Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board – September 17, 2015

The following matters and events have occurred since the Report of August 20, 2015

COE ORIENTATION

The COE Orientation was held in the main parking lot of the COE on Monday, August 24, 2015, where the employees were treated to breakfast burritos. During Orientation, new employees were introduced, employees with career milestones were recognized and employee recognition was given. I spoke of the accomplishments from last year and the goals for this school year.

EPINEPHRINE PRESCRIPTIONS

I met with Dr. Lisa Hernandez, MD, Health Officer, Santa Cruz County and Anne Wilkinson Fliesler RN, District Nurse for Santa Cruz City Schools on August 24, 2015 to discuss the amendment to the original epinephrine bill that would limit liability for prescribing physicians and the possibility of obtaining a county-wide agreement with Dr. Hernandez for Epinephrine prescriptions.

SCOTTS VALLEY WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST

I was invited by Penny Weaver, Superintendent, Scotts Valley Unified School District to attended the Scotts Valley Welcome Back Breakfast on August 25, 2015 at Scotts Valley High School.

TANNERY BOARD MEETING

I attended the Tannery Board Meeting on August 25, 2015. A majority of the meeting centered around the recent tragic events and to find the resources needed to keep The Tannery going and make it stronger.

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PRO

I was asked to participate as an instructor for the Education Series entitled Santa Cruz County Pro on August 26, 2015. The series is designed to give students and REALTORS® new insight and better understanding of the services and information available in Santa Cruz County. My segment, “Upcoming County Projects” was one class in a series of nine that was offered. Over 40 members signed up for their classes

INSIDE ED

They eighth year of Inside Ed kicked off this year with a Welcome Luncheon and first event of the year on September 2, 2015. This was a great opportunity for me to meet the participants and also participate in a discussion on Education Finance in California.
PIXAR IN A BOX

I was invited by Sal Khan, founder of Khan Academy and Ed Catmull, President of Pixar Animation studios to attend Pixar in a Box on August 26, 2015. Pixar in a Box is a series of educational tutorials that demonstrate how math, science, engineering and the arts are a vital part of the Pixar filmmaking process. Tying educational content to the Pixar production pipeline is a natural match for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) curriculum, as the essence of Pixar filmmaking lies at the intersection of these disciplines. Pixar in a Box will hopefully be a tool that not only educates but inspires middle and high school students.

FISHTREE

I have been working with Steve Niederman, Executive Consultant with Fishtree on introducing his product to the COE. On September 2, 2015 I supported a conference call between Mr. Niederman and Johnny Rice, Senior Director, Alternative Education. The conference call was scheduled in order find out Mr. Rice’s interest in working with Mr. Niederman and bringing this program on board. Fishtree is a learning platform that solves the problem of scaling one-to-one instruction. As an adaptive system, Fishtree created a personalization platform that combines standard-aligned resources and social media-based tools with analytics to save teachers time and help students learn. At this time, Mr. Rice would like to investigate the Fishtree program further.

SCHOOL EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA (SEAC)

I attended the SEAC meeting on September 4, 2015 (by phone). Some of the highlights of the meeting included: Jon Gundry, Superintendent, Santa Clara COE agreed to find out the cost for the Santa Clara COE to fund all the districts in SEAC for the year. Theresa Rouse, Superintendent, King City Union School District, agreed to work with SEAC on holding a meeting in her area with all districts to hear about the benefits of SEAC membership and also health benefits. The Spring board meeting was moved to May 22, 2016. The Board directed staff to come back with a dues increase proposal using 2, 3, 4, 5% to the current fee schedule.

CALIFORNIA ASSESSMENT OF STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND PROGRESS (CAASPP)

I met with Sofia Sorenson, English Language Development Coordinator on September 8, 2015 to review the results of 2014-15 CAASPP results for Santa Cruz County. The scores were in line with the results from across the state. 43% of students met or exceeded the English standards while 32% met the same standards for math.

FOOTSTEPS2BRILLIANCE

Greg Spencer, Director, Footsteps2Brilliance, came to the COE on September 10, 2015 to give a presentation to the superintendents of the larger school districts of our county. Footsteps2Brilliance is an early learning platform that accelerates student achievement by uniting the power of mobile gaming technology with the latest in cognitive research.
SUPERINTENDENT’S COUNCIL

The latest Superintendent’s Council Meeting was held on September 10, 2015. Topics from the meeting included: Inter-District Transfers, Keep Kids in School (KKIS), Truancy Protocol, Project-Based Working Group (Common Assessment), CALPASS, a Gates Grant Update, Santa Cruz Speaks, LCAP Feedback, Illuminate, 4th Grade Open House at Cabrillo, Library Bookmobile (K-8) Countywide, Year of Compassionate Action and Make a Difference Day.

COUNTY BOARD DINNER

The COE sponsored a County-Wide Board of Trustee Dinner on September 10, 2015. Approximately 60 trustees and guests attended the dinner which was provided by Andrea Mollenauer, ROP Instructor, Culinary Arts, and served by former ROP Culinary Arts students. The Keynote Speaker was Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction who was kind enough to attend the dinner and have a lengthy question and answer session with the Trustees.

YEAR OF COMPASSIONATE ACTION

I have been working throughout the year with the mayor of Santa Cruz, Don Lane to bring award-winning comedian, author and youth counselor Michael Pritchard to Santa Cruz. Mr. Pritchard, along with Justina Bryant (21 Days of Kindness Challenge), will be appearing at the Rio Theater on September 24, 2015 to celebrate Kindness, Empathy and Compassion – the Keys to healthy kids, a healthy community and a healthy world.

Regular Monthly Meetings

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