Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
   September 19, 2013

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of August 15, 2013:

**Criminal Justice Council Conference**
The first Criminal Justice Council Conference was held at the Coconut Grove. We had an outstanding turnout from law enforcement, human services organizations, youth services organizations and education. The presenters were excellent whether speaking from personal experience or as authorities in the field. Former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin spoke about the importance of early education in predicting success in young adulthood.

**Shakespeare Santa Cruz**
I served as the announcer for a presentation of Taming of the Shrew for Shakespeare Santa Cruz on August 17th. At the time I did not realize that the University of California was planning to withdraw its support and that this would be the last year for Shakespeare Santa Cruz. There are people who are still trying to save this Santa Cruz institution.

**Adult Education Discussion**
Laurel Jones, president, Cabrillo College; Dorma Baker, superintendent, PVUSD; Gary Bloom, superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools; and I met to discuss the future of Adult Education in Santa Cruz County. This discussion was followed up with a second including Rock Pfotenhauer, Cabrillo’s Dean of Instruction, Career Education regarding the $25 million set aside by the 2013-14 State Budget for grants to support planning to align community colleges and school districts to provide adult education in elementary and secondary basic skills, classes and courses for citizenship, and English language classes for immigrants; education programs for adults with disabilities; short-term career technical education programs; and programs for apprentices.

**Deutron Kebebew, PAPÁS, Supporting Father Involvement**
I met with Deutron Kebebew, director of PAPÁS, a local program offering parent groups and social activities to strengthen the father-child bond and to increase positive father-child relationships. They work with our Alternative Education parent students to promote father-child bonding and support young fathers being involved in the raising their children. We will be continuing our support of their program though at a reduced rate from previous years as it is a valuable service to our students and provides a better start in life and increased success to the little ones.

**Orientation Day**
For Orientation Day, we put chairs in the parking lot and welcomed back staff with coffee and bagels. The program honored people for longevity and honored others for going over and above expectations in their jobs. We are so fortunate to have such hardworking people who do such an outstanding job whether in a classroom or the main office.
Regional Occupational Programs
The ROP Programs hold their own Orientation Days since their classes are spread amongst the various districts and consequently begin their school year on different schedules. I was able to stop by and welcome back our teachers to the new year.

2013-14 Breakfast Roundtable Series
The first of three Breakfast Roundtable Series took place on September 16th with a presentation by Pam Spycher of WestEd. She was the lead writer of the new California English Language Development Standards and the California ELA/ELD Curriculum Framework. She is also an expert on teacher professional learning, comprehensive school and district improvement, and academic language and literacy instruction for English learners.

Scotts Valley Unified’s Welcome Back Breakfast
Along with Scotts Valley city council members, school administrators and Chief of Police Weiss, I attended the Welcome Back Breakfast for Scotts Valley Unified’s teachers.

Grand Jury Response
I met with Trustees Gina Locatelli, Aaron Hinde, and Jack Dilles to review and finalize my response to the Grand Jury’s report. My response has been submitted per the deadline in the report.

Local Control Funding Formula LCFF
At the September meeting of Superintendents Council, I informed the district superintendents of the impending changes in the way the County Office of Education is able to provide services to districts. Many of the services that we provide including Regional Occupational Programs will no longer be directly funded by the State but will need to be supported by districts. A Superintendents Retreat has been planned to look at new ways in which to collaborate and to determine how the County Office of Education and the districts will work together. There still are certain State mandates that the County Office will need to meet over time such as Williams Act.

Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors
With the assistance of Mary Anne James, Associate Superintendent and Brunella Deeds, I presented to the Santa Cruz County Association of Realtors as part of their education series for realtors. I presented an overview of education while Mary Anne explained testing and assessment and Brunella shared some mapping applications through the County Government web site that assist in ascertaining the school district of properties.

Save Our Shores
I met with Lara Kasa, Executive Director to discuss collaborations and support in the form of resources we can provide such as forwarding information to school administrators and students. The organization has been a leader in the county to protect our beaches from sponsoring beach clean ups to providing education to students in caring for the marine environment through ocean awareness, advocacy and action.

