Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
September 16, 2010

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of August 19, 2010:

**California Legislative Staff Education Institute**
Approximately 25 legislative staffers who concentrate on education issues, will be coming to Santa Cruz County to learn more about our school system and how the Assembly and Senate can best meet the needs of education in California. They will be meeting at our office on Monday, September 27th and a half day on Tuesday, September 28th. The second half of Tuesday will be spent at Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

**October Managers Meeting**
The October Managers Meeting will take place at our Outdoor School site, Koinonia Conference Grounds, 1605 Eureka Canyon Road, Watsonville, California 95076. From 9:00 to 10:00, the group will be getting a general overview of the program and going on a tour of the grounds. If you would like to visit the camp with us, please let Cindy know and be sure to wear casual clothes and walking shoes.

**Child Welfare System Improvement Committee**
The System Improvement Steering Committee (SIP) met on September 13th to discuss strategies for supporting foster youth and ways in which agencies can collaborate so as to maximize services. The County Office of Education provides bus passes to ensure transport of students to school, how to access testing to assess the level of education and needs for students, provides tutors to a limited number of students, and assists schools and others in how best to assist this special group of students taking into account their emotional and physical needs.

**2010-11 Santa Cruz County Office of Education Budget**
The California Department of Education reviewed our budget and found it in compliance and able to satisfy its multiyear financial commitments. Congratulations to Mary Hart and her staff for another exemplary report.

**Kevin Vogel, Interim Chief, Santa Cruz City Police**
I met with Santa Cruz City Interim Chief of Police Kevin Vogel as he performs outreach to community organizations to better understand issues and/or needs facing Santa Cruz City and also where gaps still exist for serving our youth. We specifically spoke about student safety, gangs, possible partnerships and/or programs, and continuing collaboration on BASTA.
Phil Wowak, Sheriff, Santa Cruz County Sheriff
Sheriff Wowak and I met to discuss moving forward on BASTA, the sharing of vital information, multiple agency collaboration, and possible new programs. I have requested that the Sheriff or his representative co-chair the BASTA meetings.

Superintendents Council
Superintendents from the Santa Cruz school districts held their monthly meeting. Some of the topics discussed this month include truancy strategies, the Federal Job Fund, BASTA, and professional development needs.

SECA, Special Education Coordinating Agency
Bill Gillaspie, FCMAT (Fiscal Crisis Management Team) Chief Management Analyst, met with SECA, which is composed of the superintendents of the nine northern school districts. He reviewed the results of the FCMAT Special Education Review from last spring. Some of the items reviewed in the report include funding model, governance and communication, roles and responsibilities of program specialists, staff development, and policies.

Positive Discipline Community Resources
I attended the launch of Positive Discipline Community Resources, a new resource to support respectful relationships at home, in school, and in our communities. They will be holding workshops for parents of students at differing age levels including preschool, the early school years, and teen years.

Taste of the Harbor Fundraiser
O’Neill Sea Odyssey held a fundraiser at the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor featuring food from the harbor area restaurants and local wineries. The Sea Odyssey program furnishes a living classroom on the water for grades 4-6 with lessons about the marine habitat and the relationship between land, sea, and environment. The program is free to students but they must “earn” their trip by doing community service of some kind. Events like this fundraiser, and sponsorships and donations are vital to the programs continuance on a for-free basis.

TAC6: Education, Arts & Community Phone Conference (Technical Advisory Committee)
Today’s conference call focused on;
1. leveraging resources in creative ways to improve schools and other community buildings;
2. explored community joint use of facilities;
3. promoting activities and guidelines that support safe passage to school;
4. building schools that promote opportunities for physical activity both during the school day and after in an effort to find obesity in children.

API/AYP/PI Report
This past Monday, the California Department of Education released the 2010 Accountability Progress Report for districts and schools. This report is in compliance with both state and federal requirements for reporting school accountability data. More information can be found at the California Department of Education website at www.cde.ca.gov.

Nane Alejandrez, Barrios Unidas
I met with Nane Alejandrez, Executive Director, Barrios Unidos, to look at ways to prevent gang violence. Barrios Unidos is a non-profit dedicated to providing activities in schools and in the county targeted at keeping young people out of gangs.
United Way Kickoff Event
Brunella Deeds, campaign coordinator, and I attended the United Way Annual Kickoff event. This year’s motto is *One More: One More Donor, One More Dollar, One More Life Changed.* Employees of the County Office of Education donate around $4000 each year.

IMAGINE – CASA Fundraiser
I attended the annual fundraiser for CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) that took place at Chaminade. This organization provides volunteers to assist social services by watching over and advocating for abused and neglected children. The volunteers provide a constant and steadying adult presence in their lives.

Orientation Day
The school year began with Orientation Day which was well attended by approximately 260 SCCOE employees. Managers addressed the attendees providing information on their department’s responsibilities, successes and priorities for the upcoming year. Thank you to the board members who took time from their schedules to attend the meeting.

Inside Education
Inside Education began its new year with a presentation on preschool programs on September 15th. The group met at the County Office for an overview before visiting head start programs, a state pre-K classroom, and touring the facilities at Cabrillo College for early childhood education. We have a cohort of 25 community members participating this year.

Santa Cruz County Medical Society
Dr. Donaldo Hernandez, SCCMS president, invited me to attend their monthly meeting to address their concerns including obesity, dental care, nutrition, and medical care for young children and how to reach the families who have the greatest needs. Career education mentoring was also discussed.

United Way Board Meeting
At this month’s United Way Board meeting, Board members received statistics on the first month of the 211 System being in service. A total of 287 calls were received with 260 in English and 27 in Spanish. Greatest needs were in the area of housing/utilities (69), legal, consumer/public safety (46), food/meals (31), information services (28), and health care (26.) We have shared this information through our backpack giveaway, our in-house staff, and with our alternative education staff and students. The County Office of Education is proud to have supported this service in its startup year.

The School Food Alliance – Celebrate School Food 2010
On October 15th, the School Food Alliance is holding a major community outreach event, *Celebrate School Food 2010,* during National School Lunch Week. Between 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., innovative and exciting practices being implemented at schools throughout Santa Cruz County will be displayed. There will also be a documentary film playing.

Monthly and Regularly Scheduled Periodic Meetings
- Migrant Headstart Videoconference
- Special Education Coordinating Agency
- Agenda Committee
- PCS Liaison Committee
- CCSESA Board of Directors Videoconference