Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board  
September 8, 2011

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of August 18, 2011:

**Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction**
State Superintendent Tom Torlakson will be in Santa Cruz on September 30th to meet with superintendents, trustees, and selected business and civic leaders. Plans are in the works for him to possibly visit some school sites as his limited schedule allows. Information will go out when our site is prepared to accept reservations.

**Letter from California Highway Patrol**
I received a letter thanking our office and JoAnn Allen, specifically, for the support of their Impact Teen Drivers Program. JoAnn assisted them in contacting schools to participate in the program and the ensuing study.

**FoodWhat**
I attended the first anniversary celebration for Food What?! It is a youth empowerment program using food, through sustainable agriculture and health, as the vehicle for bringing about personal growth and transformation. They partner with some of our alternative education programs teaching students to grow, cook, and eat healthy sustainably raised food. It is a project of the UCSC Life Lab program.

**California Association of African-American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA)**
I attended the annual conference of the CAAASA and chaired a panel for aspiring superintendents. CAAASA is committed to increasing graduation rates for African-American students and reducing incarceration rates through improved educational opportunities.

**Soquel Union Elementary School District**
Henry Castaniada, superintendent, Soquel Union Elementary invited me to address his staff for their opening day meeting. It was a momentous occasion with a staff band playing and Superintendent Castaniada presenting his vision for the district.

**Tannery Arts**
I met with Steve Edmonds of the Tannery Arts Board to address ways in which to obtain funding for the Performing Arts Center planned for the Tannery Arts complex.

**Model United Nations and Green Kids Conference**
I met with June Gorman to discuss Model United Nations and the Green Kids Conference to be held in Monterey in October. Her organization is building outreach for all schools along the Central Coast to increase attendance at this student-oriented and student-run sustainability education conference.
Santa Cruz County Committee Coalition to Overcome Racism (SCCCCOR)
I met with Hannah Garcia and Mavel Armijo of the Education Action Group of the Santa Cruz County Committee Coalition to Overcome Racism to discuss education equity issues. They are trying to build alliances of grass-roots community organizations together with school administrators, teachers, parents, and students to promote educational access and equity. They have received a $150,000 grant from the Kellogg Foundation to pursue their goals.

Santa Cruz County Community Corrections and Re-entry Partnership
I attended the latest meeting of the state mandated Community Corrections and Re-Entry Partnership met to determine roles and responsibilities and initiate an effective and efficient planning model in the realignment process moving criminal offenders from the state prisons to local jails.

Meeting with Chief Manny Solano
Representatives from Pajaro Valley Prevention Student Assistance, Applied Survey Research, and Pajaro Valley Unified School District met with me and Watsonville Chief of Police Manny Solano to discuss different ways to attain gang related data from within and around Watsonville schools in order to focus resources targeting gangs in a more efficient way.

SPIN Awards
Congratulations to Special Education teacher Christine Johnson who won the 2011 SPIN Educator of the Year award, a well-deserved honor.

Orientation Day
This year’s Orientation Day was one of the most energizing due to the wonderful student speakers who inspired us with their narratives on how education assisted them in turning their lives around. We had an amazing number of longevity awards with two 30 year awards and two 36 year awards. Thank you to those trustees who were able to fit this meeting into their schedules.

United Way Kick Off Breakfast
I attended the United Way Kick Off Breakfast at Seascape Golf Resort. They have set a goal of at least $1,000,000 again this year. My thanks to the many employees who support this very worthwhile organization that in turn supports many organizations that work with the less fortunate and with our student programs.

Harvey West Association
Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent, is our representative at the meetings of the Harvey West Association. We hosted the last meeting at our office. The two major issues discussed at the meeting were the ingress/egress issues and security. First Alarm has handled quite a number of incidents from dogs off leash to trespassing and continue to monitor the area on a daily basis. Mark Dettle and Chris Schneider of Santa Cruz Public Works Department addressed the Highway 9 improvements to date and additional improvements to come including left turn lanes. In the future, in case of emergency, Santa Cruz City will be responsible for traffic control at the intersection of Highway 1 and 9 rather than awaiting Caltrans which has caused the delays in the past. Caltrans will attend the next meeting scheduled for September 13th to address the ingress/egress issues from their standpoint.
Palo Alto Medical Foundation
I attended a meeting hosted by the Palo Alto Medical Foundation to address the spiraling cost of healthcare and ways in which to be more efficient in delivery of healthcare services. They also addressed how to make implementation of new federal health care legislation as

Santa Cruz County College Commitment
The press conference was held for the Santa Cruz County College Commitment. See copy of article attached.

Inside Education
The first meeting of Inside Education will take place on Friday, September 9, 2011 with a luncheon and a presentation on school finance from Brett McFadden, CBO,

Monthly Meetings
Museum of Art & History Taskforce
CCSESA Executive Committee (phone conference)
CCSESA Finance Committee (phone conference)
Children’s Network Executive Committee

UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

Torlakson Visit – see above
Luncheon meeting on September 30th at Coconut Grove Sun Room.