Santa Cruz Writes (Tannery)
Popsicles and Ping Pong, a fundraiser and ping pong competition for youngsters, was held at the Tannery on September 7th. Student authors shared their writings that were published in a class book project last year. Then students were able to participate in a ping pong tournament with prizes for the winners.
The Panama Connection
Jason Tovani and I had a follow up meeting to last month’s presentation on the Panama Connection which serves teachers in the Science, Math and technology fields. Teachers are able to work in the field during the summer break both at archeological sites and museums. Bruce McFadden, coordinator of the Panama Connection is also working on a project with the National Science Foundation entitled the Integrated Technology for Students and Teachers. It would upgrade technology countywide and have students digitize research specimens for/with scientists thereby learning STEM content and skills firsthand.

The California Endowment
I was invited to attend a dinner meeting held by The California Endowment to discuss Local Control Funding Formula and Its Impact on Students of Color. The meeting was attended by educators from various school districts throughout California, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson, legislators, Dr. Michael Kirst, president, State Board of Education, and Dr. Arun Ramanathan, Executive Director, Education Trust West. The discussion focused on challenges, opportunities and accountability under the new funding formula for California schools. A recent article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel highlighted the over-representation of black students assigned to special education classes in Santa Cruz County.

Tip Now Pilot
Penny Weaver, Scotts Valley Unified, Chief Dave Weiss, Scotts Valley Police, and I met with Cyril Rayan of Tip Now met to discuss a pilot of the program. Tip Now provides a reporting system for students to report crimes or possible crimes without having to identify themselves. There is a way that they can be provided an identifying label should they want to be able to follow up their tip.

Attendance Awareness Month
Pajaro Valley Unified held a press conference promoting Attendance Awareness Month and announcing their partnership with Attendance Works to highlight the importance of school attendance on achievement and to address the problem of truancy. I was honored to be invited to attend the press conference and address attendees.

S4C – Santa Cruz County College Commitment
A meeting of S4C Steering Committee was held on September 13th. As I was unable to attend, Mary Anne James represented the County Office of Education at this meeting. With the success of S4C last year, Cabrillo College and local school districts will continue this work for another year.

O’Neill Sea Odyssey – Taste of the Harbor
O’Neill Sea Odyssey provides a hands-on educational experience to encourage the protection and preservation of our living sea and communities. Students are taken out on the Bay on a catamaran and learn everything from deciphering a navigational chart to handling sea creatures and learning more about ecology and saving our oceans. The program is free to 4th to 6th grade students who earn their way onto the boat by performing a community service project. I attended this year’s Taste of the Harbor fundraiser on September 17th. It is hosted by the Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor and sponsored by Intero Real Estate Services.
Youth Resource Bank
The Bar Association held its annual Youth Resource Bank fundraiser at the home of retired Superior Court Judge Robert Yonts. I have served on the board of the Youth Resource Bank for many years but was called out of town and unfortunately unable to attend this annual event for an organization that does so much for the young people of Santa Cruz County and our Alternative Education students.

Barrios Unidos
I met with Nane Alejandrez and Sarah Emmert of Barrios Unidos to receive updates on their programs and upcoming projects and to discuss possible collaborations. Their latest project has been the construction of a simulated prison cell. Not only is the cell created to the dimensions of a normal prison cell but an audio recording of the daily sounds of a prison are presented to give the complete sensory experience. The prison cell replica is mounted on a trailer and will be used to give young people a better understanding of the consequences of violent actions that can result in incarceration.

Criminal Justice Council Meeting
The Criminal Justice Council continues to meet. Superior Court Judge Ariadne Symons has taken on the leadership role as Chief Manny Solano takes a leave of absence to concentrate on his health. The Council is preparing to interview for a new executive director and hopes to have the new person on board by the next meeting.

Inside Education - September
The first regularly scheduled meeting of Inside Education met to discuss preschools. After receiving their overview at the County Office, they will be visiting the Head Start Program at Elena Baskin Childcare Center, the Cabrillo College Children’s Center, and at Live Oak Elementary School, they will be visiting a pre-school, transitional kindergarten, and kindergarten programs.

Monthly Meetings
Migrant Head Start Videoconference  Children’s Network
Criminal Justice Council  Superintendents Council
CCSEA Executive Board  CCSEA Board of Directors
CCSESA Agenda Committee  CCSESA Champions Award Conference Call

Upcoming Events:
CCBE Fall Conference: September 27-29, Hyatt Regency, Monterey, CA (contact Cindy)
Annual CSBA Conference: December 5-7, San Diego Marriott, San Diego (early registration by August 6th – contact Cindy)