The following matters and events have occurred since the report of August 21, 2008.

**2008-2009 COE Budget**
The California Department of Education, Financial Accountability and Information Services, informed the COE by letter that, based upon that office’s review, the 2008-2009 COE Budget submitted to the CDE on July 1, meets the criteria that allows the COE to meet its financial obligations during the fiscal year and is consistent with a financial plan that will enable the COE to satisfy its multiyear financial commitments.

**Parking at Encinal**
The COE has an agreement with Plantronics for use of their parking lot for overflow, if required, on high-use parking days at the COE. That option was utilized the day of the Inside Education and O’Connell events. Several employees parked at Plantronics that day and our parking lot was more than ample to accommodate our visitors.

**Employee Kudos**
Rowland and Theresa received an email from Susan Villa, Deputy Superintendent, San Benito County Office, who expressed appreciation working with our managers, Mark Rogers, Kelly Wade and Nancy Serigstad. To quote Ms. Villa, “I was particularly impressed with Mark’s passion about your COE’s work, Nancy’s ability to problem solve and Kelly’s ‘Can Do’ attitude. How fortunate you are to have them on your team…. Your county office staff is awesome. San Benito COE is so fortunate that you are so open to sharing.”

**Pacific Collegiate Charter School**
Staff and I met with representatives from Pacific Collegiate School to discuss ways in which the COE can support them in their search for a new Principal and Business Manager. Pacific Collegiate representatives requested a future meeting to discuss their Board’s intent to restructure.

**Red Cross of Santa Cruz**
I attended the Red Cross Project Preparedness program meeting. Project Preparedness is a program designed to increase the health and safety of South County elementary school youth. The three components of Basic Aid Training, First aid for Children Today and Safety Watchers Fire Safety will be integrated into twelve PVUSD elementary schools.
Santa Cruz County Fair
The Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau invited me to be one of four judges for the annual Apple Pie Baking contest on the opening day of the County Fair. I was partnered with a Rio Del Mar 6th grader judge who had no difficulty in tasting nearly forty pies. I want to acknowledge Jody Akimoto, COE employee, who took over this year as Fair Board president, for having organized a wonderful Fair.

Monterey Bay Educational Consortium Meeting
The September 9 meeting of the Executive Council of the Monterey Bay Educational Consortium focused on regional education efforts, in particular the Cal-PASS data system, collaborative efforts to prepare students to enter colleges and universities, and Family Involvement Forum planning for parents. The event was hosted by CSUMB.

Santa Clara County Superintendent of Schools
Chuck Weis, the newly appointed County Superintendent of Schools in Santa Clara County, and Assistant Superintendent Linda Aceves, met with Rowland Baker and I to discuss areas of collaboration between the two counties as well as regional opportunities. Included in the current regional collaborative programs include District Assistance Intervention Program (DAIT), Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), California Technology Assistance Project (CTAP); and Regional System of District and School Support (RSDSS).

Emergency Response and Crisis Management Program
Jo Ann Allen, ERCM Coordinator, invited me to make opening comments at the first meeting of the school year of the Emergency Response and Crisis Management Team. The team is composed of all relevant local government agencies, schools, and emergency organizations. As coordinator, Jo Ann is responsible for publishing the finished ERCM plan.

Arts Programs / The Tannery
Alan Pagano, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools District, Brian King, President, Cabrillo College, Ceil Cirillo, and I met with representatives of the Tannery to explore the possibility of collaborative opportunities to provide students with performing and visual arts studies utilizing the Tannery facilities and artists.

COE Managers and District Superintendents Forum
District Superintendents joined with COE managers during the monthly managers’ meeting to provide an opportunity for superintendents in an open forum to provide input on services and collaborations. The superintendents were very positive in their assessment of services offered and of the quality of employee performance in providing those services.

Aptos High Performing Arts Center
I attended the Aptos High opening ceremony of the school’s new performing arts center and congratulate everyone involved. The state-of-the-art facility provides for theatrical as well as gymnasium use with a seating capacity of 500.
California County Superintendents Educational Services Association, Bay Area
Regional Forum
Alameda County Superintendent Sheila Jordan and I hosted the seven-county forum. I was joined by Sandy Mast, Director, Alternative Education, Bryan Wall, Director, ROP, other student program staff and leaders from the Santa Cruz County arts community last Friday. The objectives of the meeting were to share and learn about creative and innovative strategies to provide opportunities for every child to be successful in school with a particular focus on integration of the arts.

Inside Education Orientation
The County Office of Education hosted the first event of the Inside Education series this past Monday. The orientation session was attended by the eighteen first cohort enrollees. The interest and enthusiasm of the participants indicates this endeavor will be a success. The second session is scheduled for October 23 with a focus on Career Technical Education. Participants will visit Career Tech programs at both Aptos and Watsonville High Schools.

Jack O’Connell Visit
The COE hosted State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell this past Monday. His first appearance was a visit to Radcliff Elementary School in the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Radcliff is a Program Improvement school that has made significant gains in student improvement over the past few years. Later in the afternoon, Superintendent O’Connell addressed a group of civic and business leaders, including the Inside Education enrollees. In the evening, he was guest speaker at the countywide educators event. He and keynote speaker Professor Manuel Pastor attracted a significant number of attendees. The response from district and school educators has been very positive in regard to Professor Pastor’s presentation which focused on the changes in education that are necessary to meet the changing demographics in California and locally.

David and Lucille Packard Preschool Planning Grant Steering Committee
I met with other participating agencies leads relative to the Santa Cruz County Preschool Plan which will allow the COE, child Care Planning Council and First-5 to lead a countywide effort to produce a comprehensive blueprint for offering voluntary universal preschool to all county children in the last two years before entering kindergarten. This is an ambitious undertaking that will put Santa Cruz County in the forefront to implement a preschool program. Thanks to Trustee Bryan Sanford who has participated in the preschool planning Advisory Council meeting. Attached is a copy of an op-ed I wrote on the topic of preschool that was published in the Sentinel and Pajaronian.

Second Harvest Food Bank’s Third Annual Agency Nutrition Summit
The Second Harvest Foodbank board invited me to deliver the keynote address at the annual Nutrition Summit. The topic is Healthy Food, Healthy Children. The topic of the role of schools in promoting and providing for the health of children is a critical one that I intend to put more focus on. Assemblyman John Laird will provide opening remarks and Watsonville Coast Produce will be honored as Food Industry Donor of the Year.

State Budget Update
Associate Superintendent Barney Finlay provided an in-depth update regarding recent developments affecting passage of a state budget.

**Bay Avenue Facility Update**
Assistant Superintendent Finlay and I updated the Board relative to the Bay Avenue facility lease.

**Monthly/Quarterly Meetings Attended**
First 5 Commission                  Pre-school Steering Committee
PVPSA                                 Migrant Head Start Board
Steinbeck Board of Directors          First 5 Commission
United Way Board of Directors         Superintendents’ Council
New Teacher Project Steering Committee Children’s Network