Subject: Superintendent’s Monthly Report to the Board
September 20, 2012

The following matters and events have occurred since the report of August 16, 2012:

**Orientation Day**
We welcomed back our teachers and classroom classified with Orientation Day at the Coconut Grove. This year’s focus was Teacher Voices featuring a teacher each from Alternative Education, Special Education and Regional Occupational Programs. Many employees were recognized for their dedication to their jobs and going over and above. As well, a large number of employees were recognized for years of service. Thanks to those trustees who were able to attend the event.

**Regional Occupational Programs Orientation Day**
I welcomed back the North County ROP instructors at their orientation event. They were enthusiastic and ready to be back in the classroom.

**Interview on KSCO**
At the request of Rachel Goodman, I was a guest on her program on KSCO to discuss the County Office of Education services, education funding, new programs and answer questions called into the program.

**Anthony Muhammad**
The first of three presentations focusing on positive school cultures by Anthony Muhammad was held on September 11th. Nearly every district was represented and the presentation was well-received. Participants are looking forward to the next presentation to take place in November.

**Santa Cruz City School Board Meeting**
I attended a Santa Cruz City School Board meeting to discuss financial matters related to operations as required by AB1200 – fiscal oversight by County Offices of Education.

**Common Core Discussion**
Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, invited my participation in a video conference to discuss the new Common Core State Standards implementation. Attendees were asked for their input into development of additional guidance and resources for local educational agencies.

**AB109 – Prison Realignment**
I continue to meet with law enforcement officials and others in discussing the issues around prison realignment and support of a grant to provide intervention and re-entry services associated with implementation. The average stay in county jails was 35 days but has now increased to 401 days with the realignment.

**Elementary Law Program**
I met with Gail Schwartz to discuss the grant received by the Santa Cruz County Trial Lawyers Association to expand their Elementary Law Program.
Santa Cruz County Committee on School District Organization
We have received a petition to transfer 18 parcels from the Scotts Valley Unified School District to the Loma Prieta Joint Union Elementary and Los Gatos-Saratoga Joint High School Districts. The petition has been validated and a public hearing has been scheduled for October 2, 2012, 5:30 p.m. in the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, One Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley, CA. The Santa Clara County Committee on School District Organization will schedule a second public hearing in their county as well.

Be the Difference Award
I have agreed to be a judge for the Be the Difference Award given out by the Volunteer Center. I will be reviewing the nominees and assisting in choosing this year’s winners.

Solari Grand Opening
I was invited to attend the Grand Opening of the Solari Green Technology Center at the Watsonville branch of Cabrillo College. Deputy Superintendent Bryan Wall attended in my place.

Autism Trainings
Our office will be offering Autism certification training to teachers in the Santa Cruz City Schools District and Pajaro Valley Unified School District. Teachers need this training in order to keep their special education credentials up-to-date and we are fortunate that Dorothy Raab, Senior Director, Special Education will be leading the trainings so we are able to do them at no cost to the districts.

PAPÁS
We are partnering with the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center in support of their program, PAPÁs Program, Supporting Father Involvement (S.F.I.) which provides parent groups and social activities to strengthen the father-child bond for teenage fathers.

Inside Education
Inside Education began on September 7th with a welcome and overview of the functions of the County Office of Education and education data. Brett McFadden, Associate Superintendent, Business Services in Pajaro Valley Unified gave a presentation on school finance. On September 19th, the group had its first regular day with the focus being on preschool. They met at the office for a presentation and then visited the preschool located on Cabrillo’s campus and Migrant Headstart programs in Watsonville.

CCBE Fall Conference
I attended the CCBE Fall Conference in Monterey along with several trustees. While there, I met with Leon Beauchman, trustee, Santa Clara County Office of Education to discuss alternative education/community school program accountability and flexibility, and institutional school funding.

Criminal Justice Council - Gang Prevention and Youth Violence Taskforce
Bryan Wall, Deputy Superintendent, attended a subcommittee meeting of the Criminal Justice Council to discuss next steps in forming a Gang Prevention and Youth Violence Taskforce when I was unable to attend. Stakeholders met with an expert consultant for a strategic planning session to explore best practices and interventions to be used to address youth and gang violence.
Sacramento Legislative Visit
I joined members of the California Association of African American School Administrators in Sacramento for a day dedicated to meeting with legislative staffs. We met with State Superintendent Tom Torlakson and fifteen legislative staffers regarding education concerns.

TEDx Santa Cruz
Lori Butterworth, board member for TEDx Santa Cruz invited me to attend the TEDx presentation on Saturday 9/15 with members of her newly formed Watsonville Youth City Council (WYCC.) The WYCC is a newly founded organization to teach high school students how to debate issues publicly, make recommendations to city councils, job shadow and play the roles of city clerk and attorney, provide opportunities for them to participate in city government and have a voice. In the spring, they will organize a TEDx Youth Conference where young people will be making presentations on ideas of note to other young people.

Pacific Collegiate Visit
Assistant Superintendent Mary Anne James joined me on a visit to Pacific Collegiate Charter School to meet with the Board President and principal. We reviewed our oversight responsibilities and Ms. James’ direct responsibilities.

BASTA Steering Committee
Representatives of law enforcement, district attorney’s office, probation, and other public agencies representatives gathered for the first BASTA meeting of the new school year. The meeting consisted of updates from various agencies that are working on ending youth and gang violence.

Arts Education Breakfast
I spoke at the Arts Education Breakfast sponsored by the Cultural Council to encourage businesses and community leaders to support arts education in our schools. I spoke to the need to keep arts education in the curriculum as it plays a special role in teaching students discipline and creativity, working cooperatively, and how to solve problems.

Pilot Project for Promotion of Online Security and Privacy
The U.S. Department of Commerce’s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) today announced more than $9 million in grant awards to support the National Strategy for Trusted Identities in Cyberspace (NSTIC). Five U.S. organizations will pilot identity solutions that increase confidence in online transactions, prevent identity theft, and provide individuals with more control over how they share their personal information. In California, Resilient Network Systems, Inc. is the organizations receiving the grant and will partner with will partner with the National Laboratory for Education Transformation, LexisNexis, Neustar, Knowledge Factor, Authentify Inc., Riverside Unified School District, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, and the Kantara Initiative to provide secure, but privacy-enhancing verification of children, parents, teachers and staff, as well as verification of parent-child relationships.

San Mateo County Office of Education STEM CENTER
A contingent of County Office employees traveled to the San Mateo COE to see their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) Center in anticipation of promoting and supporting STEM education in Santa Cruz County.

Popsicles and Ping-Pong Party
The first annual Popsicles and Ping-Pong Tournament brought together teachers, administrators and possible volunteers to kick off the new Santa Cruz Writes program. Volunteers will go into classrooms to work with students on teacher-initiated writing projects.
United Way Campaign Kick-Off Breakfast
A contingent of County Office employees attended the United Way Campaign Kick-Off Breakfast. One of our Summer Youth Employment students presented at the breakfast relating how much she learned from making public transportation work for her schedule to budgeting the money that she was able to earn through the Summer Youth Employment Program.

**Monthly Meetings**

- CCSESA Executive Committee
- Migrant Headstart Videoconference
- CCSESA Finance Committee
- Children’s Network
- Agenda Committee
- Criminal Justice Council

- CCSESA Legislative Committee
- Tannery Executive Board
- Children’s Network Executive Committee
- CCSESA Board of Directors
- Superintendents Council