance is a breakthrough early learning platform that accelerates student achievement by uniting the power of mobile gaming technology with the latest in cognitive research.

K-12 EDUCATION FOCUS GROUP WITH CALIFORNIA STATE SENATOR BILL MONNING

California State Senator, Bill Monning, came to the COE on August 5, 2015 and held a focus group meeting with the COE Board of Trustees, district superintendents and members of the COE. The goal of the meeting was to discuss statewide educational policy changes that have occurred or may occur, such as the suspension of the High School Exit Exam, the implementation of California Assessment of Student Performance and Progress (CASPP), and the School District Reserve Cap, as well as to discuss the issues currently facing schools in Santa Cruz County.

CCEE BOARD MEETING

I attended the CCEE Board Meeting in Sacramento on August 6, 2015. Agenda topics for the meeting included: Conflict of Interest Policy, Board Meeting Calendar, the proposed CCEE budget for 2015-2016 and County Superintendents of Schools – the role in supporting successful implementation of the LCFF/LCAP continuous improvement model.

THE BROAD CENTER

I was invited by Vincent Matthews, Superintendent, San Jose Unified School District and Antwan Wilson, Superintendent, Oakland Unified School District to a meeting in Los Angeles on August 7, 2015 with the Broad Center. The meeting convened African American educational leaders in an effort to address the complexity of equity issues in school districts and increase support, access, mentorship and development. Dr. John Deasy, former Superintendent, Los Angeles Unified School District, facilitated a discussion on goals: everyone understands equity and can communicate his/her equity agenda.

ADMIN KICK-OFF

The 2015-16 Admin Kick-Off was held at the New Brighton Performing Arts Center on August 10, 2015. Mr. Horacio Sanchez, author of Brain Based Approach to Closing the Achievement Gap was the keynote presenter. His insights into creating an environment in which students can excel was very well attended and really resonated with our staff.

VISIT TO JUVENILE HALL

On August 13, 2015, a number of Trustees, Cindy O’Conner and I were given a tour of Juvenile Hall by Fernando Giraldo, Chief Probation Officer. The visit was scheduled to help the Trustees in deciding whether or not to adopt Resolution 15-10: In Support of Senate Bill 124, Limiting Solitary Confinement in Juvenile Facilities.
SUPERINTENDENT’S COUNCIL

The Superintendent’s Council meeting was held on August 13, 2015. Agenda items included: Priorities, Challenges and Expectations for 2015-2016; Bonds and Parcel Taxes; Negotiations; SBAC Talking Points; S4C; debrief of the Horacio Sanchez Presentation; the LCAP Process (what changes would you recommend to the state board of education?); the Military Child Education Coalition; and Zero Waste Initiative for Schools.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE COUNCIL (CJC)

I attended the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council meeting on August 13, 2015. During the meeting we approved the CJC 2015-16 proposed budget; approved the CJC Executive Director 2015-16 contract and the election of the 2016 officers. We also heard a presentation on grant opportunities and updates.

CAAASA 2015 LEADERSHIP ACADEMY LUNCHEON

I welcomed and presented at the CAAASA 2015 Leadership Academy Luncheon in Vallejo on August 15, 2015. The luncheon was held to gather convening mentors, candidates and other stakeholders involved with the overall mentoring program and its relationship to the CAAASA African American Leadership Academy. Over 125 administrators and leaders in education attended the event.

2015-2016 MANAGER’S RETREAT

The 2015-2016 Manager’s Retreat was held on August 18, 2015. During the retreat, we reviewed the COE’s vision, mission and goals; received a budget update; went over each department’s vision and innovations for the coming year; reviewed the recent COE survey results and completed a book review on the book The Multiplier Effect. The book looks at effective educators and leaders and gives tools to use in making your school a success.

AB86 CONSORTIUM PLANNING MEETING

The AB86 Consortium Planning Meeting was held on August 19, 2015 at Cabrillo College. The meeting was to go over legislation and timeline for interviews for the AB86 Project Director position.

YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS

I met with Shareen Bell, Executive Director of Your Future is our Business (YFIOB) on August 11, 2015. We have collaborated with YFIOB for many years being dedicated to providing every Santa Cruz County student with an opportunity to forge a path to a fulfilling and successful career. However, because of the new funding formula, we need to focus on long-term funding solutions and how to expand public and private partnerships to keep this organization helping our students.
ROP ORIENTATION (NORTH AND SOUTH COUNTY)

Mark Hodges and Jim Howes recently presented two ROP Orientations for north and south county teachers and staff. The orientations included ROP Accomplishments, Visions and Goals; Blood Bourne Pathogens; and Mandated Reporting. The challenges for ROP this year, mostly due to the new funding formula, have been in finding skilled teachers and also certifying teachers with Metro Ed no longer being available.

**Regular Monthly Meetings**
- Special Education Coordinating Agency Meeting
- Migrant Head Start Videoconference
- Criminal Justice Council
- CCSESA Executive Board
- CCSESA Agenda Committee
- Manager’s Meeting
- Agriculture Board Meeting
- Children’s Network
- S4C Steering Committee
- CCSESA Board of Directors
- CCSESA Accountability Task Force
- Superintendent’s Council